

Faithful From A to Z

Psalm 37

[This is a long psalm, so as usual with the longer psalms, rather than including the entirety of it here, I encourage you to read it before continuing on with this devotion.]

Trust in the Lord.

Delight yourself in the Lord.

Commit yourself to the Lord.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.

Those four admonitions are given in this psalm. But how hard they are!

How hard it is to *trust in the Lord* when things in life don't go your way.

How hard it is to *delight in the Lord* when you look around and it seems as if unbelievers and evildoers are prospering, and Christians seem to be suffering and the Christian truth losing.

How hard it is to *commit yourself to the Lord* when so many other people and things in this world and life want you to commit to them.

And how hard it is to *be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him*. Because sometimes the Lord takes a long time. Sometimes He takes so long that it seems He doesn't care. Sometimes He takes so long that perhaps you wonder if He's forgotten about you completely.

This psalm is honest. The Christian life is not easy! There's a lot that seems to be going wrong in this world and so many wonder . . . maybe Christianity isn't right after all . . . maybe Christianity doesn't work. If you've ever wondered that, know that you're not the first and you're not alone.

At just such times, it is helpful to look back and remember how God has

been faithful and fulfilled all His promises in the Old Testament. To think not just about your life here and now and what seems or seems not to be happening, but to remember all that God has done for His people of old. How He provided for them, protected them, disciplined them, rescued them, and forgave them. Maybe, at times, it took longer than they wanted, but God always acted, and for good.

And as it was in the past, so shall it be in the future. To indicate that, this psalm is what is called an “acrostic” - in the original Hebrew, every two verses begin with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet. That not only looks cool, but seems to be saying: from start to finish, from the beginning of time to the end of time, there is sin and evil in the world, but God is good and faithful. And whatever is happening, from A to Z, God is in control. At all times and in all places, you can trust Him.

Of course, the strongest proof we have of that is when God acted and fulfilled His promise of a Saviour. When He sent His own Son to die on the cross, so that sin and evil and death would not win, but we would have the forgiveness of our sin, the evil one would be put down, and death would be defeated. And that’s exactly what happened! In His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, Jesus accomplished all of that for us.

In the Old Testament, the people were waiting for their Saviour to come, and at times things got pretty bad. They didn’t always trust and they weren’t always faithful. The prophets had to encourage them time and time again to wait for the Lord and put their trust in Him.

Now, we are again waiting for our Saviour to come again, His second coming at the end of time, and again, things often look pretty bad. But we can take comfort in looking back and seeing God’s faithfulness in the past, and be confident that our unchanging God will be faithful now, too, and into the future. And so we are strengthened to trust in Him, delight in Him, commit ourselves to Him, and be still before Him and wait patiently for Him.

It's not easy. It probably won't ever be easy! But from the beginning of your life to the end of your life, in all things from A to Z, He remains your faithful God and Father. There may not be much you can count on in this world, but you can count on Him.

Lord Jesus, help me to trust in You, delight in You, commit my way to You, and be still and wait for You. I often want to take matters into my own hands, but help me to look back at how You were faithful of old, and give me faith to know that You will help me now and in the future. Be my strength when I am weak, my protection in all danger, provide when I am in want, and calm my fearful heart. Help me especially to see Your love and faithfulness to me in the cross, to know that whatever happens in this world and life, I and my future are safe in You. Amen.