

The Attributes of God

by Terese Rigel

Mother of God Prayer Meeting
September 24, 2000

Attributes

Over the next few months at the prayer meeting we will be focusing on God's attributes. Each week we will examine a different attribute and we will have an opportunity to pray about the attribute during the week and discuss it in our small groups. Tonight I will give a framework for studying God's attributes. I will also talk about one attribute, the faithfulness of God.

Attribute: a characteristic or quality of a person or thing. Attributes are words that describe someone or thing.

- The attributes that we use to describe people are true but only to an extent because we are imperfect and have limitations. But when we speak about God there are no exceptions. He is wisdom, he is perfection, and he forgets nothing. There are no limits, no exceptions, no days when he is more or less wise or perfect. There is no day when he forgets us or our situations.
- There are things that we don't have control over in our lives - our health, the economy, our loved ones. There are things we do have control over but sometimes we make bad decisions. But God is always in control, he is always with us, he will always act in a manner that is best for us. The more God's life is the foundation of our lives the firmer we will stand during small trials and big trials. We anchor our faith on who God is and on his promises, not on our performance. And one way that we come to know God more deeply, is through coming to know his characteristics or attributes.

What are the reasons Jesus came to earth?

1. To save us from our sins
 2. To reveal God's life to us
 3. to give us divine life
- Studying God's attributes help us transition from a more self-centered approach to God (what he does for me) to a perspective of asking, Lord, what is your mind in this situation? what is your mind about life? etc.
 - God is worthy of all praise and adoration. He is the One that always was, is and will be. The One who has a whole life within himself, the one who holds all things in being. He is worthy because of who he is. But He is such a generous God that he does want to give us a share in his Divine life.
 - God asks something very radical of us - he asks for everything! And he means everything!! The extent that we give him the time to show us that he's so worth everything, is the extent to which we will entrust our lives to him. Studying God's attributes helps us know God, and thus entrust our lives to him.

- As we go to God we change. God revealing himself to us is like no other information in the world. We can learn about other things and we can have knowledge and a passion for a particular topic. But when we encounter Jesus Christ, something in us changes. Studying the attributes is an encounter with Christ. It is finding out who God says he is. This knowledge has the power to heal us, deliver us, encourage us, challenge us, etc.
- We all recognize that there is a battle within us. We are pretty self-centered and unless we are taking time to allow God to reveal himself to us we will drift away from him. We will feel distant from him and rely more on our limited thinking than on his unchanging Word. Studying the attributes of God helps us "dethrone" ourselves and let Christ reign as Lord of our lives.

Jesus said to his disciples, Mat 13:10 -11 "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them..." We are Jesus' disciples and he promises to reveal himself to us. He only asks that we humbly seek him.

God's Faithfulness

Faithful - 1. Keeping faith; maintaining allegiance to someone; constant; loyal. 2. Accurate; reliable; exact. **Faithful** implies continued, steadfast adherence to a person to which one is bound by an oath, duty, and obligation. **Constant** suggests freedom from fickleness in affections or loyalties. **Resolute** stresses unwavering determination.

Synonyms

Faithfulness: devotion, loyalty, trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, fidelity, allegiance
 Faithful: constant, unchanging, consistent, permanent, steady, immutable, continual

There are so many elements of God's faithfulness. Some are:

- His faithfulness to his people
- His faithfulness to his covenant
- His faithfulness to the work he has begun in us
- His faithfulness to his promises, to who he is

The psalmist speaks of God's faithfulness with these words:

Psalm 34

- Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.
- The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
- The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry
- The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
- The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.

God's Faithfulness Discussion Questions

1. Using a concordance and cross references, find some Scriptures that speak of God's faithfulness (see also [scripture references](#)). Spend time pondering any verses that strike you in particular. Through which Scripture(s) is God teaching you something new about his faithfulness?
2. Think about God's faithfulness during the day. In different situations, ask yourself, How would God want me to know his faithfulness in this situation?
3. Choose one of the following and find Scriptures that show it (look for not just single verses but whole stories or episodes):
 - God's faithfulness to who he is
 - His faithfulness to his people and his covenant
 - His faithfulness to his promises
 - His faithfulness in completing the work he has begun in us
4. A synonym of faithful is trustworthy. Are there any situations in which you are tempted to not trust God? How does this compare to what God said about himself? Allow the Holy Spirit to show you ways that he wants you to grow in trust.
5. **Scripture References**
6. Dt 4:29 But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.
7. Dt 4:31 For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.
8. Dt 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.
9. 2 Sam 7:28 O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.
10. 2 Sam 22:31 "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.
11. Ps 9:10 Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.
12. Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
13. Ps 33:4 For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
14. Ps 55:22 Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.
15. Ps 62:8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.
16. PS 89:24 -37 My faithful love will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted. I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers. He will call out to me, 'You are my Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.' I will also appoint him my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth. I will maintain my love to him forever, and my covenant with him will never fail. I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure. "If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness-- and I will not lie to David-- that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky."

17. Ps 111:7-8 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy. They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.
18. PS 119:138 The statutes you have laid down are righteous; they are fully trustworthy.
19. Ps 138:2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness,
20. Ps 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.
21. Ps 146:5 -6 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them-- the LORD, who remains faithful forever.
22. Isa 25:1 O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.
23. Isa 49:15 16 "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.
24. Lam 3:22 -23 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassion's never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
25. Zec 8:8 I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."
26. 1 Cor 1:9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.
27. 1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
28. 1 Th 5:24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.
29. 2 Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
30. 2 Tim 2:13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.
31. Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.
32. Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.
33. Heb 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
34. 1 Pet 4:19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.
35. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.