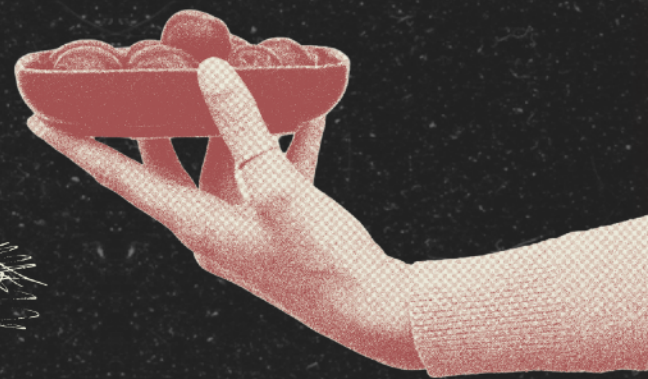


Fruit of the Spirit



LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL



“FAITHFULNESS”

Lamentations 3:22-23

Pastor Matt Flora taught us that man's greatest need not merely forgiveness, but a revelation of God's character. Knowing God—particularly His steadfast love and faithfulness—produces love for Him, which overflows into love for others. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit and, more fundamentally, an attribute of God. Faithful means trustworthy, dependable, loyal, reliable, constant, devoted, steadfast. Scripture repeatedly testifies to God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22–23 is one example where God's faithfulness is not contingent on human faithfulness—it simply flows out from who God is. Figures like Joshua, Habakkuk, David, Daniel, and Jeremiah drew courage and joy from this truth even amid immense difficulty and suffering. Despite decades of rejection and anguish, Jeremiah could still declare God's mercies "new every morning." Jesus Christ is the fullest demonstration of God's faithfulness. He endured the cross, bore sin, obeyed unto death, and fulfills every divine promise. Because God is faithful, believers can pray with confidence, endure any trial, resist anxiety, serve with joy, love others selflessly, share the gospel boldly, and rest in Christ.

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Pastor Matt proposed that man's greatest need is "a revelation of who God is" rather than simply forgiveness of sin. How do these two relate? Does one presuppose the other?

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: **Read Lamentations 3:1-21.** The Prophet Jeremiah writes these words from a place of devastation. The city of Jerusalem is in ruin. What does the placement of verses 22-23 within Lamentations teach us about the relationship between lament and hope?

:: Read **2Timothy 2:13.** How does Paul challenge our tendency to think God's faithfulness to His promises will rise and fall with our spiritual performance?

:: Hebrews 11 describes people who “**died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar**” (v13). How does this chapter complicate simplistic notions that faithfulness to God "pays off" in physical, earthly blessings?

:: Look closely at Hebrews 11. What kept these individuals faithful to God even though they did not receive the things promised? [HINT: v10, v16, v26, v35]



// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: Pastor Matt says Jesus is "the pinnacle of God's faithfulness." In what sense is Christ the fulfillment of Jeremiah's declaration in Lamentations?

:: Hebrews 12:2 says that Christ endured the cross "**for the joy set before Him**". How does this reveal that faithfulness is bound up with endurance and hope more than obligation?

:: 2Corinthians 1:20 says all God's promises find their "yes" in Christ. How does this text help us understand the fulfillment of God's Old Testament promises?

// GETTING TO YOU

:: Pastor Matt taught us that knowing God's character produces genuine love and obedience. What practices help you see and savor God's character?

:: What are the small, everyday moments where your trust in God's faithfulness is tested? When have you been tempted to question God's faithfulness?



// GETTING TO YOU

:: Jeremiah remained faithful despite decades of ministry with seemingly no converts. How does this reframe success in our lives and ministries?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

:: If Pastor Matt is right and man's greatest need is a revelation of who God is, then how should this shape the content and approach of our evangelism?

:: Pastor Matt stated "because God is faithful, we can witness with joy and boldness." What is the link between confidence in God's character and boldness in evangelism?

:: How can churches equip missionaries and persecuted believers to sustain evangelistic faithfulness in contexts of suffering and/or fruitlessness?

