

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

God Is Faithful Even When ...

1 Samuel 16-17, 2 Samuel 11-12

INTRODUCTION: Glad you are here. Each week more new ones! We welcome you.

Still glad to have those worshipping online with us.

We continue to open up more and more as people are ready. We are not pressing anyone. Everybody can make their own decision about when is the right time to restart certain types of gathering, and in offering any gathering, we are doing our very best to follow our state guidelines, which have proven to be some of the most effective guidelines in the country. Thank you, Lord, for giving Gov. DeSantis wisdom to lead us.

So, a few adult Lifechange groups have started meeting. Whenever there is a consensus between teacher and a good number of class members, a group can reach out to Bro. Jeremy, and he will assign them an appropriate space for their size so they can properly distance and still meet.

In two weeks, Kid Zone Live will start back up at 11:00 for Kindergarten through 6th grade. Yes, they will still be distanced until the official guidance tells us otherwise.

Also Youth Lifechange Groups will start back on 6/28 at 10 a.m., with the opening being in F.H. so they will have room to distance.

Although our interaction is still limited, it is wonderful. We look forward to being with the whole church family again!

Almost all of us here today would strongly affirm that God is faithful.

Even so, I think most of us would also admit that there are times that we have doubts or reservations. We wonder ...

Will God be faithful to me even when _____?

You fill in the blank.

For the answer to that question, I want us to look at a few of the sketches we have in Scripture from the life of David.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO CHOOSE DAVID EVEN WHEN OTHERS DIDN'T.

Saul first king of Israel – loved by people, tall, strong – quickly proved disobedient to God.

God determined to replace Saul.

God told the prophet Samuel to take the anointing oil to Bethlehem. He had chosen a new king from Jesse's sons.

- Lineup
- **1 Samuel 16:6–7 NKJV** So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!" But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- Not Abinadab, not Shammah, not the next four. **"The Lord has not chosen these."**
- Any more? – Just the youngest, keeping the sheep.
- Red faced, fair complexion, and downright pretty eyes – looked cute but not kingly! **1 Samuel 16:12–13 NKJV** And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and **the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.**

Even to Samuel, David didn't look like the right one. But God chose a man after His own heart.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO CHOOSE DAVID EVEN WHEN OTHERS DIDN'T.

- Have you ever been one who was not often chosen by other people?
- I have. I have pastored 42 years, but only three churches. Each time a church called me, it was after considering many others first, including this church. I was not people's first choice.
- But each of the churches I have served, I did so with a confidence that God had called me, and He convinced others of that, and they joined the call. Now, along the way, some have changed their mind! I can't help that, but I don't believe God has changed His mind.

- Folks, what I am saying is don't be driven or controlled about what others think or say about you. Care what God thinks about you. Be a man or a woman after God's own heart.
- Do what God calls you to do, not what people think you can do or should do.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO STRENGTHEN DAVID WHEN HE WAS WEAK.

When the Spirit of the Lord entered David, He departed Saul. And God sent an angel to trouble Saul. Some of the servants said that music might help, and a search was made for a musician to come play for Saul when he was depressed.

In the providence of God, David had become skilled in playing the hand harp while keeping his father's sheep. Became Saul's armor bearer. Played harp and sang psalms. Occasionally went home.

While he was back home – war with Philistines.

Goliath – 9'9" tall, coat of mail weighed 150 lbs., spear w/ shaft like 4x4 and a 30 lb iron head. – the challenge – 40 days morning and evening,

1 Samuel 17:24 NKJV And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

Jesse heard about the war and sent David back to check on his brothers. Eliab tells him what is happening and he hears Goliath issue his challenge and all the soldiers tremble. David's response was recorded in 1 Sam. 17:16.

1 Samuel 17:26 NKJV ... who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" Who is this unbelieving pagan to challenge God?!

David went to Saul and said, "I'll fight him!" Saul said, "You can't. Still just a youth!"

David said, "Don't you hear that pagan defying the army of the Living God?"

Lion, bear **1 Samuel 17:37 NKJV** Moreover David said, "**The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

David trusted the Lord! Saul's armor too big and heavy. 5 stones and a sling.

When David came out before Goliath, Goliath mocked him because he was still a teen and was a pretty boy. Scripture says, **1 Samuel 17:43–49 NKJV** So the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!”

Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. ... that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**

Then all this assembly shall know that **the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.**”

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that **David hurried and ran** toward the army **to meet the Philistine.**

Then David put his hand in his bag and **took out a stone; and he slung it** and struck the Philistine in his forehead, **so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.**

Folks, David was not up for the task at hand. God made him able. I believe God accelerated that rock David threw and landed it right in the middle of Goliath's forehead, and Goliath thought, “Nothing like that has ever entered my mind before!” And he hit the ground with a big thud!

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO STRENGTHEN DAVID WHEN HE WAS WEAK.

And God will be faithful to strengthen you in every task to which He calls you!

Have we not seen that?

How was St. Andrew Baptist Church able to minister to this community following Hurricane Michael's destruction of our own church buildings?

- Not because we are so strong.
- Certainly not because we are rich.
- Not because we were unaffected. Every building had damage! Our worship center is still not rebuilt (although the Lord is going to remedy that very soon!) – We are bringing you the plan very soon!

- Not because we had lots of people whose homes did not suffer damage. No, most the people who came up here to help and to serve had their own homes devastated as well.

Folks we did it because God enabled us. God strengthened us when we were weak.

And God will strengthen you if you will be willing to serve Him, and work for Him, and trust in Him.

Paul learned this! **2 Corinthians 12:10 NKJV** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO USE DAVID EVEN AFTER HE SINNED.

After Saul died and David became king of all Israel, when he should have led his troops out to battle, David stayed home.

Folks, when we do what we want rather than being faithful to do what God has called us to do, we get in trouble.

And David got in trouble.

Bathsheba

Uriah

How quickly David goes from the faithful king of the people of God to an adulterer and a murderer!

And God sends the prophet Nathan.

2 Samuel 12:7–8 NKJV Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

The Scripture says, **2 Samuel 12:13 NKJV** So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Folks, understand, God did not wink at David's sins. God did not excuse them. But the fact is that David trusted in God's provision in the coming Messiah, and so God put away David's sin.

Nevertheless, God sent a four-fold chastisement upon David that would be spread out through the remainder of his life to remind David of his need to remain close to the Lord.

But here is what I want us to see and remember.

God let David continue to live.

He let him remain as king.

God maintained His covenant with David for the Messiah to come from his line.

God continued to work through David's life for the purposes of the Almighty.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO USE DAVID EVEN AFTER HE SINNED.

Folks all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. All of us who are saved, are sinners saved by grace, but sinners none-the-less.

If we trust in Christ,

If we repent of sin when we commit it, meaning turning around and going a different direction,

God can and will still use us for His Kingdom purposes.

The Lord may send chastisements to keep us close to Himself. There are often consequences to our sins that naturally flow from them.

But God is not through with us because we slip back into sin sometimes after we are saved.

I have known people who let the occasion of backsliding become an excuse to refrain from actively serving the Lord, saying, "I'm not worthy."

None of us are worthy. None of us deserve to be His servants. David didn't. I sure don't. Nobody does.

But God is faithful to use us, even after we sin, if we will repent and return to walking with the Lord.