

# HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

## WEEK 9 – FAITHFULNESS

**Book recommendation:** *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (TD Alexander, Rosner, Carson, Goldsworthy)

### Introduction

So far we have considered the following attributes:

- |                        |                 |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Intro: Fear/Worship | 4. Graciousness | 7. Merciful     |
| 2. Love                | 5. Just         | 8. Goodness     |
| 3. Jealousy            | 6. Wrath        | 9. Faithfulness |

### What Does This Attribute Mean?

Definition:

- Faithful = steadfast; trustworthy, truthful, honest, loyal
- Faithfulness = loyalty, constancy, steadfastness, trustworthiness

Biblical Definition:

**Deut. 32:4** “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

**Ex. 34:6** The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, **7** keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

1. Deuteronomy 32:4 = “firmness, steadfastness, fidelity” (loyalty & support)

Calvin Commentary: Thus the people are indirectly reprov'd for their unbelief, in that they deserted God, whose faithfulness was not only tried and proved, but who is the very fountain of truth.

2. Exodus 34:6 = “sureness, certainty, dependability, reliability, & stability”

**2Tim. 2:13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

**2Tim. 2:1** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, **2** and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

**2Tim. 2:4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

**2Tim. 2:5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

**2Tim. 2:6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

**2Tim. 2:8** Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, **9** for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! **10** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

**2Tim. 2:11** The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

**2Tim. 2:12** if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;

**2Tim. 2:13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

AW Tozer:

The faithfulness of God is a datum of sound theology but to the believer it becomes far more than that: it passes through the processes of the understanding and goes on to become nourishing food for the soul. (Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, p80)

Upon God's faithfulness rests our whole hope of future blessedness. Only as He is faithful will His covenants stand and His Promises be honored. Only as we have complete assurance that He is faithful may we live in peace and look forward with assurance to the life to come. (Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy, p81)

Dutch Theologian from the late 1800's, Herman Bavinck

Whatever apostasy occurs in Christianity, it may never prompt us to question the unchanging faithfulness of God, the certainty of His counsel, the enduring character of His covenant, or the trustworthiness of His promises. One should sooner abandon all creatures than fail to trust His Word. (Herman Bavinck Reformed Dogmatics Vol. 4: Prolegomena, p. 269)

**Does Scripture Teach That God Exhibits This Attribute?**

**Psa. 33:4** For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. **5** He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

**Psa. 86:14** O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life, and they do not set you before them. **15** But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. **16** Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.

**Lam. 3:22** The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; **23** they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**Rom. 3:1** Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3** What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

**1Cor. 1:4** I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, **5** that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— **6** even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— **7** so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, **8** who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**1Cor. 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

**2Th. 3:1** Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, **2** and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. **3** But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

**Heb. 10:23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

**1Pet. 4:19** Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

### AW Pink – on God's faithfulness leading us to action

God is true. His Word of promise is sure. In all His relations with His people God is faithful. He may be safely relied upon. No one ever yet really trusted Him in vain. We find this precious truth expressed almost everywhere in the Scriptures, for His people need to know that faithfulness is an essential part of the divine character. This is the basis of our confidence in Him. But it is one thing to accept the faithfulness of God as a divine truth, it is quite another to act upon it. God has given us many "exceeding great and precious promises," but are we really counting on His fulfillment of them? Are we actually expecting Him to do for us all that He has said? Are we resting with implicit assurance on these words, "He is faithful that promised" (Heb 10:23)? (A. W. Pink, The Attributes of God)

### **How Does This Attribute Affect the Christian?**

Let's get into the application section, focus on how it leads us to worship God.

1. Assurance

2. Anxiety

## HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

3. Eternal Perspective

4. Be Faithful as God is Faithful

5. Ambassador's Boldness