

Faithful

1 Thessalonians 5: 24

August 2, 2009

We can say a lot of things about God: He is all powerful – nothing is too difficult for Him; no prayer request is too challenging for Him; no sinner is too lost for Him to save.

God is all knowing: he knows the most important things about me (how many heart beats I have); He also knows the most insignificant things (how many hairs on my head); He knows what I am thinking; or even what I have hidden in my heart and intend to tell no one else.

God is everywhere. There is no place He is not. If I descended to the pits of the ocean, God would be there. If I climbed to the peak of the tallest mountain, God would be there.

While it is wonderful to know God is all powerful, or all knowing, or omnipresent, I believe the one characteristic about God I love the most is that God is completely and totally faithful. I can always depend upon Him for all my needs.

**What some have said about God's faithfulness:**

**Moses: "The faithful God, who keeps His covenants of love to a thousand generations (Deuteronomy 7: 9)."**

**Joshua: "...not one of the word of all the good words God spoke concerning you has failed (Joshua 23: 14)."**

**David: God's faithfulness reaches to the skies (Psalm 89).**

In the New Testament, Paul asks, "Will your lack of faith nullify the faithfulness of God? And the answer obviously the answer is emphatically, 'No.'" I am told in the Book of Galatians one of the fruits of the Spirit is faithfulness, and that faithfulness resides within me because the Spirit of God resides within me.

In the Book of Thessalonians, Chapter Five, Verse Twenty Four, Paul reminds us once again of the faithfulness of God. Three things this tiny verse reveal about the faithfulness of God:

**1. You may think you are looking for God, but the truth is God is looking for you (1 Thessalonians 5: 24a).**

A. When I call someone on my phone, it is because I am looking for them. The person who initiates the call is the person who is looking.

B. God says He has been calling you.

1. **John 6: 44** – "*No one can come unto me unless the Father Who sent me draws him...*"

C. But here is the problem: While God will initiate the call, the one on the receiving end does not have to answer the call.

1. With Caller ID, I can see before answering if the calling number is known or unknown; then I can decide if I want to answer the phone.

2. There are times in my life that God has called me and I have chosen not to answer. It may be the passing pleasure of sin I am enjoying, and frankly I don't want to stop it right then.

3. Maybe I know He wants me to do something in my life, and I really don't want to do that thing right now, so I don't want to answer.

D. Maybe God is calling someone to Salvation, and they choose not to answer because to answer means giving up thrill and enjoyment they think they are receiving from the lifestyle of sin.

E. Today, have you answered all God's calls in your life?

**2. God is not occasionally faithful; it is part of the character of God (v. 24b).**

A. There are times I act faithfully, but I admit there are times I act unfaithfully.

1. I love FBC Malabar, and for the most part I am faithful to my church.

2. But there are times I get frustrated and aggravated with FBC Malabar, and it is those times I send out my resume, and tell Nancy I'm ready to pack up and move. Those are the times I act unfaithfully.

B. God never acts unfaithfully; His character is to be faithful.

1. So when I commit the same sin over and over, and go to God and ask for forgiveness, He doesn't tell me He is tired of forgiving the same sin and is not going to forgive it anymore. Instead, He makes it clear that out of His faithfulness He will forgive it every time (**1 John 1: 9**).

C. He is faithful. It means no matter how many times I don't answer His call, He will keep answering (**Revelation 3: 20**).

**3. Because God is faithful, things that have not yet happened, will happen (v. 24c).**

A. The Nike ad slogan "Just do it" may sound straight forward enough, but life is not that simple.

1. I may want to do it – may even feel strongly about doing it – but I may not have the ability to "do it."

B. If God had a TV commercial, His slogan would be, "I can do it."

1. Whatever He wants to do, He has the power to get it done.

2. I remind you the Bible tells us nothing is too difficult for God.

C. You take God's power and combine it with His faithfulness; then you and I can have complete confidence in what the future holds for us. Why? Because when we answered His call, He is faithful to keep His promises of life everlasting, forgiveness of sins, and a new life in Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, there may well be some here who have never answered God's call. You may know God is all powerful, but you've never His faithfulness in your life, because you've never answered his call.

Upon the authority of God's Word, I tell you God wants you to know He is calling; will you answer the call?

Let's pray!