

Rely on God's Resources (3): His Faithfulness (Part 1)

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NASB)

²² *The Lord's acts of mercy indeed do not end,*

For His compassions do not fail.

²³ *They are new every morning;*

Great is Your faithfulness.

Number 23:19 (NASB)

God is not a man, that He would lie,

Nor a son of man, that He would change His mind;

Has He said, and will He not do it?

Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Introduction

Recap: Over the past two Sundays, we've been exploring the divine resources God provides for our journey through life. God knows this journey isn't always easy, so He equips us with everything we need—and these resources are more than enough.

First, we looked at the Holy Spirit—God's very presence living within us. The Bible tells us that the Spirit dwells in our hearts as our Teacher, Comforter, and Guide. It would be a great loss to overlook such a powerful resource. We are meant to turn to Him daily—for wisdom, for strength, and for direction.

Then last Sunday, we talked about God's strength. When we rely on His strength instead of our own, we find ourselves standing firm no matter what comes our way. Those who lean on God's strength never walk alone—and never walk in vain.

And today, we're going to look at the third resource: *the faithfulness of God.*

Content

God's Faithfulness

When we think about faithfulness, many of us naturally picture a loyal dog. How many of you here own a dog—or have ever owned one? You know exactly what I'm talking

about. Their loyalty is steady. Their welcome is genuine. They don't hold grudges. They're faithful to the very end.

About 30 years ago, back when we were living in Michigan, my family had a dog named Brownie. He was a beagle mix, though much bigger than a typical beagle—probably about 60 pounds. Brownie had this habit that always lifted my spirit. Every time I came home, he'd go wild—running in circles in our big living room, tail wagging with excitement. My wife can testify to this! It didn't matter if I had been gone for hours or just stepped out—he'd greet me with the same joy every time. That's the kind of welcome that makes you feel deeply loved. That's faithfulness.

Not long ago, I read a heartbreaking story about a German Shepherd that had been terribly abused by its owner for four years. The dog was tied to a tree in the backyard—neglected, underfed, and ignored. Somehow, it survived. And here's the part that gets me: even after all the mistreatment, if you could somehow ask that dog, "Are you angry with your owner? Are you ready to leave him forever and find someone new?"—I believe the dog would still respond, "No, he's still my owner." That's how deep their loyalty runs.

We also see the same faithfulness in people. Think about the loyalty of a close friend who's stood by you through thick and thin—or a married couple celebrating their silver or golden anniversary. There's something deeply moving about that kind of enduring commitment. I always admire those couples. Their faithfulness is a quiet testimony that speaks louder than words.

Yes, we sure love to talk about faithfulness, both in people and animals—especially dogs. But here's the thing: how often do we pause to reflect on the *faithfulness of God* even in the Church? Let me ask you—when was the last time you heard a sermon solely focused on God's faithfulness?

So, this morning, I want to introduce you to *God's faithfulness* as one of the key resources we can draw from—especially in times of need, disappointment, and despair.

I've said before that the antidote to fear is *God's presence*. When God is with you, fear loses its grip. In the same way, I believe the antidote to *despair* is *God's faithfulness*. When your heart is heavy, and hope feels far away—remember this: **God is faithful**. He has not forgotten you. He keeps His promises. And He will come through, even when you can't yet see how.

Defining Faithfulness

To make sure we're all on the same page, let's start with a simple definition of *faithfulness*. I went to my favorite dictionary—Oxford—and looked it up. The first thing it told me is that *faithfulness* is the noun form of *faithful*. Not exactly helpful on its own!

So, I dug a little deeper and looked up *faithful*. Here's what it said: "Staying with and supporting a particular person; true and accurate; not changing; loyal; able to be trusted; someone you can rely on."

That's a rich description—and it gives us a strong foundation. But as I kept studying, I realized that many of our English definitions are actually rooted in ancient Hebrew. Two words in particular stand out: **hesed** and **emunah**.

Now, you don't need to memorize those words—but their meanings matter. **Hesed** refers to *loving kindness* or *steadfast love*. **Emunah** means *faithfulness*—but not just showing up; it's about being unwavering, dependable, and true. So, when we talk about God's *faithfulness*, we're talking about a God who is constant, trustworthy, loyal, and full of steadfast love. He's not unpredictable. He doesn't give up. He is always true to His word.

Faithfulness: A Divine Attribute

Faithfulness and steadfast love—these two divine attributes often appear side by side in Scripture. They go hand in hand, revealing not just what God does, but who God *is*.

We see this in today's text from **Lamentations 3:22–23**. If you look at the passage printed in your bulletin, you'll notice how these two attributes frame the entire verse—like bookends. Let me read it slowly: "***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.***"

Did you catch it? It begins with *steadfast love* and ends with *faithfulness*.

That phrase "*steadfast love*" comes from the Hebrew word **hesed**. Some of you might recognize a similar word in "Hasidic Jews." That term actually traces back to this very concept of **hesed**—a love that is unwavering, covenantal, and loyal. So, in just two verses, we're given a glimpse into the very heart of God: A God whose love *never ceases*, whose mercy *never runs dry*, and whose faithfulness is *great beyond measure*.

These are not just poetic lines—they are promises. Every morning, we wake up, His love is still there. Every step we take, His faithfulness goes with us.

God's Mercy: Ever-Flowing and Unchanging

Jeremiah, the writer of today's passage, makes a powerful declaration: God's *lovingkindness never ceases. His mercies never come to an end.* They don't run dry. They don't expire. They're not given out sparingly or based on performance.

Imagine standing before a natural spring that gushes fresh, clean water—day after day, year after year, generation after generation. It never stops. It never slows down. That's what God's mercy is like. In Him, we find an *endless supply* of compassion and grace poured out on His people.

To me, this truth challenges a common misconception that many of us carry—that the God of the Old Testament is harsh, angry, and quick to punish. That's why some believers struggle with reading the Old Testament at all.

But here's the surprise: *Lamentations*—this very book that speaks of unending mercy and great faithfulness—is *in the Old Testament*. It reminds us that even amid sorrow and judgment, God's heart beats with mercy. His compassion is woven all throughout Scripture, not just in the New Testament.

So, let's not miss this—our God has *always* been a God of steadfast love and mercy. And He still is today.

Let me be honest with you—when I first began preparing this message, I struggled with the passage. It wasn't easy. Let me share a little about how I typically prepare my sermons. When I'm given a text, I read it through multiple translations—King James, New King James, NIV, New American Standard Bible—sometimes even more. I study the original Hebrew or Greek, depending on the text. Once I've read it thoroughly, I sit with it. I ponder it. I pray over it. And I ask God, "*Lord, give me insight. Show me what You want me to say to Your people this Sunday.*"

That's exactly what I was doing Friday night. As I was meditating on the passage, something remarkable happened. It felt as though the prophet Jeremiah himself stepped out of the page and began to speak directly to me. He said, "*Kyewoon, **you don't know** what I've been through.*"

And I was taken aback. Because the truth is—I don't. I humbly admit that beyond a few historical facts and bits of background information, I don't truly know the depth of

Jeremiah's suffering. I haven't walked in his shoes. I haven't endured the devastation he lived through.

And because of that, I felt... *unqualified*. Unqualified to speak with any authority about the kind of faithfulness of God Jeremiah describes in this passage.

A faithfulness discovered *through* affliction.

What struck me most was how Jeremiah didn't just declare God's faithfulness in comfort or victory—but in the midst of ruin. His city had fallen. His people had been exiled. And yet, in his deepest grief, he could still say: "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... Great is Your faithfulness.*"

That kind of testimony—one born out of suffering—is far more powerful and real than anything that comes from a place of ease. It's not theory. It's conviction. Rooted in pain. Anchored in truth.

And that's what makes Jeremiah's words in Lamentations 3 so incredibly moving. They're not just beautiful—they're hard-earned.

Imagine this with me for a moment. Let's say there are two speakers standing side by side. One is a Holocaust survivor. The other—myself. The survivor steps forward and says, "*Life is precious. I survived it.*" He looks you in the eyes and adds, "*God is real—even in the midst of tragedy.*"

Then I take a turn and say the same words: "*Life is precious. God is real in the midst of tragedy.*" Now, both statements are true. But can you sense the difference? The *weight* behind those words changes depending on who says them.

One voice speaks from deep suffering—through fire, through darkness, and through loss. The other speaks from a place of reflection, but not from lived tragedy. That contrast—the gravity and conviction carried by the one who has endured—has a far deeper impact.

And that's exactly how I felt standing next to the prophet Jeremiah through this passage. Compared to him, I felt small. Unworthy, even. Jeremiah endured unthinkable pain—his homeland destroyed, his people exiled, his hope shattered. Yet in the midst of all of that, he proclaimed with boldness: "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases... Great is Your faithfulness.*" If he could say that—after *all* he had been through—Then how much more should I put my hope in that same God?

How much more should we *all* anchor ourselves in His unfailing faithfulness?

That's the conclusion I came to. And that's the invitation I offer you today.

Conclusion

In times of disappointment—when life feels like it's crumbling—don't turn away from God. That is exactly when you need to draw near. Jeremiah called to mind God's faithfulness, and it restored his hope. So let us do the same. Let us remember who God is: He is faithful. He does not lie. He does not change His mind. He is a God of covenant, mercy, and truth. When the ground shakes beneath us, let us stand on the solid rock of His promises. Because even when the world falls apart, God remains unshaken. Let us trust in Him—our faithful, everlasting God.

Amen.

Study Questions

1. Jeremiah declared, *“Great is Your faithfulness”* while surrounded by devastation. How does this context affect your understanding of what it means to trust in God's faithfulness? Consider a time when you struggled to see God's goodness. What helped you hold on to faith?

2. The Hebrew words *“hesed”* (steadfast love) and *“emunah”* (faithfulness) describe God's character as loyal, dependable, and true. In what ways have you personally experienced these aspects of God's nature in your life?

3. Lamentations 3:22–23 tells us that God's mercies are *“new every morning.”* What would it look like for you to begin each day anchored in this truth? How might daily awareness of God's mercy and faithfulness transform your outlook, especially in times of despair?