

Life Strategy #7

God's Faithfulness

In discovering God's faithfulness, we must move beyond the mere knowledge of it and move into a place of experiencing it. To simply know that God is faithful, to have a body of knowledge that supports His faithfulness, is not enough; we must experience it in order for it to truly have any relevance in our lives. So how do we experience God's faithfulness? **The foundation from which we experience God's faithfulness is surrender.** This is, for most believers, the most difficult act to perform, for surrender requires us to acknowledge our limitedness. It requires us accept and admit our powerlessness over people, places and things. It requires us to openly declare that without God, life is unmanageable. There is a saying that goes, "If I can control it, then I can manage it." Well the truth is that, in most cases, (the exception being our own decisions, actions and attitudes) we are powerless to control life and, therefore, we can't manage it. **Only God has the power to control life in its entirety, thus our surrender to Him is the only way to be in a place of assurance.** However, before we surrender, we must *trust*. **We must trust in His power, in His might. We must trust in His love, and in His desire to do for us that, which is best for us.** We must trust in the fact that He desires us to be blessed, happy, filled with peace and joy more than we desire it. However, trust is not a blind act of faith. It is an act, based upon past performance. Hebrew 11, tells us, "...being surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses . . ." These witnesses are a testimony of God's past performance. We can also take a look at our own lives to quickly see samples of God's faithfulness manifested.

One final though; Surrender does not mean that we throw our hands up, sit down and say "OK God, I surrender, you do it all, I'm just going to sit here and wait on you to make it happen." Surrender, in reality, requires from us a greater level of trust than anything else. It demands that we rest in His grace, and be prepared to take action as He directs. That my friends can be a scary thing!

God promises to bless whatever we put our hand to do, provided we are walking in His righteousness and according to His will. So, surrendering to God and resting in His faithfulness requires us to have a paradigm change in our thinking. In the following synthesis of scripture, we will see the promise of God's faithfulness, and the confidence resting in His faithfulness will bring to us. I urge you to use the following text as part of your daily devotional. If you don't have a daily devotional, then I

urge you to start one today. Read the following text as your scriptural reading, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word. Use it as a prayer to Him as an act of praise and worship. I will guarantee you that in as little as a week, you will begin to see a noticeable difference in your attitude toward surrender, trust and the awesome faithfulness of God.

Bracket symbols are my own insertions to help the text flow as a single reading. Bolded text represents the words spoken by God. Footnotes are provided for your personal study.

The Faithfulness of God

ⁱGod is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that He should repent. Has He said, and will he not do it? Or has He spoken, and will he not make it good? [Therefore], ⁱⁱ**Be still and know that I am God.**

ⁱⁱⁱFor the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to him. [So]

^{iv}**Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you.** [For]

^vThe Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid. [So]

^{vi}Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait I say on the Lord. [For]

^{vii}I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. [For you see]

^{viii}the righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

but the Lord delivers him out of them all. [Therefore]

^xTrust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. [For]

^{xii}the Lord upholds the righteous, [and]

^{xiii}the steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord, and he delights in his way. Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the

righteous forsaken, nor their seed begging for bread. [So I will cry out to the Lord]

^{xiv}Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your generous Spirit. [For]

^{xv}the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart- these O God You will not despise. [And the Lord shall look upon you and say of you]

Because

he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. [So] ^{xvi}trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. [For] ^{xvii}He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.[For the Lord declares to you] ^{xviii}**You are My servant, I have chosen you and have not cast you away: Fear not, for I am with you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

^{xix}**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.** ^{xx}**For I know the plan I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. [So]** ^{xxi}**call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.** [Hence,]

^{xxii}praise the Lord of host, for the Lord is good, for His mercies endures forever. [For we are] ^{xxiii}confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it. [For] ^{xxiv}we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ^{xxv}Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. [For] you can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, for you are His personal concern. ^{xxvi}Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. [And] ^{xxvii}the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered awhile, will perfect, established, strengthen, and settle you. [In light of all this] ^{xxviii}let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

-
- ⁱ Numbers 23:19
 - ⁱⁱ Psalm 46:10
 - ⁱⁱⁱ 2 Chronicles 16:9
 - ^{iv} 2 Chronicles 20:15b
 - ^v 2 Chronicles 20:17a
 - ^{vi} Psalm 27:1
 - ^{vii} Psalm 27:14
 - ^{viii} Psalm 34:4
 - ^{ix} Psalm 34:17-19
 - ^x Psalm 37:3-5
 - ^{xi} Psalm 37: 17b
 - ^{xii} Psalm 37:23-25
 - ^{xiii} Psalm 51:10-12
 - ^{xiv} Psalm 51:17
 - ^{xv} Psalm 91:14-15
 - ^{xvi} Proverbs 3:5-6
 - ^{xvii} Isaiah 40:29-31
 - ^{xviii} Isaiah 41:9b-10
 - ^{xix} Isaiah 55:8-11
 - ^{xx} Jeremiah 29:11-13
 - ^{xxi} Jeremiah 33:3
 - ^{xxii} Jeremiah 33:11b
 - ^{xxiii} Philippians 1:6
 - ^{xxiv} Romans 8:28
 - ^{xxv} 1 Peter 5:6-7
 - ^{xxvi} Hebrews 4:16
 - ^{xxvii} 1 Peter 5:10
 - ^{xxviii} Hebrew 10:23