**The Faithful Servant of God**

**By Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Psalm 86:1-5**

**Sunday Morning**

**February 17, 2019**

**Psalm 86:1-5**

1 Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; For I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long. 4 Rejoice the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

**Faithfulness is one of the most important qualities in a Person’s Life**

Saints, we need to be able to believe what others say or promise to do, and they must be able to trust us as well. Unfaithfulness is a form of deception or hypocrisy.

It leads to feelings of disappointment and betrayal when we discover that our trust in someone has been misplaced. As Christians, we should always strive to be faithful to God and to others.

 When Jacob considered all that the Lord had done for him, he prayed…..

**Genesis 32:9-10**

“O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord, who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,’ I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant”

Saints, God is always faithful, but we must pay attention to Him. We should consider the many ways He has proven Himself faithful in our life and then respond in gratitude.

**Scripture Affirms God’s Faithfulness**

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

“Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

**Psalm 33:4**

“For the word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.”

**Psalm 36:5** “Your lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.”

**Psalm 119:90**

“Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations.”

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

“The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

**2 Timothy 2:13**

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

Although our faithfulness wavers, these scriptures affirm that God is faithful all the time.

Even the sin of His children will not nullify it. Because the Lord is immutable (never changing), none of His attributes change. That’s why we can be confident that He will keep all His promises. His faithfulness is a certainty we can rest upon. When He says,

**Hebrews 13:5**

“I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,”

Saints, we can have confidence that we are secure in Christ!

Saints, the Holy Spirit works to express within us the qualities consistent with God’s nature, and this includes faithfulness. We should be who we claim to be and do what we commit to do. To give any other impression is deception.

But none of us have the strength, fortitude, and faithfulness to live the Christian life apart from the enablement of the Holy Spirit who indwells us. Even Christ’s disciples couldn’t do it. That’s why Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem.

**Luke 24:49**

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Saints, if we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be faithful in every circumstance. But if we fail and grieve the Spirit, He convicts us of sin so we can repent and receive forgiveness. He truly is our divine Enabler and Helper.

**He will always Forgive Us**

**1 John 1:9**

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

Forgiveness is only possible because Jesus paid our sin debt in full with His death on the cross. Now God can forgive us because Christ’s sacrifice satisfied His justice. Those of us who have accepted Jesus can now come to God and receive forgiveness because He is faithful to keep this promise.

**God’s Faithfulness limits the Power of our Temptation**

**1 Corinthian 10:13**

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it”.

Saints, if we will rely on this promise, we won’t have to yield to temptation. God has established a limit and provided an escape so we can endure the enticement without falling.

**We can have the Peace of God**

**Philippians 4:7**

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

Saints, if we bring our anxieties to the Lord in prayer, we can receive His peace even in the midst of trying situations. It will guard our hearts and minds and keeps us from giving up hope or blaming and accusing God.

**The Holy Spirit limits the power of Satan in our lives**

**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one”

Satan is under God’s control and does not have freedom to do whatever he desires in our lives.

Saints, these four promises can enable us to face whatever challenges come our way because we can count on the faithfulness of our God. We may not understand our situation, but we can trust in the One who forgives our sins, limits our temptations, gives us peace in troubled times, and controls Satan’s access to us.

Our confidence in the faithfulness of the Scripture is tested when we go through trials because they challenge our belief in who God is and what He has said. These tests reveal our areas of weakness so that God can strengthen us to overcome them. His goal is that the fruit of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians becomes a part of our character and is worked out in our lifestyles.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**When we Walk in the Spirit, we’ll have the Following Characteristics:**

**1. Devoted to God**

He will be the only One we follow

**Galatians 2:20**

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”

**2. Loyal**

We will be someone others can count on to do what we say we will.

**Matthew 24:12-13**

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

**3.Unwavering**

Our reliability won’t vary from day to day.

**Hebrews 10:23**

“Let us hold fast the confession of the hope unwavering, for he is faithful who has promised…”

**4. Steadfast**

We’ll be steady in our commitments and unshaken by changing circumstances.

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

**5. Trustworthy**

Others can believe us because we will always speak truth.

**Zechariah 8:16-17**

16 “These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; 17 do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord.”

**6. Dependable**

People can rely on us to show up on time and accomplish what we undertake.

**1 John 2:5-6**

5 But whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

**7. Obedient**

Although we won’t do it perfectly, our desire and aim will be to obey God.

**Acts 5:29-30**

But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.

**8. Fruitful**

Our lives will have a positive influence on others.

**Colossians 1:10**

“So as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

**9. Faithful**

We will be faithful to God and to others

**1 Samuel 12:24**

“Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.”

**Luke 16:10**

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.”

**Proverbs 3:3**

“Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.”

**Proverbs 28:20**

“A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.”

**In Closing:**

**1. How confident are you that you can trust the Lord in every circumstance?**

**2. In what ways has He demonstrated His faithfulness in your life?**

**3. How faithful are you to the Lord?**

**4. How faithful are you to others?**

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**