

iii) Learning to trust God's faithfulness

'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!' *Mk 9:24*

'Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits' *Ps 103:2*

'proclaiming your love in the morning, and your faithfulness at night' *Ps 92:2*



Learning to trust God's faithfulness is a journey and the things which challenge our trust are different for each of us.

For some it's health issues or family matters, for another it's receiving or giving forgiveness, for another it's finance and for another it's a struggle to trust God to work rather than pushing ahead in our own strength.

If you struggle to trust don't feeling guilty or pretend, just ask Him to help. (*Mk 9:24*)

Practise remembering God's faithfulness to you – 'forget not all His benefits'.

Proclaim His love in the morning (get your heart ready to expect His faithfulness) and then at night proclaim the faithfulness you've seen during the day.

Read the Bible each day, hear His promises and build your life on them (*Mtt 7:24*).

We don't need a special course to learn to trust God, it's learnt 'on the job'. In every challenge that we face we have the choice to believe God or not.

The key is to be real. When your heart is overwhelmed cry for help (*Ps 61:2*). Ask others to pray. God will help us.

Pause for Personal Prayer



Are there areas where you're struggling to trust God at the moment?

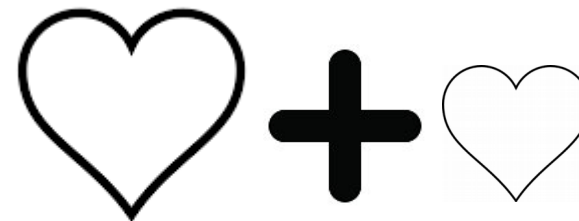
Discuss



- . What helps and what hinders you in learning to trust God's faithfulness?
- . Take time to pray for one another.

Taking it Further

- . There are no short cuts, take time to read the Bible and to pray each day.
- . Consider praying with 1 or 2 friends on a regular basis.
- . If you're facing a particular challenge, ask others to pray for you.



3. The Faithfulness of God

Our God is Sovereign

and He loves us freely,

but why does He stay with us?

Why doesn't He love us from a distance and find another way to work?

Why does God stay committed to us as individuals and as a Church with all of our weaknesses and failings?

The key is God's own faithfulness.

Not that we get it right but that He is and always will be - **faithful**.

God's covenant faithfulness to His people is shown throughout the Bible with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and now with us through Christ.

A preacher once said; 'God is faithful, but He needs someone to be faithful to!'

Let's learn to trust Him and to walk with Him.

He is and always will be, faithful to us.

As we ponder the faithfulness of God together, let's give thanks.

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i) God is Faithful

'Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.
Ps 36:5

'He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.' *Ps 91:4*

'if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself' *2Tim 2:13*

We've all been let down by others and we always will be.

We've all let others down both intentionally and unintentionally.

That's the weakness of our human hearts and human faithfulness and that's what makes trust so difficult.

But if we want to learn to trust God we need to look away from ourselves and look to Him.

God's faithfulness reaches to the skies – look up and try to imagine.

'His faithfulness will be our shield and rampart' – our security is not based on how faithful we can be to God but it is His faithfulness to us that is our shield and protection.

And then even 'if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself'.

Deep in the heart of God He is faithful and He cannot be otherwise.

He cannot disown Himself.



ii) God is faithful to us

'I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, In love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord.' *Hos 2:19-20*

This is my blood of the (new) covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. *Mtt 26:28*

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you' *Jn 14:18*

God confirms his faithfulness to us in many different ways in the Bible.

In the covenant promise of a husband to a wife, 'I will betroth you to me ...' (note how the covenant promise is from God's side only, not husband and wife each saying 'I do' but God alone promising).

And then in the new covenant through Jesus, remembered in bread & wine.

In the gift of His Holy Spirit that He will come to us' (*Jn 14:18*)

In the promises of a heavenly Father to His children. (*Mtt 6:25-34*)

And so the list goes on ... God is faithful but he knows that we struggle to trust and so He promises again & again, in different ways to be faithful to us.

When we struggle to trust God's faithfulness we struggle to enter into all that He has for us. The Israelites failed to enter the promised land through unbelief (*Heb 3:19*) and then later Moses also failed (*Num 20:12*).

God is faithful but we need to learn to believe in His faithfulness.

God will help us to trust Him as we walk with Him. He invites us ... 'Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls' *Mtt 11:29*.



Pause for Personal Prayer



Pause to give thanks: 'his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart'

Discuss



- What strikes you from the descriptions of God's faithfulness above?
- What helps you to believe in God's faithfulness and what hinders?
- Do you have a testimony of God's faithfulness in your life to share?

Pause for Personal Prayer



Do you feel that God has been faithful to you or do you feel let down?

Discuss



- Prayerfully read *Hosea 2:19-20* again, what strikes you?
- Where have you seen God's faithfulness & where have you struggled?
- What helps or hinders you in learning to trust God's faithfulness?