

Eternity Daily Bible Study

Searching For The Truth

Contact: [John Edmiston](mailto:John.Edmiston@eternity.org) Missed one? You can read and download this series for free [at our website](http://www.eternity.org)

Number: 09

Topic: Faithfulness and Truth

Bible Verses: Exodus 34:5-7, Psalm 25:8-10

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Exodus 34:5-7 *The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name Yahweh. 6 Then the LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed: Yahweh — Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth, 7 maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.*

Psalms 25:8-10 *The LORD is good and upright; therefore He shows sinners the way. 9 He leads the humble in what is right and teaches them His way. 10 All the LORD's ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep His covenant and decrees.*

Faithful love (Hb: chesed) and truth (Hb: emet') are two of the main characteristics of God's glory, especially in His covenant relationship to believers:

Faithful love means that God is always benevolent and is constant in the relationship. God is not driven by whims not does God change His mind and suddenly abandon those whom He loves. Our God is with us always.

Truth means that God deals truly and speaks entirely truthfully. God does not lie, His revelations are not tricks or illusions, and He does not deceive His elect. God always leads us into the light and into greater revelation and not into the darkness. (This is in contrast to the Q'uran which calls Allah "the greatest of all deceivers")

God's relationship with us is benevolent, constant and straightforward. He is not playing religious games with you. God does not play church or corporate politics. What God tells you is really the "true Truth" and you can totally rely upon it.

God is not going to mess you around or lead you down a blind alley. We may be mistaken but God is never mistaken and He is always able to guide us and show us the way in life. We do not have to be perfect to be guided by God for God even "shows sinners the way" (Psalm 25 above).

This does not mean that God is simple to understand. In fact God is so great that His ways can be very confusing to our limited human minds; for His ways are higher than our ways. The ancient patriarch Job was confused for a long while, even though Job was a very righteous man.

Yet God was faithful and true to Job, and personally appeared to the suffering saint, defended him from his friend's criticisms, gave him a greater understanding of God and then finally blessed Job and restored him.

Similarly God was faithful and true to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Through droughts, family squabbles and times in prison these men were blessed by God and brought into relationship with Him and brought out into authority, victory and prosperity. Though God's promises at times may have seemed slow in fulfillment, in the end they really were fulfilled, all of them!

One of the reasons we miss seeing God's faithfulness and truth is that we are in too much of a hurry and we are looking at things through too narrow a window of time. When I look at my life in the present moment alone, things often just appear to be a terribly frustrating struggle. Yet when I look back over my life and ministry I can immediately see God's love, faithfulness and truth throughout the years!

God's patterns are big patterns and His love and faithfulness and truth operate at the macro level of life. Joseph in the dungeon may have wondered about God's faithfulness. However Joseph as Prime Minister would have had no such qualms.

Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego going into the fiery furnace still declared God's faithfulness. Daniel in the lion's den demonstrated God's love and truth. And God delivered them!

God is faithful and true even when things "do not work out as planned". When the missionary plane crashes and kills everyone on board, when the pastor's wife has incurable cancer, when the stock market wipes out the pensions of faithful Christians, or when a Christian con-artist embezzles the ministry funds. Even when we have our head in our hands and are weeping aloud God will turn out to be faithful through it all.

Jeremiah saw the immense terror, shame and suffering of the siege of Jerusalem. The prophet looked on the starvation and desperation in which "the hands of compassionate mothers boiled their own children.." and the bone-crushing heaviness of soul that enveloped every Jewish person in that day.

Yet despite that Jeremiah wrote the following in the book of Lamentations:

Lamentations 3:18-33 *Then I thought: My future is lost, as well as my hope from the LORD. 19 Remember my affliction and my homelessness, the wormwood and the poison. 20 I continually remember them and have become depressed. 21 Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end. 23 They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness! 24 I say: The LORD is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in Him. 25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. 26 It is good to wait quietly for deliverance from the LORD. 27 It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is still young. 28 Let him sit alone and be silent, for God has disciplined him. 29 Let him put his mouth in the dust — perhaps there is still hope. 30 Let him offer his cheek to the one who would strike him; let him be filled with shame. 31 For the Lord will not reject us forever. 32 Even if He causes suffering, He will show compassion according to His abundant, faithful love. 33 For He does not enjoy bringing affliction or suffering on mankind.*

Jeremiah knew God, and this knowledge of the holy gave the prophet confidence and hope in God's faithfulness in the midst of utter, hopeless disaster. Jeremiah was absolutely sure that God would turn out to be faithful and true.

God's faithfulness and truth toward us extend far beyond our lives here on earth. God's plans for good are FOREVER, so that even a Christian martyr has hope! Even though they are eaten by lions or burned at the stake God's faithfulness and truth means there will be a glorious and eternal reward for them:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. 17 For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. 18 So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Romans 8:16-18 *The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, 17 and if children, also heirs — heirs of God and coheirs with Christ — seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.*

The sufferings of this present evil age are analogous to a dark and miserable tunnel that we have to crawl through in order to reach a bright and glorious castle where we will serve the King in glory! God's truth tells us there is light at the end of that miserable tunnel, and His faithfulness gives us some glimpses of that light as we serve Him here below.

Even though we live in an evil and wicked world that is full of demons, and which is ruled by the Devil and groaning under sin and corruption, injustice and tragedy, God's love is always close at hand for the Christian! The ultimate fact is not how much money we have in the bank, or how our dreams have worked out or not worked out, but rather how much God loves us in the midst of this mess called life:

Romans 8:35-39 *Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. 37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, hostile powers, 39 height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!*

Blessings,

John Edmiston
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