Trust in You

Good morning. I am thankful for the opportunity to share God’s Word with you today.

There are many verses throughout the Bible that tell us that God is faithful – He always keeps his promises. Galatians 5 tells us that faithfulness is a fruit of the spirit.

The dictionary defines faithful as thorough in the performance of a duty, true to one’s word, steady in allegiance and affection, loyal, constant. This certainly describes the faithfulness of God.

We’re going to look at the importance of our remaining faithful to God

*Matthew 17:20*

*So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

You might be wondering why I would start with this verse?

What happens when the mountain doesn’t move, when it seems that despite your prayers God is not listening, when life’s struggles seem to be more than you can endure?

**You remain faithful!**

Hebrews 11 is often called the Great Hall of Fame of Faith – the stories of men and women who are examples of great faith. The reality is these people were no different from you and me. They endured terrible hardships yet remained faithful.

Hebrews 11 is bracketed not surprisingly by Hebrews 10 and 12 – both chapters that speak of endurance.

*Hebrews 10:32-37*

***32****But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:****33****partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;****34****for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.****35****Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.****36****For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

***37****“For yet a little while,
And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*

***38****Now the just shall live by faith;*

The last verse quotes Habakkuk 2 – let’s go there

[Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi]

Habakkuk 2:2-4

*Then the Lord answered me and said:*

*“Write the vision
And make it plain on tablets,
That he may run who reads it.****3****For the vision is yet for an appointed time;
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.
Though it tarries, wait for it;
Because it will surely come,
It will not tarry.*

***4****“Behold the proud,
His soul is not upright in him;
But the just shall live by his faith.*

These verses give us a central theme of life:

1. Trust God and what He says and He brings life
2. Trust anything else and it leads to death

*Hebrews 12:1-4*

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,****2****looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.****3****For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

We’re encouraged to look at all those mentioned in Hebrews 11 as an example and for the encouragement to remain faithful.

Again, these believers in Hebrews 11 were not perfect.

* Abraham didn’t believe God’s promise of a son and had Ishmael with Hagar
* Moses kills a man
* David commits adultery and murder

But they believed in God’s promise of a coming Messiah that would bring redemption and forgiveness

The first part of Hebrews 11 tells us of mighty miracles and victories – Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel

But what about when the deliverance doesn’t come?

*Hebrews 11: 35b-38*

***35****b Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.****36****Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.****37****They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—****38****of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

***39****And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,****40****God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

V 37 – “stoned” in Matthew 23:35 Jesus tells us that Zechariah was stoned to death between the altar and the temple

“Sawn in two” Jewish tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two with a wooden sword

“slain with the sword” - all the prophets of God that were murdered by Jezebel

V 39-40 They remained faithful – they will inherit the everlasting kingdom

How did they continue to trust in God in the middle of trials unto death?

They believed that God would keep his promise to send a Messiah one day who would one day establish God’s kingdom on earth

*Hebrews 11:13-16*

***13****These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.****14****For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.****15****And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.****16****But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

Another great example of remaining faithful is found in Daniel 3

*Daniel 3:8-15*

***8****Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews.****9****They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever!****10****You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image;****11****and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.****12****There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

***13****Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king.****14****Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?****15****Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”*

When you trust God the world will:

* Accuse you (verses 12)
* Get mad at you (verse 13)
* Question you (verse 14)
* Challenge you (verse 15)

The crux of this record is found in verses 16-18

***16****Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.****17****If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.****18****But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.*

BUT IF NOT – they stood steadfast and faithful. How did they do this in the face of flames?

*Daniel 1:6-8*

***6****Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.****7****To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.*

***8****But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

These four young men were faithful to God in the little things. The king’s food would have been offered to his false gods.

In Luke 16:10 Jesus says, *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much.”*

We build a life of faithfulness by doing the basic things every day: prayer, reading your Bible, giving sacrificially, sharing the gospel. Brick by brick you build a strong foundation – a character of faithfulness to God.

We may not ever be in a life and death situation, but do we remain faithful and trust God in the everyday things?

How do we handle financial struggles?

How do we handle unanswered prayers?

How do we deal with depression or loneliness?

*Proverbs 3:10*

***5****Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;****6****In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.*

To close, I’d like to play a part of a song called “Trust in You”