

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 394

Series: Solution-Focused Faith

Topic: The Faithful And True God

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Yesterday we saw that the nature of God is the nature of the Person who controls Reality. God is constantly tuning and tweaking and redeeming and intervening in this disorderly world according to His attributes and character and will. Thus because He is peaceful He will establish peace on earth in real and tangible ways. We finished with the statement that: Solution-Focused Faith believes that God will manifest His wonderful and holy nature in wise and perfect and good ways in the midst of our normal daily lives.

Thus faith is, at rock bottom, faith in the character of God. So today we will look at one aspect of His character - the Faithful and True God.

Deuteronomy 7:9 MKJV Therefore, know that Jehovah your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.

Deuteronomy 32:4 MKJV He is the Rock; His work is perfect. For all His ways are just, a God of faithfulness, and without evil; just and upright is He.

Lamentations 3:22-24 MKJV (22) It is by Jehovah's kindnesses that we are not destroyed, because His mercies never fail. (23) They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. (24) Jehovah is my portion, says my soul; therefore I will hope in Him.

In Hebrew faithfulness and truth are related words: emeth (truth) and emunah (faithfulness/firmness), and together they mean that God is established, firm, true to His Word and faithful about carrying out His promises. Thus God can be relied on.

But what can solution-focused faith rely on God for? Do we rely on God to tie our shoelaces? Do we rely on God to make us a billionaire? Neither of course! We can only rely on God to carry out His perfect will - in us, through us, by us and for us. We can rely on God for the promised desired end state! We can rely on God for the perfect solution from the divine will!

When the father of the boy having seizures appealed to Jesus to cast out the demon he was relying on God for a certain outcome – the deliverance of his son. The expectation of an answer to his problem would have been put in the father’s heart by the Holy Spirit. The man knew that Jesus had a specific answer to his immediate problem and he trusted Jesus for it and saw the miracle.

The man had seen or heard of Jesus healing power and must have thought – “what Jesus has done for others he can do for me and more”. This is relying on the faithfulness of God. What God has done before, He does again. He is reliable. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

We gain faith by witnessing God in action and gradually concluding that what God has done in the Bible, and what God has done in the Church, and what God has done in my neighbor’s life – He can also do for me.

We tend to take the promises of God at an emotional level rather than at a practical level. We tend to say “that verse warms my heart” rather than “that verse is true and I will bank on it and rely on it in my life.”

We sometimes shrink from this sort of practical reliance on God because we have been disappointed with God, or we have seen others who were disappointed with God. God sometimes seems unreliable, or slow in answering, or unavailable to those who pray desperately for the life of a young woman with cancer. It even gets to the point where we start making excuses for God!

There have been times in my ministry when I have really struggled to see the faithfulness of God. This is often because of an academic calculating understanding of faithfulness or a great impatience with the circumstances.

We sometimes rip God’s promises out of scripture and apply them like abstract mathematical formulas. The promises of God are not abstract rules but are personal spiritual principles. God is Spirit and those that worship Him must worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). The Word of God and the Spirit of God must work together in the life of the worshipping believer. Only when the Spirit and the Word agree and witness together can you have faith in the promise of God. When we treat promises like abstract rules we set ourselves up for disappointment. Generally the promises of God have to be first “seen with the spirit” within the Christian. You have to “know” deep within you that the particular promise A applies to the circumstance B being considered before you.

When God confirms His word to you, then you can rely on it, but you must wait for it to come to pass. Joseph was sorely tested as he waited for God’s word to come to pass: Psalms 105:17-19 MKJV He sent a man before them, Joseph, being sold for a servant; (18) whose feet they hurt with chains; he was laid in iron, (19) until the time that his word came, the Word of Jehovah refined him.

God was faithful to Joseph, and God will be faithful to you. God has His perfect will, His wonderful creative solution, that He wishes to bring to pass in your life but you must keep on believing and keep on waiting for it.

God is faithful to His vision of the kingdom of God, and to the establishment of a perfect and good new heavens and earth under His rule, that is without crying or pain. God has a similar vision for your life. He wishes to establish His kingdom in your heart, your home and your circumstances.

You can trust God to make that happen or you can try your own foolish solutions.

Because God is faithful and true you can rely on Him to bring His promises to fruition in your life. You can see God solving your problems in good and perfect ways. You can believe that He will supply wise solutions to pressing problems. In your spirit you can sense the solution that God wants you to have. Deep within your heart you can see this solution emerging. You can see the mustard seed growing. You know that God will do it because He is faithful and true. Abraham knew Isaac was “on the way” twenty-five years in advance.

Romans 4:19-22 MKJV And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body already dead (being about a hundred years old) or the deadening of Sarah's womb. (20) He did not stagger at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, (21) and being fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform. (22) And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Abraham believed that God was faithful and true: “being fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform.” And Abraham's faith in the reliability of God in a specific practical circumstance “was imputed to him for righteousness”.

Blessings,

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