

God's Faithfulness

1- Objectives

- ❖ To learn about God's faithfulness to mankind; even if we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

2- References

- ❖ Holy Scripture
- ❖ Sermon for Father Anthony Messeh
<http://orthodoxsermons.org/sermons/can-you-see-god-clearly-part-6>

3- Scriptural Verse

- ❖ "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments" (Deuteronomy 7:9)

4- Lesson Outline

What does it mean to be faithful? How is God faithful?

- ❖ To be faithful means to be loyal to a relationship, a position, etc. Faithfulness is an inherent characteristic of God (2 Timothy 2:13). It entails a covenant; it's a bond between two people that cannot be broken.
- ❖ God made this covenant with Abraham and is making it with us (Genesis 15: 9-18). Usually when making a covenant both parties step over the carcasses as a symbol of what would happen to them if they break the oath. We see here that Abraham does not partake of the oath but God shows him how serious and faithful He is to Abraham in the promise that he made to Him.
- ❖ God likens His faithfulness to us as a marriage covenant (Ezekiel 16:8-12, Ephesians 5: 25).
- ❖ David tasted God's faithfulness and said: "I will praise You and Your faithfulness, O my God" (Psalm 71:22)

What is God faithful about?

- ❖ God is faithful in that He has our best interest in mind – that's why God's faithfulness may entail us being rebuked of our sins (Exodus 32:4).
- ❖ God's faithfulness is protection for us – protection from the evils of the world, from temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Thessalonians 3:3).

- ❖ God is faithful in His love to mankind because we are His creation that he loves and He wants to provide for it. It is like a mother, who loves her child, and because of that love for the child, she can spend all day serving a little child who may not show much gratitude, and definitely takes it for granted but she continues to serve out of love.
- ❖ God is faithful in His companionship and friendship to us – He is the only true companion to the soul and is the only one that can fill every desire that man has. Without God we are hungry, empty, and unhappy (Revelation 3:17-18).
- ❖ God is faithful in His promise for eternal life (Hebrews 10:23).
- ❖ God is faithful in His promise that He will help us stand firm to the end (1 Corinthians 1:4-9).
- ❖ God is faithful in His promise to forgive us - even as we sin, God continues to accept us and love us. He doesn't love what we do but His heart yearns that we may see our mistakes and we repent. God is ultimate veil over our sins – God has no interest in exposing our sins to others but He constantly covers up our guilt and shame and gives us honor in front of others (Exodus 34:6, 1 John 1:9).

5- Conclusion

- ❖ Unlike humans, God's faithfulness never falters or fails. Faithfulness is an inherent characteristic of God's nature. We are called to imitate His faithfulness.

6- Activities/Discussion Points

- ❖ Look at examples in your life of God's faithfulness.
- ❖ How does God's faithfulness compare to our faithfulness as humans?