Faithful; 1 Corinthians 1:9

1. Faithful
   1. Faithful implies unswerving adherence to a person or thing or to the oath or promise by which a tie was contracted 〈*faithful* to her promise〉[[1]](#footnote-1)
   2. **pertaining to being worthy of belief or trust,** ***trustworthy, faithful, dependable, inspiring trust/faith*** [[2]](#footnote-2)
      1. God is faithful; He has an unswerving adherence to the promise He made to His creation
      2. Hebrews 6:17 (ESV) 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,
   3. There is no situation where God will ever be unfaithful
2. “Even when I cannot see (hear)
   1. I cannot imagine what Job went through
      1. Job 1:13–15 (ESV) 13 Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, 14 and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, 15 and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
      2. Being as faithful as God claimed him to be, I imagine, in the limited time that Job had, he was deep in prayer to God
      3. Job 1:16 (ESV) 16 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
      4. Job is hit, again, with disaster and death – more and deeper prayer
      5. Job 1:17 (ESV) 17 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
      6. And again
      7. Job 1:18–19 (ESV) 18 While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, 19 and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”
      8. This time Satan takes Job’s children
      9. Do you think Job could see or hear God?
      10. Yet, look at his response
      11. Job 1:20–22 (ESV) 20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” 22 In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.
   2. Whether or not we feel God is irrelevant
   3. We know God is with us
3. “Even when I can’t hold on
   1. While Job would be another prime example, let’s turn to Paul
      1. 2 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV) 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.
      2. Paul goes on to say in the first part of verse 9 he felt he had received a death sentence
      3. We all may have felt something very similar, in a position in which there seems to be no right answer and no way out
      4. Many people have succumbed to this feeling and killed themselves; that is what despair does
      5. 2 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.
      6. Even in our most desperate situation, our most dire circumstances, ‘even when we can’t hold on’ we rely on God
      7. God won’t let us go
      8. God is faithful
   2. Even when my flesh is tried
      1. 2 Corinthians 11:24–27 (ESV) 24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
      2. We don’t get to read about all the things that he lists here, but what Luke does tell us in Acts and what Paul relates to us in his letters to the churches is enough
      3. Most of us have not been persecuted for our faith
      4. Hebrews 12:3–4 (ESV) 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
      5. But we know that God is faithful and will keep His promise to us no matter what happens to our physical bodies
   3. Even when my flesh may fail
      1. Paul’s stoning
      2. Think about Paul’s statement in 2 Corinthians 1:9b (ESV) But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.’
      3. Then consider his stoning and left for dead at Lystra
      4. Paul’s reliance on God is our example
      5. Cancer is so prevalent in our society it seems that we deal with ‘flesh failing’ all the time
      6. We have lists of people with medical issues that we pray for every week or even every day
4. “Even when I run away”
   1. 1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
   2. The history of Israel in the book of Judges shows us just how compassionate and loving our God is
      1. Israel would leave God and worship Idols
      2. God would oppress Israel using foreign nations
      3. Israel would put away their Idols and turn back to God
      4. God would raise up a judge to defeat the foreign nation
      5. Repeat (at least 12 times), Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson
   3. The story that Jesus tells of the father with two sons puts an exclamation mark (maybe even a mic drop) on the concept of God taking us back when we run away
   4. Luke 15:20 (ESV) 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
5. Faithful
   1. “Even when I cannot see, you are moving, even when I cannot hear, you are singing over me, even when I can't hold on, you won't let me go”
   2. “Even when my faith is tried, you're providing, even though my flesh may fail, you're the strength when I'm weak, even when I run away, you will wait for me”
   3. 1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. Inc Merriam-Webster, [*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary.*](https://ref.ly/logosres/mwdict11?hw=Faithful&off=508&ctx=llegiance.+faithful+~implies+unswerving+a) (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. William Arndt et al., [*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*](https://ref.ly/logosres/bdag?ref=Page.p+820&off=6103&ctx=+(%CF%80%CE%B5%CE%B9%CC%81%CE%B8%CF%89%3b+Hom.%2b).%0a%E2%91%A0+~pertaining+to+being+) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 820. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)