

Pastor Little's Word for the Week

The Lord Is Faithful

Psalm 145

"The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." (vs.13)

This week's Word challenges us to take our eyes off the world, and off ourselves, off our problems and failed expectations, and learn to look at life through the faithfulness of God.

Our text for today, Psalm 145, reveals three ways we can learn to recognize and appreciate God's faithfulness.

1. Focus on the Truth of God's Faithfulness, as Revealed in Scripture.

When you read the Bible, you encounter again and again examples of God's faithfulness to his people. He makes his promises, and he keeps his promises.

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. (vs. 13)

This does not mean that his people never have problems, or never face hard times. It does mean that we can be sure that no matter what we face, God will see us through.

When you face a problem or an obstacle or a disappointment, when you struggle with besetting sin — and you lose the battle — your mind will begin to access its dominant content. Whatever you fill your mind with, that's what it will begin to replay.

If you fill your mind all day with the miserable content you find online — "What a mess the world is in and it's only getting worse; this country is headed toward hell in a hand basket; you can't trust anyone because everyone's out to get you; people are rotten to the core," and so on — if this is what you fill your mind with day-in and day-out, it will begin to shape your world-view, and it will dictate how you respond to difficult situations.

Instead of dwelling on the ways of this benighted world, focus on the goodness of God as it is revealed to us in Scripture. When you look to the Word for signs of his faithfulness, you'll find it on every page.

This is why David wrote...

Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. (vs.2)

If you want to develop a Great Is Thy Faithfulness perspective on life, spend time every day in the Word.

2. Focus on the Witness of God's Faithfulness as Observed in Nature.

David said...

I will meditate on your wonderful works...(vs.5)

This includes the work of God's creation. In another Psalm, David wrote...

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19:1)

Your love, O Lord reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. (Psalm 36:5-6)

When David looked at creation, he didn't just see the deep blue sky. He looked to the sky and thought: This reminds me of God's great love and faithfulness. He didn't just see a mountain. He looked to the mountains and thought: This reminds me of God's righteousness, and the mighty sea reminds me of his justice. As he looked around, he saw reminders of God's goodness everywhere.

When you look at people, you'll find nothing but a fallen mess, a world gone wrong. But in God's creation we see signs of his faithfulness everywhere.

Thomas Chisholm wrote...

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Just like spring is faithful to follow winter, and summer is faithful to follow spring, God is faithful to his Word, faithful to his promise, faithful to his people. Just like the light of dawn follows the darkest hour of the night, God is faithful to lead you out of your darkness into his marvelous light.

3. Focus on the Reality of God's Faithfulness as Revealed in his Grace and Mercy

King David wrote...

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made...The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. (vss. 8-9, 14)

If you want to learn to appreciate the faithfulness of God, you need to experience the reality of his mercy first hand. when it comes to our spiritual condition, we are all in the same boat. *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* [Romans 3:23] *"There is none righteous, not even one of us."* [Romans 3:10] We are all in desperate need of his mercy.

Just like an alcoholic cannot begin the road to recovery until he's willing to say, "I admit that I'm powerless over alcohol and my life is out of control," none of us can begin the road to a life of victory until we're ready to admit to our own brokenness, our own sinfulness.

His mercy never comes to an end. It is new every morning. This means that you can begin every day in a right relationship with him, in fellowship with him.

In the third verse of this great hymn, Thomas Chisholm wrote...

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow —
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

This is about so much more than just having your sins washed away. It's about living each day in his presence, experiencing his peace, his power, his victory, his hope — in spite of the circumstances.

It begins with a willingness to say, each and every day, "God, I need you. I need your help. I need your mercy. I need your presence in my life."

The Word of God assures us,

The Lord is near to all who call on him. (vs. 18)

When you call on him, he will hear. When you ask for mercy, he will extend his mercy. When you need his strength, he will give you strength. Because his steadfast love never ceases.

So, dear believer, when the uncertainty and unpredictably of life begin to threaten your inner peace, just refocus your gaze away from the world and take refuge in the faithfulness of God.