

GOD IS FAITHFUL



“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” Philippians 1:6

Seems it was just a few days ago we were saying Happy New Year and making plans for the year. Now we're in the last quarter of the year and for some of us it may look like very little of what we planned has materialised. It's easy at this point for doubt, fear and hopelessness to start creeping in. But that's just a tactic of the enemy to take our eyes off the faithfulness of God.

So long as God is the author of the dream/vision/plan we can be confident He is committed to seeing it through. This series we're looking at a few examples of how God has proven His faithfulness even in the midst of impossible circumstances. Our prayer is that as we go through this series the Lord will encourage us and help us shift our focus from what He's yet to do as He reminds us of what He's already done. If He's faithful to one He's faithful to all.



Day 1

Nothing is impossible

“I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.” Genesis 12:2

God’s promises aren’t based on our natural circumstances. When the Lord told Abram he would become a great nation nothing about his current circumstances looked anything like what was promised. He and his wife were old and nothing suggested anything would change. But God is faithful to keep His promises.

“And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb... He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises.” Romans 4:19, 21

Let’s be honest, at a point Abraham and Sarah decided to take matters into their own hands because they had their own interpretation of how God’s promise would be fulfilled. Sometimes we make similar errors because the promise seems so impossible, we think we need to “help” God. But God doesn’t require our help in any way.

“God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?” Numbers 23:19

“For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalms 33:9

God is faithful, it’s not our role to figure out how He will do what He’s promised because He has multiple ways to answer. All that’s needed from us is our faith and obedience. As simple as this sounds it can be quite daunting especially if we continue to focus on the seeming impossibility of our current circumstances.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” Ephesians 3:20

Sometimes we reduce our vision of God to the size of our problem, forgetting that He is the maker of all things seen and unseen. He is the One who speaks and it is done, whose commandments are established. He is not limited by our natural circumstances in any way. However the circumstances of life, our desires and peer pressure take our eyes away from this truth about God and when that happens, doubt starts setting in. But God is faithful.

Prayer: Lord thank You for reminding me of Your faithfulness and power to do all You’ve said You will do. Help me stay focused on Your character, trusting You will do what You said You will do.



Day 2

At the right time

“Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in God’s eyes, careful to obey all of the Lord’s commandments and regulations...the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John...” Luke 1:6, 13

Zechariah and Elizabeth had a destiny assignment critical to God’s agenda for mankind which was to birth the fore- runner of Jesus, John the Baptist. Because of the nature of the assignment, John had to be born around the same time as Jesus, which meant that because Zachariah and Elizabeth had been selected by God to be John the Baptist’s parents they would not have children until it was time for Jesus to be born.

When we have a God given assignment that is time bound, we must understand that it will come to pass at God’s appointed time. Because of this it may appear as though there is a delay, but in reality God is aligning things in the background so all will work perfectly at the right time.

“Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

Imagine having an important meeting in a location where doors only open at 8am. Even if you get there by 5am, the appointment won’t happen earlier than the time that’s been fixed. The most you can do is to make sure you’re at the venue ahead of time so you just walk in when the doors open. God has set an appointed time for everything to happen which means that regardless of how we feel or try to hasten things, God’s agenda will be fulfilled at the appointed time. Our responsibility is to ensure we’re aligned with God so we can fully appropriate what He’s prepared for us.

“But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.” Luke 1:20

“Instantly Zechariah could speak again, and he began praising God.” Luke 1:64

Zechariah’s unbelief could have cost him the very thing he desired which is why the angel silenced him. Likewise we can cause undue delays by what we speak. The words we speak while waiting matter. At the appointed time John was born and his father could speak again. We don’t have to wait for the manifestation before we praise, rather praise should be posture even as we wait.

Prayer: Lord show me a token of Your kindness as I wait. Help my heart and tongue be filled thanks and praise for what You’re set to do because I trust You will make everything beautiful at the right time



Day 3

Second Chances

“You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.” Judges 13:5

Samson was a child of promise destined to rescue Israel from the Philistines. Though he functioned as a judge in Israel, he was also led largely by his natural senses and emotions rather than the Lord which led him to make rash decisions. His successes convinced him of his own invincibility, forgetting that it was the Holy Spirit that was empowering him. This ultimately cost him dearly as he didn't even know when the Lord left him.

Sometimes we're like Samson in that God has given us success in certain areas and over time we have made mistakes which have cost us dearly. Perhaps we've made mistakes that have led to the loss of a relationship, business or career setbacks, etc. The bottom line is that if we're honest with ourselves we had a role to play in the outcome we experienced or are experiencing. Thankfully God also specialises in turning things around.

“Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time. With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes.” Judges 16:28

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself.. I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you,” Luke 15:17-18

“That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.” Joel 2:12

There came a point where Samson and the prodigal son came to their spiritual senses and realised the only way forward was to go back to the Father. He's the only one that can bring restoration, strength and direction for the future. Mistakes may have been made, but God is faithful to restore as we return to Him in genuine repentance.

Prayer: Merciful Lord, I acknowledge my error and ask that You show me mercy according to Your faithfulness and lovingkindness. Grant me a divine turnaround as only You can and please help me to stay connected to You so my life is directed by You alone.



Day 4

Age is not a barrier

“The Lord replied, “Don’t say, ‘I’m too young,’ for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you.” Jeremiah 1:7

“Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.” Psalms 92:14

Our natural environment and society at large sets barriers around the expectations we should have in fulfilling purpose. Some things are deemed only for specific age brackets and this can lead us to missing out on God’s faithfulness because if it’s His plan He will back us up, regardless of our age.

The same God that told Jeremiah he wasn’t too young to be His mouthpiece is the same one who equipped a young Daniel to take up a position of authority in Babylon. He’s also the same God who enabled Noah to restart at 601, empowering Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt at 80 and Caleb to fight for his territory also at 80. Imagine if Jeremiah and Daniel just followed the herd because they thought they were too young or if Moses and Caleb decided they were too old to take on new assignments.

“But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.” Acts 9:15

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.” Genesis 32:28

“But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Sometimes serving our purpose in God will require a complete shift from where and who we used to be. Abraham was 75 when he left Ur, Jacob is estimated to be around 90 when his name was changed to Israel in an angelic encounter. Paul was already a senior ranking Pharisee when he converted to walking with Jesus. If the Lord has called for a shift He will bring the empowerment required to be successful in the assignment because He doesn’t start a project He hasn’t already completed. The secret to the strength needed for the assignment isn’t in our bodies but in the One who sends us. Is the Lord calling you to start something new or pivot in some way? You’re neither too young or too old, if He is calling you then that means the time is right.

Prayer: Lord thank You for reminding me that You are the creator of both my seasons of life and opportunities You’ve made available to me. Help me to break out of the limitations of my mind and focus on what You’ve called me to do knowing that You are faithful to see me through.



Day 5

Pathways in wilderness

“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:19

There are times when we seem to have come to the end- no more money to pay bills so we think the business has to shut down, career seems to have come to a point of stagnation so we're questioning our worth, things don't seem to be working in our personal lives so we've all but given up. But God is faithful even when things look like they've come to an end, He can create unexpected pathways.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground.” Exodus 14:15-16

When the Israelites were seemingly stuck between pharaoh's army and the sea it looked like all was lost until God showed up in His glory to fulfil what He had already told them. It never occurred to them that the sea could part and they would walk through on dry ground. But that's exactly what happened and they crossed over into safety.

“Then she went and sat down by herself about a hundred yards away. “I don't want to watch the boy die,” she said, as she burst into tears...Then God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well full of water. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink.” Genesis 21:16, 19

When Hagar and Ishmael were in the wilderness all looked lost and Hagar had given up until the Lord opened her eyes to see a well. She was so blinded by grief, disappointment and fatigue that all she could see around her was the end. But God in His faithfulness opened her eyes. Sometimes we're crying out to God, but in His wisdom and mercy He's already placed the answer we're looking for around us.

Prayer: Faithful Lord open my eyes to the pathways You've opened for me that I can't see right now.



Day 6

Miraculous Provision

“Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food.” 1 Kings 17:4

When the Lord instructed Elijah to go to the brook Elijah may have wondered how he would survive but God faithfully kept him using ravens to feed him twice a day. Ravens are birds of prey and they're not known for having a sharing nature, but because God had given an instruction they had no choice but to align.

“Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.” 1 Kings 17:9

When the brook dried up another unusual source of provision was waiting for Elijah in the form of a poor widow. There was nothing about her that suggested she had the capacity to provide for Elijah and even she thought it was time for her family to have their last meal. But the Lord had given an instruction there was sufficient provision throughout the famine. God demonstrated twice in this narrative of Elijah's life that His provision always follows His instruction.

We may think God is unfaithful if we haven't taken the time to seek His specific counsel per season. The same God who told Elijah to go to the brook told him to leave and go to Zarephath. Imagine if Elijah had refused to move because it was God that sent him to the brook. He would most certainly have starved. Secondly a poor widow is the last person anyone would expect to be an avenue of provision. Once we realise that God is the source then it's easier for us to accept that He can use anything or anyone as a resource to fulfil His instruction.

Prayer: Dear Lord thank You for reminding me that You are the only source of provision I need. Help me stay focused on seeking Your counsel always rather than depending on myself or others so I'm never stranded.



Day 7

Very Present Help

“My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.” Psalms 144:2

God’s faithfulness isn’t dependent on the ease or difficulty of our circumstances, nothing has the capacity to overwhelm or surprise Him. Difficulties can and will arise that will make us question if God is aware of what we’re going through. Our human nature is such that the bigger the issue the more we’re tempted to look to alternative sources outside of God to solve our challenges. But when we let God in then we come to the realisation that He’s the only one who has the capacity to solve any and every problem we could ever have.

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.” Psalms 46:1

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Psalms 46:10

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalms 27:1

One of the tactics of the enemy is to get us so focused on what we’re going through that we lose sight of the presence of God even in the middle of the challenge. No matter what, He is always with us. This is why the enemy keeps us fretting because we won’t realise this until we become still. Stillness doesn’t mean we abandon everything and stay in one place. It means that even in the activities of life we pause to let the Holy Spirit remind us of who’s really in charge. Refocusing on God as our refuge means that any issue we’re facing must go through Him first. Reflecting on His strength reminds us that He is more than able to handle whatever the issue may be so we don’t need to be afraid.

“Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.” Psalms 68:1

“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.” Mark 4:39

There’s no issue that can come against the command of God. If we keep quiet we’re by default giving the enemy permission to continue.

Prayer: Lord arise on my behalf and rebuke everything in my life that doesn’t align with Your plans for me. Let every storm cease and let Your peace reign in my life and circumstances



Day 8

Turning Around for Good

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

Life will throw many things at us, some good, some unpleasant, some heartbreaking. One thing we can be confident of is that God in His faithfulness works everything together for our good and in alignment with His purpose for our lives.

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” Genesis 50:20

We can only imagine the myriad of emotions Joseph went through on his journey eg to leadership. Favoured by his father, envied and betrayed by his brothers, falsely accused and jailed and then elevated to leadership. Through it all the Bible tells us that God was with Joseph, faithfully coordinating so that all would come into alignment for his good.

Sometimes we may even discount ourselves from God’s turnaround because we think our lives are too tangled and messy for God to do something good with. But let’s remember God turned a deceitful Jacob into Israel (Gen 32), a cowardly Gideon into a leader (Jdg 6-8). He wove both the prostitute Rahab and young widow Ruth into the lineage of David. He converted a murderous Saul into Paul who preached to the majority of the gentiles. There’s no story too complicated for God to work out for good.

God is committed to His purpose in our lives and when we align with Him and surrender fully to the lordship of Jesus, He can go to work on our behalf to cause all things to work together for our good.

Prayer: Lord I thank You for the comfort I have in knowing that neither my past nor my present state is too difficult for You to bring good out of. I receive grace to keep my eyes fixed on You confident that You will make all things work together for good.



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