



WOMEN WHO PRIZE
BEING FOUND IN CHRIST

God's Love Affair With His Word

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In a world where people let us down and unfaithfulness in marriage is on the rise, it can be hard for some to grasp and fully understand the vast constancy of God's faithfulness.

I love this verse in Hebrews 10:23 – we'll look at the last part for now.

...for **He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful to His Word**. (Amplified)

He is FAITHFUL to His WORD. So if this is the key that opens the door to His faithfulness, are we using that key?

When studying and defining faithfulness, it means:

Strict performance of promises, vows or covenants; constancy in affection, firm allegiance; as the faithfulness of a husband/wife.

Another word for faithfulness is *truth*, meaning:

Conforms to fact; real and true state of things

When we take these meanings, we can have a greater revelation of what this verse is really saying to us. It can now read like this:

Hebrews 10:23

...**He who promised is reliable; He conforms to the fact, the real and true state of things, strictly performing His promises in constant affection to His Word**.

I began to think about what faithfulness in a marriage looks like; **a love affair so intense and passionate, faithful to the vows and promises made to one another** – sometimes even renewing vows or watching a wedding video to be put in remembrance of them, in essence saying, I'm still committed, it is my pleasure to keep my promises to you out of a great love and faithfulness to you. **I'm not breaking these vows.**

Meditating on this brought to reality how similar a couple faithful to each other and their promises to one another, is how God feels towards performing His Word. He has an intense love to be faithful to it.

This is exciting my friends! His faithfulness to His Word is unbreakable. It is impossible for Him to become unfaithful in relationship to His Word. Thoughts can mount in from the enemy, but thoughts don't change His Word. How we are feeling doesn't change how *He* feels towards performing it.

Friends, what precious words of God are we bringing to the Lord's remembrance to perform in our lives?

An incredible story comes to mind to illustrate this picture of God's intense faithfulness to His Word.

A relative of ours was traveling to visit family, 1000 miles from home, and 26 weeks pregnant, with her two sons. Her husband would be flying in to meet up with them after a business meeting, to spend some time at the beach - a last getaway as a family of four.

Unexpectedly, while visiting her in-laws, she began to have really hard contractions. Her husband was still away, and family members quickly took her to the hospital – where she ended up giving birth to a 2 lb, 2oz preemie.

Once her husband was able to make it in, the shock of not only missing the birth of his son, but the startling sight of this preemie with translucent skin was not something he was prepared for. No one was allowed to touch him. Over time, the situation worsened – a collapsed lung and a blood infection set in, his weight dropping to just 1 lb. Surprisingly, the doctors suggested they and the grandparents hold his fragile shell of a body. Little did they know, the medical team was giving them a chance to say goodbye.

Watching their meager one-pound son fight death, their minds flooded with thoughts of despair and questions of why this was happening. But they were convinced of one thing – God is good and His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 136:1)

They knew that they were going to HAVE to rely on God's Word to make it through. Fighting exhaustive and disturbing thoughts, they refused to let it out of their mouth. They chose to listen to teaching, read God's Word and only speak His promises.

In their son's NICU bed, they placed a recording of their voices confessing scripture, telling him that GOD IS FAITHFUL. That by Jesus' stripes, he was healed...(Isaiah 53:5); that sinews and flesh would grow and God would put breath in him so he may come alive and know that God is the Lord. (Ezekiel 37:6) He would live and not die and declare the works of the Lord. (Psalms 118:7)

By fractions of an ounce, he began to gain weight. The nurses celebrated when they saw his tiny eyes open up. Soon, he was healthy enough to put on a shirt. The medical team said it was like watching a plant grow. Eventually, he and his mom were flown back home to a hospital team in Tulsa, where they lived. Over time, he became stronger and stronger.

Although improving, the doctors would still imply he may never walk...he will definitely never run.

With God's promises in hand, that couple continued to bring God in remembrance of His Word, no matter how things looked, no matter how things felt.

That boy, who was thought by doctors to never run, ended up being the FASTEST runner on his high school track team. Now in his 20s, he works in kid's ministry, teaching boys and girls the goodness and faithfulness of God.

Let's look again at Hebrews 10:23.

²³ **Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering**, for He who promised is reliable *and* trustworthy *and* faithful to His Word. (Amplified)

Luke 18:1 tells us to always pray, not to give up, lose heart or faint.

Discovering the intense love affair between God and His Word, who like a faithful husband desires to commit and be faithful to the promises made to his beloved wife, has given me a greater understanding of just how much He desires to perform His promises, His commitment – He LOVES being faithful to His Word.

conversation starters

1. We learned the relationship that God has with His Word, is an “I’ve got your back” type relationship. He is completely faithful to it, and His loving commitment to it is unbreakable. Are you using God’s Word as your power partner in life?
2. Share a time when you used God’s Word to bring change into your life.
3. A lot of Christians are getting run over and not experiencing the real victorious, faithfulness of God in their lives. According to a 2016 Barna study of Americans who express their faith, 75% make prayer part of their life. Sadly, only 34% actually read the Bible. Since God’s faithfulness is tied to performing His Word, how important is it to know what the Bible says?
4. Read Matthew 13:58. It’s important to observe, the miraculous stories in the Bible took place according to their faith. JESUS couldn’t perform many miracles in his home town because of doubt. Doubt is a miracle stealer. Like in the story above, what can you do to shift what’s going on in your head to build up your faith?

his heart work

STUDY

You can be confident, if it’s in His Word, you can have it. God’s Word is ALIVE. It creates change in our lives when we use it.

Let’s study together, scientifically speaking, what happens when we speak. As we verbally articulate words out of our mouth, sound waves are created. This gets really cool, check out the definitions below:

sound wave - energy that sets off on a journey; released energy

energy - power or force producing an effect

When we speak God's Word, it releases energy (power) into the atmosphere to produce an effect or change! Wow! That's worth getting excited about! I truly get excited after I've spoken God's Word into the air to WORK in my life. I just released ENERGY to produce change - it's out there working because He who promised is reliable, trustworthy and faithful to His Word. (Hebrews 10:23)

Proverbs 3:5 tells us to "trust and rely confidently on the Lord...and NOT to rely on our own understanding." The posture of "confidently relying on the Lord" in this verse very simply is saying:

"God, I know you love performing your Word, and YOU said _____ (promise), so Lord, I thank you!

Become power-partners with His Word in YOUR mouth, you WILL see His faithfulness and your confidence in Him will grow exceedingly.

ACT

- Name an area in your life that needs prayer OR ask, "Holy Spirit, what do you want me to pray over more?"

_____.

- Ask the Holy Spirit, "What do you say about _____?" (what you wrote above) Take a minute or so to listen. His voice sounds like your own thoughts. Write down what you hear:

_____.

- Go to www.biblegateway.com, and in the search bar, type one of the words the Holy Spirit gave you. Save the scriptures that seem to resonate with you - write them down, save them where they are easy to get to on your phone in Notes, Google Docs or Pages.
- Start speaking those scriptures. Get it out there in the atmosphere, so it can start working in your life! Remember, don't let doubt come out of your mouth...confidently speak God's Word and worship, faith will rise up in you!

*As you study God's Word for yourself, use tools like Biblegateway.com to search particular words or topics. Or Webster's 1828 Dictionary online for rich meanings of words that will help enlighten your understanding.

prayer needs

Write down the prayer requests of your group members, and pray fervently for them! Let your group members know when you are praying for them, if you have any scriptures or encouraging words for them, etc.