

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Here we are again, getting ready to celebrate the goodness of our God. Thanksgiving is truly a time where we need to stop and just turn towards our God and give Him thanks for all He has done and for all that He will do.

Yes, God is so very, very faithful. When we speak of that term, do we really know what it means? The word “faithful” is found in the Bible, as it pertains to God, at least 32 times in the King James Version (AV). That is actually when we see the word “faithful” used in the scripture as to referring to God, Himself. There are countless more times we see in the Word, that God is so very faithful to those who love Him and follow after His ways.

The word “faithful” literally means “to be firm; to have and give security; to be and have moral fidelity towards those whom you love.” It means to be steadfast to the point that you can totally place your trust in that one who is so very faithful.

In Lamentations 3:22-23 we read of the great faithfulness of our God. It tells us, *“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.”*²³ *They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness.**”* It tells us that His “compassions” fail not. Notice the word “compassions.” It is plural, which means that there are more than one way that God is compassionate and that He shows and reveals His love to and for His people.

God truly cares and watches over us in countless ways. Ways that we may never be aware of – but He is always there. Compassion means to express “love” in a way that actually does something. God actually does express His love to His people. In other words, God doesn’t just tell us He loves us, He actually does things in our lives that express how much He loves us.

The greatest way that God ever expressed His love, His compassion, His faithfulness to this world was by sending His only Son, Jesus, to take all of the punishment for each of our sin and to die on that cross for each of us. Jesus, who knew no sin, took the punishment that each of us should have received and went to the pit of hell because of that sin. But God also did something wonderful. He allowed Jesus to defeat the devil. Jesus rose from the dead and gave new life to anyone who would simply believe in the love that God has for His creation.

Yes, God was and is so very **faithful** to His creation that He gave His only Son to die and take our punishment. But... Jesus rose again and is alive. Because Jesus lives, anyone who believes in Him can live today with a new spirit and they will live forever and ever one day with the Father.

When we receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within us. He brings the blessings of love, joy, peace and faithfulness along with all of the other parts of “the fruit of the Holy Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22) The fullness of these blessings depends on the person walking with God and yielding to His Spirit. God is so very faithful to us. What else can we do but reciprocate in total love and faithfulness unto Him. We do this by loving and serving both, our God and others, as His Word tells us. (Matthew 22:37-40) That is truly loving our God.

Yes, God's “compassions” and His faithfulness come in many, many ways. And... they fail not. God never fails in shedding and pouring out His love to everyone. It is up to every individual to receive it - if they want to receive it.

With all that is taking place in areas such as Israel, the Ukraine, in Sudan and throughout the world, as well as within our own country, I pray that we all take a breath and just turn to our God and thank Him for His faithfulness throughout this earth and within each of our lives. We may be going through difficult times, personally, as well as a nation and in this world, but our God knows and is in total control of everything. If you truly believe that – than stop and thank Him. It may be a sacrifice for you to stop and offer unto our God thanksgiving but let's all do it. For truly, “...**great is thy faithfulness.**”

*“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the **faithful** God, which keeps covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations...”*

- Deuteronomy 7:9

From Trish and myself, we would like to bless you all and wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving.