

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Romans 3:3 "What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness?"

One of the reasons given by those leaving the church for their departure is God has failed them. They are disappointed that God did not work a miraculous cure for a beloved family member; A wife and husband prayed and prayed God would bless them with a child, but they remained childless; they worked hard but God did not bless them financially, etc. The list of grievances with God is quite long.

For others, the unfaithfulness of a pastor, Christian friend or family member leaves a bitter taste. They transfer to God their bitterness they have toward those who have disappointed them in their life. For many there is the belief that being a Christian means their life should be free of disappointment, difficult situations and failure.

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, St. Paul shares how his life was less than perfect. It appears that he had some type of chronic illness that plagued him throughout his life. He describes his situation in these words: "in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

What is it that God has promised you? Jesus has promised to be with you always during your earthly life. (Matthew 28:20) He has promised you through His Son Jesus eternal life. (John 3:16) God's word recognizes you will experience difficulties in your life but urges you to "cast your burdens upon Him because He will take care of you." (1 Peter 5:7) You have God's word that He will be faithful to you, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Prayer: Great is Your faithful, O God my Father. Praise and thanks to You!

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain:

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(LSB 809)