

our relationship with the Lord. "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). A faithful God will do what He promises. He will save you when you trust His Son. You can count on it, because He is faithful.

### "We Have Victory Over Sin"

God has been faithful to His promise. He has given us His Spirit to live in us and help us, and He is the Spirit of power. He has equipped us with His Word which sets Satan on his heels. He is continually available for communication through prayer. He has created us with a human will by which we may choose to flee from the enticement to sin. He is faithful in providing for our victory. God wants us to enjoy victory over sin and triumph through trials, but He has not left us on our own to achieve it. He offers us help. "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). The word temptation may refer either to a trial from God Who seeks to purify and strengthen us, or a solicitation to sin from Satan who seeks to destroy us. In either case, God promises to protect us from more than we can bear and to provide with every temptation or testing a way of escape. His faithfulness guarantees it. When we step out by faith to obey Him, He meets us there with His strength. These are resources which He has faithfully provided, and when we use them we enjoy His victory.

### "The Encouragement Of God's Faithfulness"

God will not only be faithful in assuring our salvation, providing for our victory, forgiving our sins, and sustaining us through suffering, but He will also be faithful in keeping every promise He has ever made. That is the greatest encouragement we could possibly have. The Bible contains thousands of precious promises from God, and at least one of them will have application to every conceivable situation we can possibly encounter—financial reversal, terminal illness, the loss of a loved one, family tensions, or anything else. A faithful God can be trusted to keep every promise. The writer to the Hebrews encouraged his readers with these words: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He Who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23). After assuring the Corinthians of God's faithfulness, Paul makes this a God Who loves us enough to give us His Son will certainly keep all His other promises as well. Christ's coming was as though God had written beside every promise in the Bible, "Yes, so be it, I will keep My Word." (2 Corinthians 1:20) When we believe His promises, our lives bring glory to Him—as Paul said, "To The Glory Of God Through Us." (2 Corinthians 1:20)

**"Then I Saw Heaven Opened, And There Was A White Horse! Its Rider Is Called Faithful And True"**

Revelation 19:11

The Apostle John also said that God's words are "Faithful And True" (Revelation 21:5) "And the One Who was seated on the throne said, "See, I Am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are Trustworthy And True." (Revelation 22:6) "And He said to me, "These words are Trustworthy And True,

for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place." Revelation 19:11 tells us that at His return to the earth He will actually bear the title, "Faithful and True" "Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in Righteousness He judges and makes war." All of God's attributes operate in union, never in isolation. If everything about Him is true, then He has no alternative but to be faithful.

### "We May Go Back On Our Word"

We sometimes go back on our word because we are unable to do what we intended to do, such as when we have been hindered by a storm from taking our children on a picnic we promised them. But God is omnipotent. He can do anything He pleases, even control the weather. He has no reason to be unfaithful. We may also be unfaithful because we are influenced by others. For instance, a wife may have promised her husband that she would prepare his favorite dish for dinner. But some socially prominent women, whose acceptance and friendship she desires, have invited her for coffee. The time has gotten away from her and it is too late to keep her word. But God is totally self-sufficient. He does not need anyone else's approval to meet His needs. He is His own reason for everything He does. We may fail to keep our word because we lose interest, like the husband who promised his wife he would build her some new kitchen cabinets, but simply got tired of carpentry and sold his tools. God never loses interest. He is immutable. He never changes His mind. We may not follow through because it no longer suits our selfish purposes. But God is love; He acts for the good of others rather than for His own selfish interests.

### "Faithfulness Is Apart of His Being"

Scripture extols God's faithfulness. The Psalmist said it surrounds Him (Psalm 89:8) "O LORD God of hosts, Who is as mighty as You, O LORD? Your faithfulness surrounds You." that is, it is part of His being and affects everything He does. Moses assured the people of Israel that because God is



faithful He could be expected to keep His covenant and carry out His promises (Deuteronomy 7:9) **“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God Who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations...”** He has done exactly that. For example, He gave them the land He promised them, He gave them victory over their enemies, and He gave them rest from their conflicts just as He said He would. **“Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.”** (Joshua 21:45). **That is the essence of God’s faithfulness.**



The Battle Of Jericho

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness!”

**God’s faithfulness to His covenant promises is assured even if His people forsake His law, refuse to walk in His judgments, violate His statutes, and break His commandments. (Psalm 89:30-35) “If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to My ordinances, if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges; but I will not remove from him my steadfast love, or be false to My faithfulness. I will not violate My covenant, or alter the Word that went forth from my lips. Once and for all I have sworn by My holiness;”** God’s faithfulness is unlimited (Psalm 36:5) **“Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds...”** The Psalmist went so far as to say, **“Forever, O LORD, Thy Word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness continues throughout all generations.”** (Psalm 119:89-90). **Because God has spoken in truth and His Word is sure, every generation can count on what He has said. No wonder Jeremiah exclaimed with joy, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:23).**

“The Extent of God’s Faithfulness”

**Since God’s faithfulness is part of His essence, it affects everything He says and everything He does. Several specific applications of His faithfulness are made in the New Testament. First of all, He is faithful in assuring our salvation. The spiritual lives of the Corinthian Christians left much to be desired, but Paul commends them for “Awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus**

**Christ. God is faithful, through Whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”** (1 Corinthians 1:7-9). Paul is confident that the Lord will make them steadfast and preserve them from falling away, right up to the moment they enter His presence. **That confidence does not rest in the strength or ability of the Corinthians, but in the faithfulness of God. If He promised eternal life to those who receive His Son, then He will deliver what He promised. He will never allow them to perish.**

“God Does What He Says He Is Going To Do”



A similar assurance is expressed about the Thessalonians: **“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He Who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”** (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24). Paul longs to see every one of them standing before the throne of God, wholly set apart unto the Lord, perfectly pure and blameless. He is confident that they will, not because they have the innate power to

**make themselves holy, but because the One Who called them is faithful. God promised to glorify every person He called and justified—every one without exception (Romans 8:29-30) “For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified...”** God does what He says He is going to do. What a satisfying assurance! Once we have acknowledged our sin and trusted Christ as our Savior, there is no need ever again to worry and fret over our eternal destiny. **Our faithful God confirms us in Him forever, and with that issue eternally settled, we can give our attention to growing in our knowledge of Him.**

“Doubts Will Prevent You Growing In God’s Grace”

**I have talked to people who have struggled for years about the assurance of their salvation. They have been perpetually preoccupied with whether or not they really are saved, and this has hindered them from growing in God’s grace. They will not graduate from that plateau until they take God at His Word and realize their salvation is settled forever. It is like a marriage in which the wife is asking herself, “Does my husband really love me? Is he really committed to this marriage?” As long as those doubts persist, she will never be free to grow in her relationship with her husband. Similar doubts keep us from growing in**