

GOD IS FAITHFUL (#1)

Our lesson text comes from one of five Trustworthy Sayings of Paul found in 1 Tim.1:12-17; 3:1-7; 4:1-11, 2 Tim.2:11-13 and Titus 3:1-11

A Trustworthy Saying contains an important doctrine that was either being attacked, not being followed or was an infrastructure doctrine of the Christian church.

The Trustworthy Saying that is the subject of today's lesson is an infrastructure doctrine of the Christian church – "God is Faithful."

Today's Trustworthy Saying has four (1 Class Condition => if and its true) assumption clauses. These are divided into two positive clauses (2 Tim.2:11-12a) and two negative clauses (2 Tim.2:12b-13). A doctrinal conclusion is given at the end of the two negative clauses – "For He cannot deny Himself."

"If [and it's true] **we** deny Him, He shall also deny us; if [and it's true] **we** are faithless (apisteuo / p.a.ind.1pl), He remains (meno / p.a.ind.3ps) faithful (**pistos**); for He cannot deny Himself." (2 Tim.2:12-13)

"When the subject of a verb is a person who established faith in Jesus, denial means unfaithfulness in the relationship, an abandoning of fellowship." (Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.219)

The Greek adjective **pistos** can be interpreted "inspiring trust, dependable, object of full confidence, faithful and reliable."

This study will consists of two lessons on eight ways GOD IS FAITHFUL to every church age believer.
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1. God is faithful when the believer has lost his inspiring trust in God (2 Tim.2:13).

"If we are faithless (apisteuo), he remains faithful (pistos); for He cannot deny Himself."

God is faithful when the believer has shut down the faith cycle of the word of God.

- One biblical example was Thomas with the resurrection of Jesus (John 20:24-29). "Then he said to Thomas, 'Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not (me ginomai / p.a.impv.2ps) [Stop!] Unbelieving (apistos), but believing (pistos).'" (John 20:27)

2. God is faithful when the believer wavers between Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) and New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking.

"Let us hold fast (katecho / p.a.subj) [to grasp firmly] the confession (tes homologia) [agreement] of our hope without wavering (aklines), for He who promised is **faithful** (pistos)." (Heb.10:23) [back to shadow Christology and OMCD thinking]

- One biblical example of this wavering was when Sarah heard the word of God say that she would become pregnant at the age of 90 (Gen18:9-15).
- **OM response:** "And Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'after I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?'" (Gen.18:12; 2 Cor.5:7) [**sight** – rationalism, empiricism, cosmos diabolicus]

- **OM rationalism** [Too unbelievable!] (Bara – to create something out of nothing!) (Rom.4:17, 21, Heb.11:1; faith cycle Heb.11:1)
- **Lord’s response** “Is anything too difficult for the Lord?” (Gen.18:14)
- **NMDV response** “By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, **since she considered** (hegeomai/ a.m.ind) Him faithful (pistos) who had promised.” (Heb.11:11)

3. God is faithful to restore the carnal believer to fellowship on the basis of propitiation and confession of personal sins (1 John 1:5-2:2).

“If (3cc / conditional, maybe we will, maybe we won’t) **we** confess (homologeō / p.a.subj) [we’re in agreement] our sins, **He** is faithful (pistos) and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) **Notice how God expresses His faithfulness to us.**

NOTE: I believe **faithful and righteous** are two primary essences of the Godhead. The next time I teach the essence box of God, I will add Faithful and Light to the primary essences of God for a total of 12 (1 John 1:5-2:2).

“And he Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the **whole world.**” (1 John 2:2)

- The younger prodigal son let his OSN run wild – “And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living (asotos / riotous, wasteful, prodigal/ Eph.5:18; 1 Pet.4:3-4) (Rom.13; 13-14).
- The father of the younger prodigal son is an example of this principle (Luke 15:17-24/ faithless and faithful). “But the father said to his slaves, ‘quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put the ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.’” (15:22)

4. God is faithful to provide a way of escape to endure testing of Christian Way of Life (CWL).

“No **temptation** (peirasmos) has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and **God is faithful** (pistos),, who will not allow you **to be tempted** (peirazo / a.p.infin) beyond what you are able, but with the **temptation** (to peirasmos) will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Cor.10:13)

Peirasmos means trial or temptation, a testing to assess the worth or value of what is being tested (Heb.4:14-16). What is being tested is your faith cycle of the word of God (Rom.10:17).

- Job is an example of this principle (Job 1:8-12; 2:3-6; James 5:10-11).

5. God is faithful to the believer enduring undeserved suffering.

“Therefore, let those who suffer (Pascho / p.p.ptc) according to the will of God entrust (paratithemi / p.m.impv) their souls to a faithful creator in doing what is right.” (1 Pet.4:19)

- Jesus accepting the cross is an example of this principle (Luke 22:40-42; 23:46).

6. God is faithful to protect the believer in the angelic conflict (Eph.6:10-18; 2 Tim.4:6-8; 2 Cor.5:6-8).

“But the Lord is **faithful** (pistos), and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.” (2 Thess.3:3)

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.” (1 John 5:19)

- Peter’s denial is an example of this principle (Matt.26:31-35) [**sight** - rationalism, empiricism, or cosmos diabolicus / evil thinking] – “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32) Note that this is a different sifting than Job.

7. God is faithful to protect every church age believer position in Christ (Rom.8:31-39).

“God is **faithful** (pistos), through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Cor.1:9)

“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (Gal.3:27; 2 Cor.5:17)

- Paul is an example of this principle (2 Cor.11:23-28 [23-25]; 12:1-10 [2-4]).

8. God is faithful to preserve the believer’s spirit, soul, and body because of grace salvation.

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, **without blame (amemptos)** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Faithful** (pistos) is He who calls (ho kaleo / p.a.ptc) you, and He also will bring it to pass (poieo / f.a.ind).” (1 Thess.5:24)

Note the believer is to be blameless in spirit, soul, and body (Phil.2:14-16; 1 Thess.2:9-10).

- Nathaniel is an example of this principle (John 1:44-57). “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile (dolos) [deceit, snare].” (John 1:47)

“How blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!” (Ps.32:2; 1 Pet.2:21-23; Isa.53:7)

“But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or **adulterating** (doloō) the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” (2 Cor.4:2; 1 Pet.2:1-2)