**FAITHFUL GOD**

Sunday School Lesson 11

*The Attributes of God*

Revelation 19:11

8/8/2021

**Introduction:** This week, we are going to be looking at the faithfulness of God. We could also consider this to be His attribute of utter dependability. This attribute goes hand in hand with His attribute of self-sufficiency. Since God is independent and in need of nothing from any person or being, it should not surprise us that He is so dependable. It is not possible for anyone to be more dependable and faithful than He is. Some of the Lord’s other attributes also play a part in His attribute of faithfulness. One of those attributes is His immutability. Since faithfulness is steadfastness, the fact that God never changes is very important to His ability to be faithful. Of course, His omnipotence also factors into His faithfulness. He does not just desire to be dependable for us. He has the power to be dependable. He has the power to accomplish the things that we need from Him and the things that He has promised. His omniscience allows Him to never forget the promises that He has made, and that knowledge certainly helps Him to be faithful. His omnipresence makes it possible for Him to be faithful to everyone at the same time. If He were only faithful sometimes or to some people, then we must not be able to speak of faithfulness as a true attribute of the Lord. I’m sure that His other attributes of self-existence, jealousy, mercy, love, and justice could also be tied into His attribute of faithfulness if we had the time or space to cover them. Let’s observe the following truths about the One who is called Faithful.

1. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE FAITHFUL WITNESS.**
2. **Notice that He is trustworthy in His observations in Heaven and in Earth (Jeremiah 42:5; Revelation 3:14; Proverbs 14:5).** A faithful witness will not lie. The Lord Jesus Christ is called the faithful witness. A witness is very important. Naboth was killed because of false witnesses. These were men who made up lies about him. The reliability of justice hinges upon a faithful witness. There are people in prison today who have been wrongly convicted because of false witnesses. This is a miscarriage of justice. There is no perfect judicial system on this earth because the world lacks in faithful witnesses. As we observed last week, God is the only One capable of providing real justice. This is made possible because He has a faithful witness. The Lord Jesus Christ is that faithful witness. He observes all of the works of man, and He can be trusted to give an honest report. He is reliable as a witness both to men and to God the Father. He is faithful in communicating our actions (covered by His blood for the believers) before the Father. He is also faithful in communicating the Father’s actions with us. This was done all throughout His earthly ministry.
3. **Notice that as a faithful witness, the Lord is consistent in His message (Psalm 89:1, 119:138; Isaiah 25:1; Revelation 1:5, 19:11).** Regarding a faithful witness, we must also consider that this speaks to the consistency of His message over time. Has time ever caused you to remember a story differently than when you first shared it? Do you ever struggle to keep all of the details in a story straight from each time that you tell it? Perhaps, there are some who simply struggle to stay on topic when speaking of a particular matter. A faithful witness is one who gives a consistent message. The testimonies of the Lord as faithful. He has never changed the details. He has never changed the topic. The message of His Word is faithful. The entirety of the Word of God is about Jesus Christ and salvation for mankind. His message has been faithful from everlasting to everlasting. Given that our faith is based upon the reliability of His witness, I am thankful that the Lord is consistent and faithful in His message. There is perfect harmony throughout all of the Bible. This is only possible because of the faithfulness of the Witness.
4. **THE LORD WANTS US TO HAVE FAITH THAT HE IS FAITHFUL.**
5. **Notice that the Lord allows circumstances to happen to show that He is faithful (Psalm 119:75-86, 143:1; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 11:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Hosea 2:20).** The Lord loves faith. We know that faith pleases Him. This is doubtless because He is faithful. The Bible shows us that the Lord allows circumstances to happen to reveal His faithfulness. What is meant by this is that the Lord allows time to pass before He does what He says He will do. We call these times trials of our faith. They are not trials of His faithfulness. The only trial is whether we will believe that He is faithful. This is what He wants. He wants us to trust Him. He wants us to wait in expectation upon the fulfillment of that which He says that He will do. The trials serve as instruments that increase our trust in His faithfulness. He also allows affliction to take place before relief is given. This is to show that He is faithful to take care of us. Our trials magnify the faithfulness of the Lord. We know that the Lord is worthy of all glory and honor regarding His wonderful attributes. We were created to give Him glory.
6. **Notice that our failed trials do not diminish His faithfulness in any way (2 Timothy 2:13; Psalm 89:5).** If the Lord makes an unconditional promise to us, we can be assured that He will fulfill it, even if we fail the trials of our faith. The nation of Israel is an example of this. The Lord promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. Yet, the nation of Israel balked at the Lord’s promise in the wilderness. This seems like it would have been a reasonable opportunity for the Lord to go back on His promise. Yet, the Lord was still committed in doing that which He had promised. The same could be said of when Abraham sinned by having a son named Ishmael. Abraham failed the test, but the Lord always passes in perfection when it comes to His faithfulness. The Bible says that if we believe not, yet He abideth faithful. He cannot deny Himself. Have you ever had a moment where you debated being faithful because someone did not trust you to do that which you said you would do? I certainly have had a few of those moments. Yet, the Lord has never ceased from being faithful. It is not possible for Him to stop being faithful because that would require Him to deny His own very nature.
7. **THE LORD’S FAITHFULNESS IS VITAL TO THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.**
8. **Notice the connection between the faithfulness and the forgiveness of the Lord (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 2:17, 10:23; Isaiah 49:7; Psalm 40:1, 88:11, 89:24-33).** The Bible connects the faithfulness of the Lord with forgiveness, mercy, salvation, and His lovingkindness. We know that He is faithful to forgive, but hopefully we also realize just how important that faithfulness is. If He was not faithful to forgive, we would have absolutely no hope in our salvation. His faithfulness in forgiveness is absolutely essential for us as believers. Of course, being faithful in forgiveness is a very difficult task. It is much easier to be faithful in other areas that do not test patience and longsuffering. Notice that the faithfulness of His mercy is equally as necessary. If His mercy did not have faithfulness, it likely would have expired many years prior to our generation. His lovingkindness speaks to a friendly and active love that reveals itself to us in acts of kindness. What person among us could claim to have faithfulness in our lovingkindness with others around us?
9. **Notice that His faithfulness is vital in the keeping of the believer (2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 Peter 4:19; Psalm 92:2; Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Corinthians 1:9).** Faithfulness makes salvation possible for the believer, but faithfulness also makes the eternal security of that salvation possible. Additionally, His faithfulness stablishes and keeps us here on this earth. If it were not for the faithfulness of the Lord, we would have no stability in this life. The Lord provides us with that stability. He is the keeper of our soul. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us each day. His faithfulness awaits us every morning. Truly, the faithfulness of the Lord is great in its importance and efficacy in our lives. We cannot find lasting faithfulness anywhere in this world. The faithful man is hard to find. I’m glad that we pray unto a faithful God. Could you imagine praying daily to a God who is not faithful? What would even be the point? God is faithful to hear us. God is faithful to answer us. God is faithful in the big things, and God is even faithful in the little things.
10. **THE LORD REQUIRES THAT HIS STEWARDS BE FOUND FAITHFUL.**
11. **Notice that the Lord expects that His servants will be faithful in their service to Him (Matthew 25:21; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 3:11; Proverbs 20:6).** We all know the Bible verse regarding a faithful servant. The Lord says unto Him well done. The expectation is that the servant will be faithful in the little things that God has trusted him with during this lifetime. We might see these things as big things, but they are ultimately very small in relation to how big God is. Faithfulness does not take special talent. Any person can purpose to be faithful. Yet, the faithful man is a rarity as we have already observed. I believe that God greatly desires faithfulness for His servants. He expects us to stay faithful to the things that He has given to us. We will be rewarded based upon our faithfulness. Truly, it should not be hard for us to be faithful in light of His faithfulness toward us. Our faithfulness is simply being faithful in trusting His faithfulness!
12. **Notice that the Lord watches over and preserves the faithful man (Psalm 31:23, 101:6).** The Lord says that His eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land. If you recall from our study on His omniscience, this speaks to a special interest that the Lord has for those who are faithful. We might say that they catch His attention. Not only do they catch His attention, but they also can expect His preservation. There is no way that the Lord will let slip those who are faithful to Him. This is a promise that He has given to the faithful. As long as we hold onto His hand, He will be right there to hold on to our hand. As long as we follow His way, He will be right there to lead us in the way. God never fails us. God never fails the faithful man. The Lord was always there for Abraham because Abraham was faithful to Him. Let’s learn from the Lord Jesus Christ and be faithful as He is faithful.