

## Faithfulness

By Pastor Jill Enns

### 1. We all need people in our lives that we can rely on.

A dog is called a man's best friend because a dog is loyal. A dog can be relied on to always act the same way. We long for this same type of relationship with the people in our lives. We all need people in our lives that we can rely on, people who are going to stick by us, no matter what.

### 2. God can be relied on all the time.

Today we are looking at the fruit of "faithfulness." A faithful person is someone you know you can rely on all the time, someone whose character will not change. God is this type of person. *God can be relied on all the time.* God does not change. His character is always the same.

Bible Verses that Speak About God's Faithfulness:

**Lamentations 3:22-23** "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

**Psalms 115:1** "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

**1 Corinthians 1:9** "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Greek word for faithfulness is *pistis*. This word carries the active sense of "trusting". This is something we are actively doing. But this word also carries the passive sense of being "worthy of trust." So, the faithful person is someone who is both actively "trusting" but is also a person "worthy of trust." We see both senses on this word being lived out in the life of Jesus.

### 3. God has let me down.

Maybe you don't see God's faithfulness in your life right now. Maybe you feel like God has let you down. You are not alone. God can handle our big feelings. This is the time to lean in closer to God, not withdraw.

### 2 Timothy 2:13

<sup>13</sup> if we are faithless,  
he remains faithful,  
for he cannot disown himself.

For God to act in an unfaithful way, for God to be faithless, would be to deny his himself, to deny who he is at the core of his being. This is something that he cannot and will do not. We can count on God's faithfulness, even when we can't see it or don't feel it. God is still there. He is someone we can rely on ALL THE TIME.

**2 Timothy 3:12-13** “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Evil is a part of our world, and God does not promise to protect us from it. He promises to be with us, to never leave us, to not give us more than we can handle (with his help of course!), but he does not promise us a carefree existence.

It is actually because of God’s kindness, his mercy, his grace, and his goodness that we have evil in the world.

**2 Timothy 1:9** says: “He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”

God has a plan to rid the world of evil, to right everything that is wrong, his plan is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and was given to us before the beginning of time. It is not because of anything we have done, but it is only because of God’s kindness, his grace, his faithfulness to us that he is holding back his wrath.

#### **2 Timothy 4:7-8**

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

Paul encourages Timothy, and all of us to remain faithful. To hold fast to the gospel message, to guard this sound teaching. Why? Because there is a glorious future awaiting us, where, if we finish the race, if we keep the faith, we will receive the crown of righteousness.

#### **4. Become a person who can be relied on all the time.**

How can we grow the fruit of faithfulness in our lives?

#### **2 Timothy 2:22-24**

“Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.”

To become a person who is faithful, a person who is worthy of trust, we need to work on becoming a person who is consistent in their character. We become this type of person by allowing God’s spirit to work in our lives, by meeting together, and by spending time with God.