

# God Is... Faithful

God Is... #6 – Pastor Gary Combs – June 30, 2024 – Lamentations 3:22-24

**INTRO:** Good morning church! We are in week 6 of our 8-week sermon series entitled “God is.... In this series we’ve been exploring the attributes and character traits of God. This is a worthy pursuit as John says...

**Series theme:** John 17:3 (ESV) And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

As theologian and author J I Packer said, “What were we made for? To know God. What aim should we set ourselves in life? To know God... Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.” — J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 19, 33.

So that’s what this series is about... knowing God. In this series so far, we’ve considered God’s love, His might, His mercy, His fatherhood and that God is unchanging. One of the things we haven’t discussed so far in this series is how theologians divide the attributes of God into two categories: Communicable and incommunicable.

“Communicable attributes of God are those that humans can also possess, although only to a finite extent. If something is communicable, it is able to be communicated or transmitted to others. Incommunicable attributes of God are those attributes exclusive to Him. Humans cannot share the incommunicable attributes of divinity.” <https://www.gotquestions.org/communicable-incommunicable-attributes.html>

So attributes like God’s love, mercy, and kindness are communicable. They belong to God and can be reflected in us by the Holy Spirit. Other attributes like God’s omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, and unchangingness are incommunicable. They are attributes that belong to God alone. Now, this week we’re going to consider another one of God’s communicable attributes: namely, faithfulness. Because our **God Is... Faithful!**

**Need:** In a world full of broken relationships and broken promises, don’t you wish you knew someone who was faithful? Someone dependable and reliable? Someone constant and trustworthy? Someone who would be there when you need them? Someone steadfastly loyal? Don’t you wish you had someone in your life who was faithful? Especially when you’re going through a time of difficulty or sorrow or grief? That’s when you find out who your “true” friends are, right? Because faithful friends will stick with you through thick and thin!

**Trans:** And that’s what our God is. He is faithful! Our Scripture today is from Lamentations. It was written by the prophet Jeremiah, who went through a terrible time of suffering and loss. Even his calling was one of difficulty. For when God called him He said, “You shall speak to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you” (Jer. 7:27). I may have quit on the first day with a calling like that! But Jeremiah didn’t quit. He prophesied during the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Even his own king and people rejected him, cutting up and burning his prophecy (he made another copy) and throwing him into a miry pit. When Jeremiah had no place to turn, he turned to his faithful God!

**BODY:** In Lamentations 3, the prophet Jeremiah declared his hope in God’s faithfulness in the midst of his suffering and sorrow. We can put our hope in God’s faithfulness. How can we put our hope in God’s faithfulness? The text gives **three reasons** we can put our hope in God’s faithfulness.

**TEXT:** Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

## WE CAN HOPE IN GOD’S FAITHFULNESS...

### 1. Because of His faithful love.

**EXP:** (22) Circle “steadfast love.” Steadfast is a synonym for faithfulness.

“**Steadfast love**” (22) (דַּקָּדָה, *hesed*) - lovingkindness, covenantal or loyal love. Closest Hebrew word to Greek *agape* in the sense of God’s unconditional love for us.

“**LORD**” (22) (יְהוָה, *Yehōvâ*) - Yahweh, the proper name of the one true God, covenantal God.

“**Never ceases**” (22) (לֹא יִסָּדֵם, *tāmam*) - to be finished, come to an end, cease, to be consumed.

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**ARG:** You can be confident (you can “know”) that God is faithful and His love is steadfast.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (ESV) Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations

**God is faithful and we can hope with certainty that He has called us into His loving family.**

1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**ILL:** Marriage is a picture of God’s “steadfast love.” For Christ is a faithful husband to His bride, the church.

**APP:** You can put your hope in God. God is faithful. And He loves us with a steadfast and faithful love.

## 2. Because of His faithful mercy.

**EXP:** (22-23) God is merciful and His “mercies never come to an end.” He is faithfully merciful!

“**Mercies**” (22) (רַחֵם, *raḥam*) - compassion, tender love, mercy, “bowels of mercy.” Mercy is the fruit of compassion. “Mercies” are “acts” of God motivated by His mercy and compassion. Some of these “mercies” are: The mercy of tenderness, or leniency, or the mercy of hospitality or helping. One of God’s profound “mercies” is the mercy of forgiveness. Mercy withholds punishment.

“**Never ... end**” (22) (כָּלָא, *kālā*) - to accomplish, cease, consume, determine, end, fail, finish

“**New every morning**” (23) (שִׁדְרָה, *ḥādāš*) - new, new thing, fresh. “There are instances of them every day, not only in a temporal, but in a spiritual sense; they are ever new, always fresh and vigorous, constant and perpetual.” — John Gill

“**Great**” (23) (רַב, *rab*) - much, many, abounding in, more numerous than, abundant, enough, great

“**Faithfulness**” (23) (אֱמוּנָה, *’emûnâ*) - firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness, stability

**ARG:** God’s faithful mercy moved Him to provide for our forgiveness and salvation.

Titus 3:5 – “He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit.”

**God’s faithfulness to us is unconditional for we belong to Him as His children.**

2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV) ... if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

**ILL:** Remember how David prayed after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba:

Psalms 51:1 (ESV) Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**APP:** God is faithful to show us mercy through His Son Jesus. His faithful love and mercy moved Him to not only cancel the death sentence we deserve, but to give us the the eternal life we don’t deserve.

## 3. Because of His faithful provision.

**EXP:** (24) Jeremiah lost everything... his nation, his home, his temple, his people (exiled). Yet, God was his “portion.” God was his faithful provision and Provider.

“**Portion**” (24) (חֵלֶק, *ḥēleq*) - portion, share, part, territory, allotment, award.

“**Soul**” (24) (נַפְשׁוֹ, *nepeš*) - soul, the man himself, self, seat of emotions and passions.

“**Hope**” (24) (יָחַל, *yāḥal*) - to wait, hope, expect, to wait with expectation.

**ARG:** God promises to provide for every need.

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Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

## God's provision includes His faithful protection.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV) But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

**ILL:** One of God's names is Jehovah Jireh, meaning "The LORD will provide" (Gen. 22:14). Abraham named the place (Mt. Moriah) where he went to sacrifice Isaac, Jehovah Jireh because God had provided a sacrifice in Isaac's place there.

**APP:** Jesus is God's ultimate provision for us. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is God's provision for our sin. And we are able to say with Jeremiah, "the LORD is my portion!" And even more, "the Lord Jesus is my portion, therefore I will hope in Him!"

**CONCLUSION:** Back in 1923 a Kentucky man named Thomas Chisholm wrote a poem based on Lamentations 3:22-23. He had been a pastor, but declining health forced him to leave his congregation. In the years that followed, financial issues arose as well from numerous hospital bills. Many people would have become bitter with God during a time of health and financial crisis, but Thomas became quite the opposite.

Yes, he was no longer a minister but now had more time to focus on writing hymns.

Yes, he had health problems but also had loving support from his wife and two daughters.

Yes, he faced financial struggles but found a job selling life insurance, allowing him to keep up with the bills.

No matter the struggle, Thomas always chose to see God's faithfulness.

Thomas' positive outlook on life never shifted, and in 1923, he took up pen and paper and wrote his most famous poem. He sent the poem to Reverend William Runyan, a musician of the Moody Bible Institute and editor of Hope Publishing Company in Chicago. Runyan put the poem to music and one of our great Christian hymns was born!

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Are you going through a season of hardship or trouble? Will you trust in God and say: "Great is Thy faithfulness"? Are you struggling with your faith? Will you ask God to help your unbelief. For even when we are faithless, God remains faithful!

Will you place your hope in God?

1. For God is faithful to love us with a steadfast love.
2. For God is faithful to have mercy on us that never ends.
3. For God is faithful to provide for our every need.

Let's pray.