

10 Looks: Look 9 – Faithful (8 Dec 2024)



Over the years – many people have made promises to me.

Most have kept them.

My wife made some big promises to me and has been more than faithful.

Friends in ministry made commitments and kept them.

But, there have been times – many times when some people I trusted implicitly made promises and commitments that I was sure they would keep – and they failed to keep them.

Some of them simply made promises they could not keep.

Some of them simply changed their mind.

Some believed our relationship had changed so they felt they didn't have to keep their word.

And many of those failed promises sting badly to this very day.

And – while I pride myself on keeping my word – the truth is I too have made promises I could not keep *or* did not keep.

I know I have let some people down in a huge way ... and so have you.

We think – my word is my bond.

We think we are faithful.

But the truth is that none of us are perfectly faithful.

The end result is terrible.

Unfaithfulness scars us.

Sitting before me are people who bear the scars of unfaithfulness.

Every last one has been betrayed and let down and failed by people you thought would be faithful.

A spouse, parent, child, friend, church leader, employer, political leader – someone who failed you.

Promises not kept, confidences betrayed, unexpected attacks.

It scars us.

I sit with women who were betrayed by husbands to the point they doubt they can ever trust anyone again.

I sit with Christians so scarred by church leaders they doubt they can ever become a member here.

I know people so disappointed that governments failed to keep promises about tax, or carbon emissions or reducing plastic or any number of things they have lost faith in the process.

We are an **un**-faithful race.

But ... something deep in us longs to find One who is faithful. One who will never forsake us, betray us or abandon us. One who will do what they say they will do.

One we can trust to never let us down.

And there is One – only One – who is truly faithful.

We are in a series based on a quote from *Robert Murray McChesney*:



For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.

Looking at Christ humbles the mind, magnifies the mind and feeds the soul.

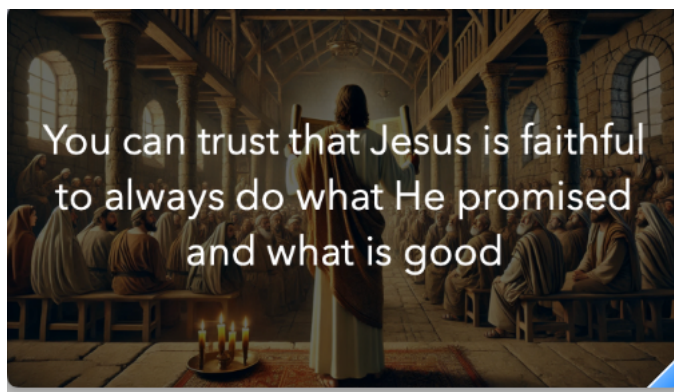
It is the greatest exercise we can undertake.

This morning, the **ninth** look at Jesus I want us to meditate on is that **Christ glorifies the Father as:**



Faithful

Here is what I want you to understand this morning:



You can trust that Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good.

You can trust that Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good.

Note that I did not say – **You can trust that Jesus is faithful to always do what you believe is the right thing to do.**

I say that because for many – that is what would make them trust that Jesus is faithful.

So many times, I have had men and women – inside our church – outside our church – say something like this.

My wife got lung cancer. So, I prayed day and night for healing – for the surgery and chemo to work.

She died – God failed me. He was unfaithful.

No! He wasn't.

I have also heard men and women say something like this – and this is one I know I have also caught myself saying.

We say something like – I have been praying for God to restore my daughter's marriage and praise God for His faithfulness – He answered my prayer.

I want to say – God is faithful – whether He answers your prayer in the way you hope **or not**.

If your daughter's marriage ends in divorce – you had better believe that God is still faithful.

God's answer may be **yes** or **no** or **wait** – and He is faithful.

God's faithfulness can **never** be judged by our perception of how God works in our life or our world.

What this means is that when Jesus makes a specific promise – such as – to save His people, to not lose one, to return and redeem this world – you can guarantee it will be kept.

But if Jesus did not make a specific promise – such as saving your wife – converting your child – giving you a wife – you can trust Him that however He leads ... it is good.

You may think curing your wife, providing a house for you, leading your neighbour to faith, seeing a war end – is what is good.

It may **or** may not be.

You are not God – only God knows what is truly good.

God does what is good and works all things together for ultimate good. He does what will bring Him the glory.

And because He is ultimately and completely faithful – you can build your life on this truth.

I want us to think this through by looking at four points.

First – You can trust Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good because:



He cannot do otherwise.

It is impossible for God to be unfaithful.

I know that is hard for us to imagine – because everyone else lets us down at some time.

Yesterday – Anton and Georgia stood right here and made some big promises.

I promise to stay faithful to the end – whatever comes – sickness, poverty, trials.

If you do not intend to keep that vow – if you do not believe the one you are marrying intends to keep it – don't marry.

But – we also need to know that there are **no** guarantees.

In fact about the only thing I can guarantee is that even the person who loves you the most in this world will fail you many times.

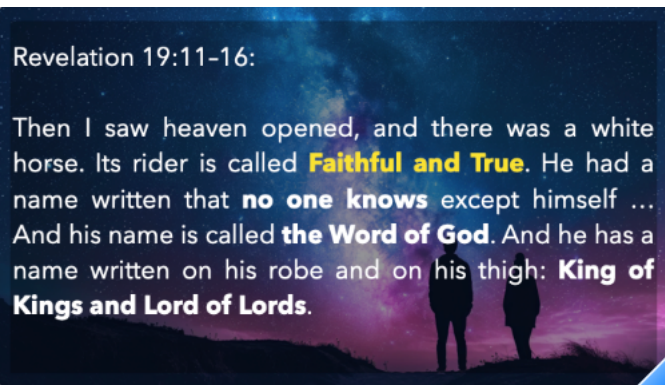
You are fallen and prone to **un**faithfulness and so are they.

When a marriage breaks down, we are heartbroken, shattered – but not astonished.

However ... for God to be unfaithful would not just be astonishing – **it is impossible** – the heavens and the earth would cease before the least of the promises of God fails.

When the last page of history is written – what will be absolutely clear is that – in everything – Jesus will be seen to have been Faithful and True.

Have a look with me at Revelation 19:11–16.



Jesus is revealed at the very end of world history and John writes this:

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called **Faithful and True**. He had a name written that **no one knows** except himself. ... And his name is called **the Word of God**. And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: **King of Kings and Lord of Lords**.

John uses **four names** to identify Jesus.

A name sums up the essence of a person. Those names are:

Faithful and True.

The name known only to Jesus.

The Word of God.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

But it is this first name – a name that sums Jesus up perfectly that I want us to think about – **Faithful and True**.

When the last page of history is turned and all the books are opened – when all things are known – what emerges is that Jesus is declared to be **Faithful and True**.

Understand that before the world was created – Jesus was **Faithful and True**.

During the incarnation – His time in this world – Jesus was **Faithful and True**.

But, before this last moment – there were promises made that had not been fulfilled.

Gospel to the ends of the earth, the defeat of Satan, sin and death, the rapture and resurrection, the judgment, eternity, the salvation of every last sheep.

Jesus appears – completes every last promise – and the verdict of history is – the verdict of every tongue is that He is **Faithful and True**.

Not one promise left undone – not one.

Every promise fulfilled.

Every statement declared true.

He did not lie nor change His mind.

And that is how it had to be.

We need to understand that there are attributes about God that are intrinsic to who He is.

God is love. God is just. God is holy.

He **cannot** be other than this.

I know you teach your kids this Colin song – I have heard them sing it – and it is a good one:

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There's **nothing** my God cannot do
That's true!

But is it? Is that true?

Far be it for me to correct Colin's theology but ... while I know what the song aims to convey to kids – yet adults – you need to realise there **are** things God simply *cannot* do.

He can't sin. He can't cease to exist. He can't lie. And crucially – He can't be unfaithful.

At His core He is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:9:

God is faithful.

Isaiah 11:5:

Righteousness will be a belt around his hips; **faithfulness will be a belt around his waist.**

It is who He is.

Think back to Exodus. In Exodus 33 Moses begs God – show me your glory. Show me who You are. Then in Exodus 34:6–7:

The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and **abounding in faithful love and truth**, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations.

At the core of His being, God is compassionate, gracious and faithful.

He is completely and perfectly so.

You and I – because we are made in the image of God bear some of His attributes – communicable attributes.

But, our attributes exist on a curve.

Some of us are more loving, some more faithful, some more compassionate.

Not one of us is perfect in any attribute.

But God is *perfect* in **every** attribute.

You – you can and will sin.

You can and will do things that are not loving.

You can and will tell a lie.

You can and will make a promise and fail to keep it.

Psalm 116:11 says:

“Everyone is a liar.”

This doesn’t mean we always lie or everything we say is a lie.

It does mean we all tell lies – some purposefully, some inadvertently.

So, we should not be astonished that a President will repeatedly declare – I absolutely will **not** pardon my son – and then pardon their son.

Not so God. He does what He says He will do.

God? He simply **cannot** lie, fail, change His mind.

And for that you can be incredibly thankful because as 2 Corinthians 1:20 puts it:

Every one of God’s promises is “Yes” in him. Therefore, through him we also say “Amen” to the glory of God.

Every promise God makes is yes in Christ and we say Amen – because we know He will keep them.

It is impossible for God to say He will do something and then not do it.

Numbers 23:19:

God is not a man, that he might lie, or a son of man, that he might change his mind. Does he speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill?

By definition, everything He speaks is true and will come to pass.

Brothers and sisters, every truth about Jesus is beautiful. But for me this truth that He is faithful is one of the most precious.

I have been failed by people very close to me.

I have failed people close to me.

But Jesus **has** never, **will** never, **can** never – fail me – in any way.

This is so important for you to know in your bones.

Because at many times in your life you will be sorely tempted to think – God failed me.

He says I won't be tempted beyond what I can handle – I was.

He says He will empower me to fight sin – He didn't.

He says He will never let me go – but my faith is going.

He says He loves me – and terrible things have happened.

That may be what it feels like. The truth is different.

Life will never always go how we hope or think – but that does not change the immutable fact that:

Jesus ... is ... faithful.

Time and again Israel made the error of saying – God look at us – You have been unfaithful.

In the second half of the book of Isaiah – Israel is in captivity.

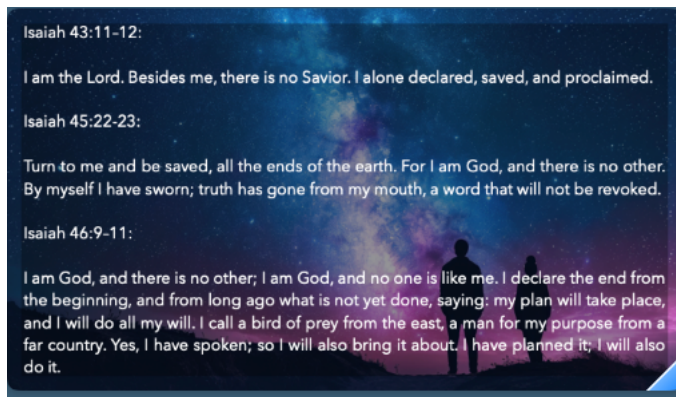
It seems to them God's promises of salvation have failed. We are in captivity. We have no Temple let alone a kingdom. We are being infiltrated by the religion of Babylon.

We have no future.

God – Your promises have failed.

God then makes it clear – No! Not one single promise has failed.

Things might be progressing far differently than they hoped or anticipated. But, everything is happening exactly as He wills.



Isaiah 43:11–12:

I am the Lord. Besides me, there is no Savior. I alone declared, saved, and proclaimed.

To God – declaring He will save them – saving them – and at the end of time proclaiming them saved – is all the same.

To say it – means it is done.

He promised to save the true Israel and He will.

Isaiah 45:22-23:

Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth. For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; truth has gone from my mouth, a word that will **not be revoked**.

I swore I would save you and even I cannot revoke that promise.

The universe would cease before my word is revoked. It must be fulfilled.

Isaiah 46:9–11:

I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like me. I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will. I call a bird of prey from the east, a man for my purpose from a far country. Yes, I have spoken; so I will also bring it about. I have planned it; I will also do it.

Read these verses a few times and marvel.

Before the world began – I declared the end. So, if I say it – I will do it.

Notice that nothing happens apart from God's will – right down to the very mundane.

A bird does not flap through the sky – a man does not journey from a far country – apart from the plan God declared before the world began.

This is extraordinary.

God does not just ordain the big things of our life but the most mundane.

In a few hours you may be at the park and eating your lunch and a fly lands on your sandwich – God planned that before the world existed.

It is not just that God knew it would happen – God ordained it would happen.

When you go to Coles for a box of cereal – and you have to decide – Weetbix, Muesli, Coco Pops – finally you pick Weetbix. You didn't know what you would pick until the box was in your cart but God ordained it before the world was.

How that works I don't know. Do not ask me about determinism and free will.

I can tell you God's decree does not negate your role and responsibility in your choices – and it certainly does not make you a robot.

God ordains – but we have choices for which we are responsible – I don't get it – but God says it – so I believe it.

So, what we learn is that God cares and is involved in every aspect of our lives. He cares about the mundane – down to the hairs on our heads.

He is a Big God who cares about the big and small of our lives.

The point is not about flies or cereal – the point is how much more is the God who sent Jesus able to ensure He keeps His word in the biggest aspects of our lives – salvation – holiness – eternity.

Israel was in captivity because of their sin – but even their sin did not invalidate even one promise.

God will fulfill **every** promise. He will save them. He will bring the kingdom.

So, when this God says – I will never leave you or forsake you – I will save you – I am with you – it is certain – it is done – because God planned it and for Him it has already happened.

Here is but one of countless differences between you and God.

Several people in this church when they text me always end their text with DV.

They might say – Craig – I will see you Sunday. DV.

DV is an abbreviation of the Latin phrase – *Deo Volente* – God willing.

They mean – it is my intention to see you on Sunday – but it will happen only if God so wills.

I am not God – so I might get sick, my car might break down, war might break out, Jesus might return.

I plan to see you – I plan to do what I say – but since I am not God – I cannot guarantee it.

However, when God makes a promise – **He doesn't need to add DV.**

If He says it – He wills it – and if He wills it – it **will** be done.

It simply cannot be otherwise.

What does it mean for us?

Things will happen in your life you don't understand.

Illness, betrayal, kids off the rails, financial disaster.

I have been with parents who have lost a child. They ask – how could God do this?

And you will be very tempted to question the faithfulness of God.

But I want you to know – that cannot be – it is **impossible** for God to be faithless – to fail to keep a promise – **or** to fail to do what is good.

The heavens and the earth will pass away before Christ will fail to keep one promise or to fail to do what is good.

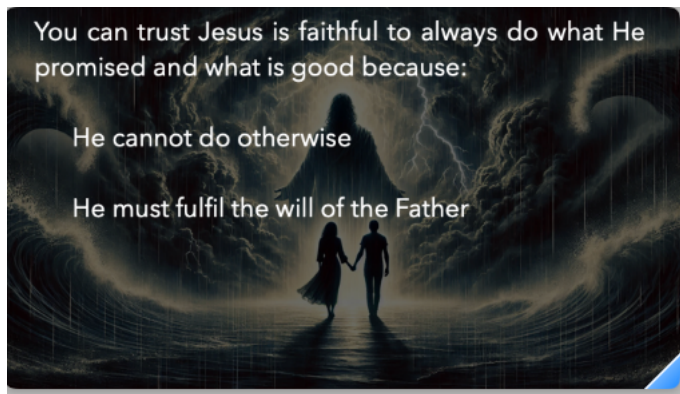
We may not understand how an event lines up with His promises.

We may not understand how it is for good.

But when you realise Jesus is God – Jesus is faithful – you may not understand it – but you can trust Him that when the last page of history is written He will be seen to have kept His promise and done what is good.

He is Faithful and True. He cannot be anything else.

Second – You can trust Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good because:



He must fulfil the will of the Father.

On our recent trip to Europe, we visited several incredible gothic cathedrals.

Building them – carving the sculptures – took several generations.

In most cases it was the family business.

Three, four, five generations in one family made it their life work to build that monument.

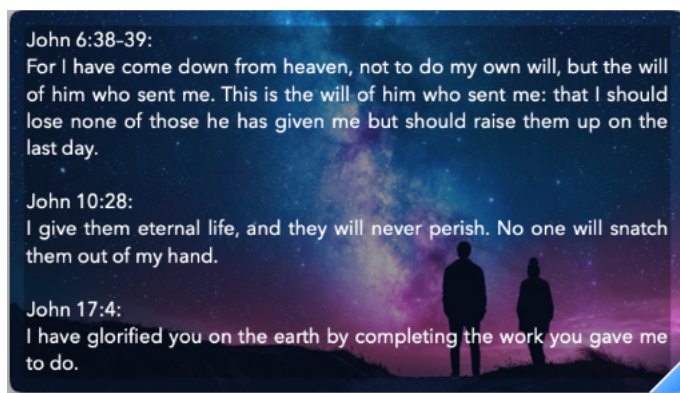
The first generation began the task – entrusted it to sons and grandsons – and knew they would not live to see it finished – but trusted it would be.

Some were. But, we also saw cathedrals that were never finished. Money ran out. War intervened. The kids didn't want to follow the family business.

And we also saw some cathedrals where it was clear the following generations did not inherit the skill of their fathers – it was finished but unevenly.

There is no guarantee that any project a man begins will be finished or finished well.

Not so with Jesus – He **must** and **will** finish the task the Father gave to Him.



John 6:38–39:

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day.

Before the world began – the Godhead planned history.

When time began – Jesus enacted it.

When eternity begins – Jesus will have completed the plan of the Father.

Jesus did not leave heaven for a break, a visit or to see how things on earth were going.

He came with a task – to fulfil the will of the Father.

To save every last one chosen by the Father and to get every last one to glory.

John 10:28:

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

When I give them life – no one – not Satan, not sin, not death – can snatch them from My hand. Not one will perish.

Then at the end of His life – He said this – John 17:4:

I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

I finished the work. Every sheep saved – none lost.

Think about this. Before the world was – God decreed that Jesus would come to save those given to Him by the Father.

Not save some or most – **but every last one.**

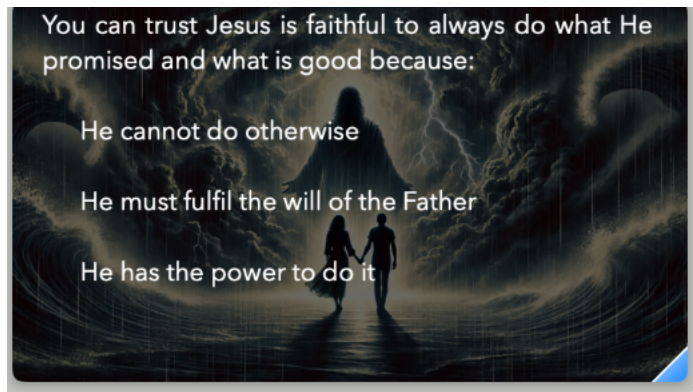
When we get to heaven – not one sheep whose name was written in the book of life will be missing. When the roll is called up yonder – all present.

Jesus is more powerful than your sin, your faithlessness, your laziness.

He will get you to glory.

Because He **always** does the will of the Father.

Third – You can trust Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good because:



He has the power to do it.

It is a big statement to say – I won't lose one – no sheep left behind.

Some of those who made big promises to me failed to keep them – not because they changed their mind – or were liars – but because they were human – they just couldn't fulfil their commitment.

One died before they could keep their promise.

Others promised what they could not deliver.

But not Jesus.

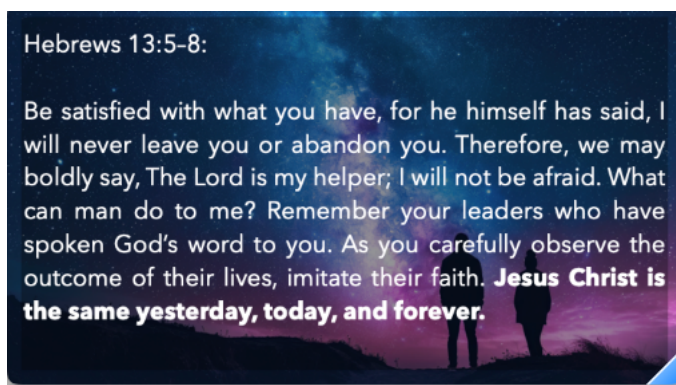
He had a huge task. He made incredible promises. And He has the power to fulfil every last one.

Deuteronomy 7:9:

Know that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps his gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations.

If He promises it – it is not just that it *will* occur – in the will of God it *has* already been fulfilled.

Hebrews 13:5–8 is a fascinating passage:



Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you. Therefore, we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

The writer of Hebrews urges us to be satisfied with the life we have – the good – the bad – the struggles – because Jesus is with us – strengthening us – and He will never leave us or abandon us.

He is our helper.

We know this is true because this is a promise given to the Fathers and passed on to us in the Word – so it cannot fail.

The Fathers trusted it and based their lives on it – so can you.

But how can we **know** that every promise will come to pass?

He says it is because – **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

This implies so many truths. He is God, eternal, unchanging.

But – crucially – it is why we know His faithfulness cannot fail.

Jesus is God – but He chose to exist in time – for a period of years – without ceasing to also exist outside of time.

And that means no promise can fail.

If I say to you – I promise that at my next pay, I will give you \$50.

I might have every intention of doing just that. But I only exist today. I do not exist in the tomorrow.

To fulfil that promise I have to live to the next pay.

I have to keep my job to the next pay.

The church has to not go broke before the next pay.

And I don't know what tomorrow brings.

But God does – because He exists in the yesterday, the today and the forever.

We experience time.

God does not experience time – yesterday, today, tomorrow are the same for Him.

He says it – and it has already happened – therefore it cannot fail.

That is why God can determine all of world history before there was any and know it has been fulfilled.

To God – every event from Creation to Judgment has already occurred according to His plan.

Nothing takes Him by surprise. Nothing is outside His will and design.

That is why He could write your name in the Lamb's book of life before you existed and declare – not one will be lost – and we can trust this is true.

If He chose you – it is not just that He plans to redeem you – you **are** redeemed – you **are** saved – in a very real sense to God you **are** already glorified.

My point is – whatever promise Jesus makes – He has the power and will to do it.

There is no promise He makes that can possibly fail.

This is so hard for creatures who live in a fallen world to grasp.

But Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Every promise made in the Old Testament was fulfilled in His life, death and resurrection and will be fulfilled in His return and in eternity.

His first coming was certain – He came and many promises were fulfilled.

His second coming is certain – He will come and every remaining promise will be fulfilled.

Isaiah 25:1:

I will praise your name, for you have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, **with perfect faithfulness**.

Every wonder and plan was formed in eternity past – and every one **has been, is being** and **will be** accomplished with *perfect faithfulness*.

By definition, if God plans it – then in the time and space world we live in – it will happen.

2 Kings 19:25:

Have you not heard? I designed it long ago; I planned it in days gone by. I have now brought it to pass.

What does this mean for us?

Joshua 21:45:

None of the good promises the Lord had made ... failed. Everything was fulfilled.

None of the good promises the Lord had made ... failed. Everything was fulfilled.

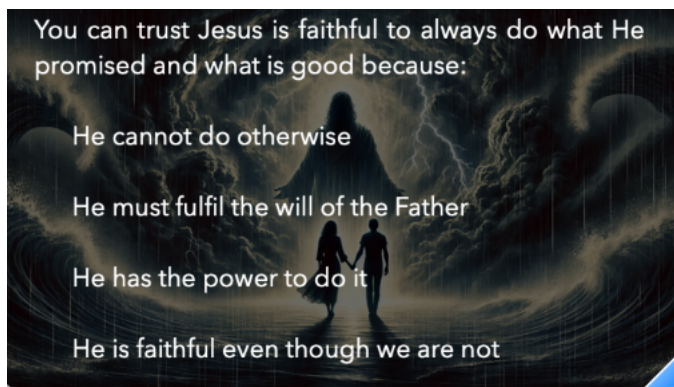
Everything God promised has happened or will happen.

He **will** sustain you. He **will** never abandon you. He **will not** let you be tempted beyond what you can endure. He **will** take you to be with Him. He **will** pronounce you righteous on the final day. You **will** enter eternity.

We believe in the perseverance of the saints not because we can do it – but because He has already done it.

Whatever God promised He has the power to fulfill. That is a truth you can base your life on.

Fourth – You can trust Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good because:



He is faithful even though we are not

I have sat with many Christians who ended up divorced and in the vast majority of cases it was absolutely something they never imagined happening.

When they said – I do – they were determined that it would be for life.

When things go wrong, usually there is some degree of fault on both sides – but I am thinking of many men and women I spoke to who truly tried their best – and yet their marriage ended anyway.

But ... I have also sat with some men and women who were painfully honest.

Truth is – it was me who messed up. Adultery, abuse, betrayal – no wonder they left me.

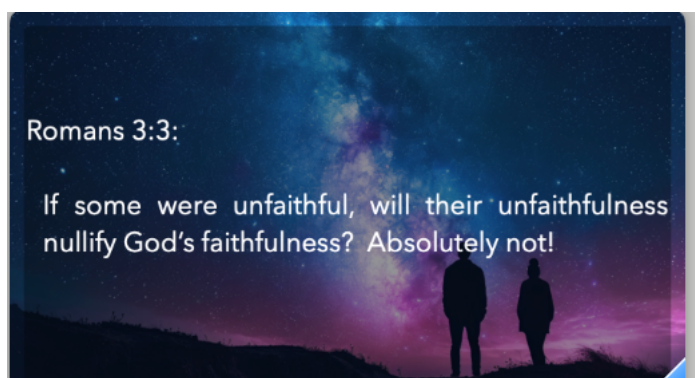
Here is my point – when you became a Christian you made a commitment to bend the knee to Jesus as King and to be faithful to Him and Him alone.

Yet every last one of us ends up in the second category. We have all been painfully and regularly unfaithful.

God should say to us – you have messed up and ended our covenant – now bear the consequences.

But, incredibly – He doesn't.

In Romans 3 – Paul is clear – even the unfaithfulness of Israel cannot void the promises to Israel. Romans 3:3:



If some were unfaithful, will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Absolutely not!

For God to be unfaithful – to fail to keep every promise – even when we are unfaithful is impossible. It would be to deny His very essence.

If a friend is terribly unfaithful – we would be justified to end the friendship.

God would be justified to end His covenant with us because of our unfaithfulness – but He cannot – because He promised He would not.

Perhaps the most stunning picture of this is found in the book of Hosea.

Hosea is given what I think is the hardest task of any prophet.

Hosea 1:2:

When the Lord first spoke to Hosea, he said this to him:

Wow – I am going to be a prophet. Then:

Go and marry a woman of promiscuity, and have children of promiscuity.

Say what?

The ESV translates this verse as:

Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom.

God calls Hosea as a prophet. But then says – your task as a prophet is to marry Gomer – the well-known town whore.

I can barely comprehend that. I suspect if Hosea had run through all the eligible girls that he might marry – Gomer was not at bottom of the list – she was never anywhere near the list.

Hosea would choose death or singleness over marrying her any day.

How do you tell your parents – your friends – I have news – I am going to marry Gomer – the town prostitute?

You would become an outcast and object of derision.

Me – I would tender my resignation as a prophet – a short, sweet and undistinguished ministry.

Sorry – can't do it – won't do it.

Call some other poor sap for this – not me!

Problem is – you can't say no to God.

God does this – because the point of the book is that God is the betrayed husband and we are Gomer.

What happened to Hosea is horrific. But it is nothing compared to the betrayal our holy God has experienced from us.

And unfortunately, this is no *Pretty Woman* scenario where Hosea rescues her from prostitution and a horrible life and she cleans up her life and they live happily ever after.

No, she says I do – she makes a commitment – but then slinks out and keeps selling herself to any lowlife scum – even getting pregnant to them – and isn't at all ashamed or distraught by this.

If you read Hosea 1:1-9 it outlines Israel's failure in painful detail – but it is our failure as well.

What is incredible that the Hosea 1:10 does not read:

And the Lord decreed – I divorce thee, I divorce thee, I divorce thee.

And Israel and Judah and every last person are banished from the Lord's love and are doomed to face the eternal punishment they so richly deserve.

End of the book of Hosea.

Everything inside us says – that is what Hosea should do – that is what God should do.

But, that is **not** what happens.

Verse 10:

Yet the number of the Israelites will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or counted. And in the place where they were told: You are not my people, they will be called: Sons of the living God.

I have a plan and a future for you. I will bless you.

Hosea 3:1:

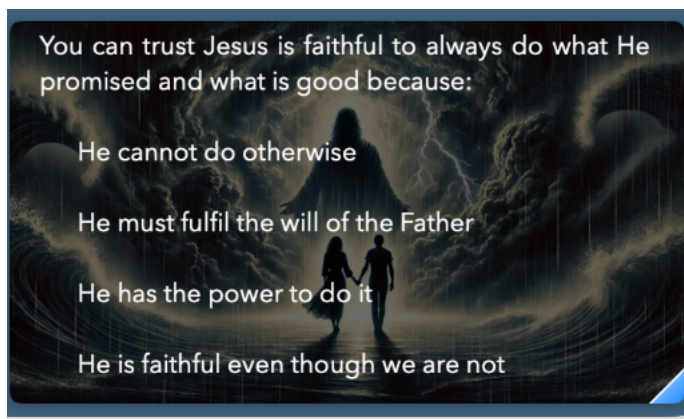
Then the Lord said to me, “Go again; show love to a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress.”

Despite our rampant **un**faithfulness – God remains faithful.

How can God be faithful to the unfaithful?

Read the book – but I will tell you that the key is that we are told that there will be a coming ruler – a coming David – and **He** will be faithful.

And God will save His people – not because they are faithful – but because this One is faithful.



At the cross – we receive the imputed righteousness – the faithfulness of Christ.

Basically, we are saved by faith in Christ's works – His life death, resurrection and His faithfulness.

Jesus is faithful – to God the Father and to us – and that changes everything.

What does this mean for us?

If you are not a Christian – then the faithfulness of Jesus is actually not good news for you.

2 Timothy 2:11–13 says this:

This saying is trustworthy: For if we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

Jesus remains faithful to all His promises. Promises to return in judgment for any who have not accepted the amnesty in His blood.

But, today is not that day – today the amnesty remains – so turn to Him and live.

For those who are Christians.

1. You need to **know** that Jesus is faithful to every promise He made for our good.

Hebrews 10:23:

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

Never allow the events of your life shake your faith in this truth. Jesus ... is ... faithful.

2. You need to **know** that He will fulfill every promise.

Hebrews 13:5:

For he himself has said, **I will never leave you or abandon you.**

Matthew 28:18-20:

All authority has been given to Me ... and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Read the Bible – anywhere – and you will find promises.

Promises to do good. Promises to help you endure to the end. Promises to empower you. Promises to return for you.

Promises that on the final day you will be called righteous and not face judgment.

Promises of life eternal with the King.

Know that He will keep **every** promise made to you.

3. You need to **know** that He is completely aware of your sin and failings but He remains faithful.

1 John 1:9:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When you marry – your spouse barely knows the extent of the sin in you.

When Jesus chose you – He knew the full extent of the sin and muck within – sin you don't even know is there. And He chose you and loved you anyway.

He promises to wash you clean and present you a spotless bride.

And He keeps His promise.

4. You need to **know** that if there is no specific promise – then our faithful Jesus will do what is right.

When Joseph was sold into slavery – the brothers sinned – but God worked that for good.

When Jesus was nailed to the cross – that was sin – but God worked that for good.

God works all things together for good.

If bad things are happening to you – don't lose faith – cling to faith. Remember – Jesus is faithful.

Brothers and sisters – a few here are blessed to be surrounded by faithful friends and have only experienced a few betrayals.

But most of us have many, many scars from betrayals.

We are never promised a life without scars or betrayal. Jesus Himself was betrayed and bore many scars.

But we are promised that there is One who is faithful and true – who will never betray us – never forsake us and never abandon us.

He will finish the work begun in us.

And He will bring us through the toughest patches of this life.

Romans 8:31:

What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Despite the storms of life – here is our response.

Psalm 63:3:

My lips will glorify you because your faithful love is better than life.

My Jesus ... is ... faithful.

10 Looks: Look 9 – Faithful (8 Dec 2024)

Main Point: You can trust that Jesus is faithful to always do what He promised and what is good.

General Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is faithful?
2. Why is it important to recognise He is faithful even when life goes in a way we don't think it should or does not seem good?
3. Why is it impossible for Jesus to be unfaithful?
4. In what way is Jesus shown to be Faithful and True at the end of world history.
5. How did God show Israel in Isaiah 40-66 that His promises had not and could not fail?
6. Why is it impossible for Jesus to not fulfil the will of the Father?
7. How does Jesus being – **the same yesterday, today, and forever** – relate to Him being faithful. How does this help us know He is faithful?
8. How do we know that our unfaithfulness does not lead to God ending some of the promises made to us?
9. What is the point of the book of Hosea?
10. What does it mean – we are saved by faith in Christ's faithfulness?

Application Questions:

1. Why is the faithfulness of Christ so precious?
2. Has the unfaithfulness of others made it hard for you to trust Jesus? If so how can you learn to trust Him fully again?
3. When life is going badly – how can the knowledge that Jesus is faithful help you survive the storms?

What convicted me in the message?

What moved me in the message?

What will I do in light of the message?