

## **God's faithfulness**

By Foyeke Christiana Tolani (Sunday 30 Dec. 2008)

**Faithfulness** in this context relates to someone being consistently trustworthy and loyal, reliable, especially to a person, promise or duty.

**Definition of God's Faithfulness:** God will always do what He has PROMISED TO DO. Throughout the scriptures God's faithfulness is apparent from the Old Testament to the New Testament. God is steadfast, unchanging, utterly dependable and faithful. When He speaks, it comes to pass and His words are ye and Amen. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

The Psalmist declares in

### **Psalm 36:5**

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your **faithfulness** to the skies.

### **Psalm 71:22**

I will praise you with the harp for your **faithfulness**, O my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

### **Psalm 89:1**

[ *A maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite.* ] I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your **faithfulness** known through all generations.

**Lamentation 3:23** – The steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never comes to an end; they are new every morning; Great is thy faithfulness – song

Thomas Chisholm, a Methodist minister, took those verses and in 1923 wrote the hymn many of us know and love:

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.  
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!\_[1]*

### **Example of God's faithfulness**

1. Joshua 1:1-9 After the death of Moses, the children of Israel were told to move on through their new leader, Joshua. Moses (their former leader) may be dead, but that is not the end of God's promises for the children of Israel. There is the passing of an era, yet the endurance of the promise. God told them to cross the River Jordan to go and possess their possession. According to Joshua 3:14 -17; it was when the river was flooded, but despite all odds, God brought them through the Jordan in a miraculous way in line with his word and promise.

**One may wonder why they have to cross when the river banks overflow,** however God's promises get fulfilled irrespective of obstacles, situation and circumstances. Are you holding unto God's promise for good health, home, peace of mind etc and it seems that rather than having easy solutions, you are confronted with obstacles. God's word to Joshua in vs 6 is also for you – Be strong, and of good courage; also in vs 7 & 9 – He repeated it again and said - Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed for the LORD thy God is with you wherever you go.

*There is someone here this morning and the message for you is the LORD your GOD is with you, do not be discouraged, faithful is HE who has called you who also will do it (1Thes 5:24). Hebrews 10:23 says - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

Some years ago, I wanted a scholarship for further studies and God miraculously provided one from an unexpected source. He will meet your needs as well, whatever they may be.

From the passage (Joshua 1:1-9) – we can clearly see that

1. God is faithful to His promise – Gen 17:8 He gave the promise to Abraham and 400 years later he started to fulfill the promise. Read Josh 21:45
2. God is a faithful giver – Even though He gave the promise to Abraham and Moses, after their death His promises leaves on. So every promise in the Bible is yours, James 1:17 ...says every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning .eg. Promise of rest to Israel – Jos 22:4; wisdom, honor and wealth to Solomon – 1King 4:29; Knowledge – Dan1:17; health – Mat 8:17; meeting our needs – Mat 6:31-34 etc

It is thus not surprising for the Psalmist to say in:

[Psalm 57:3](#)

He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me; God sends his love and his **faithfulness**.

[Isaiah 25:1](#)

[ *Praise to the LORD* ] O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect **faithfulness** you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

[Psalm 100:5](#)

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his **faithfulness** continues through all generations.

Be rest assured that God who granted Esther favour with the King will also make a way for you where there seems to be no way; God who delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3 26-28) and says in Isaiah 41 & 43 Fear not for I

am with you, I will uphold you.....is the same God today and whatever situation you are going through, there is a word for you and God will fulfill His counsel in your life. In Joshua 1:5 our text, He also told Joshua – I will be with you, I will not leave you nor forsake you.

A few months ago, I was in Indonesia on a program support visit and suddenly I woke up and realized the house I was in was shaking due to an earth quake and along with some other people, I ran out of the house. God preserved my life, but not only did He do this he also made me go back to sleep almost immediately.... for He gives His beloved sleep, most of my other colleagues could not go back to sleep.

God is faithful in His presence, the strength of His assurance is great he will not leave, loose, forsake or neglect you; He would be constantly there, never to leave (song – Oh never alone, oh oh oh never alone, He promised never to leave you). The scope of His assurance is also infinite – He will be there every where, therefore we can boldly say – The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid, what can man do to me? Heb13:5-6

*God does not relax where His children are concerned, if His eyes is on the sparrow, I know He watches over you*

### **How to obtain God's faithfulness**

1. **Become a heir (Josh 1:6) – [Galatians 3:29](#);**  
And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and **heirs** according to the promise.
2. **Obedience (Joshua1:7) to God's law goes with possession of His promises and prosperity in all ramifications; Obey God, keep away from sins [Isaiah 61:8](#)**  
"For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my **faithfulness** I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them.
3. **Meditate on His words (Josh 1:8). We need to know what are His instructions and His promises that we may have good success**
4. **Be not afraid, have faith (Josh 1:9) Be courageous, doubt your doubts and believe God's word. For He says, Heaven and earth may pass away but not a jot of my word will pass away without being fulfilled.**
5. **Be determined, have a vision, have good plans, be focused [Proverbs 14:22](#)**  
Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and **faithfulness**.

**Conclusion** – Have a wining and victorious attitude, be determined to reject evil, claim God's faithfulness. He will never let you down. Happy New Year

### **Prayer**

**[Psalm 143:1](#)**[ *A psalm of David.* ] O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your **faithfulness** and righteousness come to my relief.

[Lamentations 3:24](#) - I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.";

[Isaiah 43:26](#) -Put me in **remembrance**: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou may be justified.