

June 2, 2024



FAITHFUL

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

“3 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. ⁵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.”

Faithful- [Deuteronomy 7:9](#); [Joshua 23:14](#); [Psalm 89:8](#); [119:90](#); [Lamentations 3:22-23](#); [1 Corinthians 10:13](#); [2 Timothy 2:13](#); [Hebrews 10:23](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:23-24](#); [1 Peter 4:19](#); [1 John 1:9](#)

If you're short on time, here's a quick answer to your **question**: God is completely faithful and can be trusted because He never changes, always keeps His promises, and His character is entirely good and righteous. Even when we face trials, we can trust in God's faithfulness.

Scripture speaks often of God's faithfulness. Over and over we learn that when God says He will do something, He does it (even when it seems impossible). When He says something will happen, it happens. This is true for the past, the present and the future. If this were not the case—if God were unfaithful even once—He would not be God, and we could not rely on any of His promises. But as it is, “Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave” (1 Kings 8:56). God is eternally reliable, steadfast, and unwavering because faithfulness is one of His inherent attributes. God does not have to work at being faithful; He is faithful. Faithfulness is an essential part of who He is (Psalm 89:8; Hebrews 13:8). In His faithfulness, God protects us from evil (2 Thessalonians 3:3), sets limits on our temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13), forgives us of sin (1 John 1:9), and sanctifies us (1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:6).

In light of the faithfulness of God, Paul speaks of four areas in which God's faithfulness is demonstrated:

➤ The AREA of Projection

The call to pray

Paul constantly asked other Christians to pray for him (Romans 15:30, 2 Corinthians 1:11, Ephesians 6:18-19, Philippians 1:19, Colossians 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:25, and Philemon 1:22). Paul knew that the success of his ministry in some measure depended on the prayers of God's people.

"You cannot tell how much God's servants are helped by the prayers of his people. The strongest man in Israel will be the better for the prayers of the weakest saint in Zion." (Spurgeon)

The Word- run swiftly, be glorified

1 Corinthians 9:24- Know ye not that they which **run** in a race **run** all, but one receiveth the prize? So **run**, that ye may obtain.

1 Corinthians 9:26- I therefore so **run**, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

Paul's prayer request makes us wonder how often the work of God's Word is hindered by our prayerlessness.

Isaiah 55:11- So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

In Acts we repeatedly see the Gospel "running"...

[Acts 6:7+](#) The **word of God** kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

[Acts 12:24+](#) But the **word of the Lord** continued to grow and to be multiplied.

[Acts 19:20+](#) So the **word of the Lord** was growing mightily and prevailing.

([Hebrews 4:12](#)) , [1Thessalonians 1:5-10](#) [Colossians 1:5-6](#) [2 Timothy 2:9](#) (word of God is not chained) [Romans 1:16](#) [1 Peter 1:23-25](#)- having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Take-away- I will commit to pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ consistently.

➤ **The AREA of Protection**

1 Thessalonians 5:24 **“Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you].”** Amplified

A.W. Tozer once said: "All of God's acts are consistent with all of His attributes. No attribute contradicts any other, but all harmonize and blend into each other in the infinite abyss of the Godhead."

That we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men.

He will

✓ **Establish you**

στηρίζω | **stērizō**, stay-rid'-zo; to set fast, i.e. (literally) to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or (figuratively) to confirm:—fix, (e-)stablish, stedfastly set, strengthen.

1 Thessalonians 3:13- To the end he may **stablish** your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

2 Thessalonians 2:17- Comfort your hearts, and **stablish** you in every good word and work.

✓ **Guard you**

- When trouble comes to knock at your door, send Jesus to answer the knock! Faithfulness is an unchanging attribute of the Lord, so we can always run to Him when evil comes.

if you are wrestling with doubts that the Lord is your Protector, read Psalm 121

Protect **phulasso** means to watch, to carry out the function as a military guard or sentinel, to keep watch, to have one's eye upon lest one escape, to guard a person that

he might remain safe (from violence, from another person or thing, from being snatched away, from being lost).

God promised to keep Satan on a leash. He will not allow any temptation to become too great for us ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#)).

2 Timothy 1:12- For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to **keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Jude 1:24- Now unto him that is able to **keep** you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Take-away- I will commit to recognize God's work in my life as He establishes me and guards me from the evil one.

➤ **The AREA of Expectation**

And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 13:17

Take-away- I will commit to follow and obey God's Word in all areas of my life.

➤ **The AREA of Direction**

This is a short, simple prayer, but when unpacked it is a spiritual stick of dynamite! This a great prayer to pray for your disciples who are currently doing well and obeying the commands of the Lord. It is good "preventive maintenance" for their future walk. This prayer will undergird them when the winds of adversity begin to blow, which they invariably will!

5 Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ."

May the Lord direct your hearts into [realizing and showing] the love of God and into the steadfastness and patience of Christ and in waiting for His return. (Amplified)

Luke 1:79- To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to **guide** our feet into the way of peace.

1 Thessalonians 3:11- Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, **direct** our way unto you.

It is not surprising that Greek literature throws little light on its distinctive NT meaning. Biblical **agape love** is the love of choice, the love of serving with humility, the highest kind of love, the noblest kind of devotion, the love of the will (intentional, a conscious choice) and not motivated by superficial appearance, emotional attraction, or sentimental relationship. **Agape** is not based on pleasant emotions or good feelings that might result from a physical attraction or a familial bond. **Agape** chooses as an act of self-sacrifice to serve the recipient. From all of the descriptions of **agape** love, it is clear that true **agape** love is a sure mark of salvation.

ὑπομονή **hupomōnē**, hoop-om-on-ay'; cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy:—enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

2 Corinthians 6:4- But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much **patience**, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

Colossians 1:11- Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all **patience** and longsuffering with joyfulness;

1 Timothy 6:11- But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **patience**, meekness.

2 Timothy 3:10- But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, **patience**,

The root idea of **hupomone** is to remain under some discipline, subjecting one's self to something which demands the submission of one's will to something against which one naturally would rebel. It portrays a picture of steadfastly and unflinchingly bearing up under a heavy load and describes that quality of character which does not allow one to surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. The picture is that of steadfastness, constancy and endurance. It has in it a forward look, the ability to focus on what is beyond the current pressures (Jesus "Who for the joy set before Him **endured** [verb form hupomeno] the Cross despising the shame" [Hebrews 12:2](#)).

Take-away- I will allow my heart to be directed into the love of God as I eagerly wait for the Lord's return.

FAITHFUL

Think about this- pray a prayer of thanks!