

Sermon Series: Stand Strong

To be used with: Session One: God's Promise of Faithfulness

Sermon Title Possibilities: The Faithfulness of God

Scripture: Psalm 89:1-2,5-8,15-18

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study of *Stand Strong: Building Your Life on God's Promises* these sermon outlines will use similar Scripture passages to reinforce the same themes as the study regarding trusting God's promises.

Introduction: We live in a non-commitment world. Some people go from church to church like butterflies looking for the perfect flower. People change jobs like they change shoes. Marriages dissolve and fall apart when the mood changes or someone more appealing comes along. Longevity in almost any arena is rare. Yet, there is one thing that we can count on to always be there and that is God's promise of faithfulness to His children. God's promise to never leave us nor forsake us is not empty. He is passionate about us.

1. God's faithfulness is a cause for praise.

A. God deserves our praise. He is the creator of all things. He sustains us and through Jesus has saved us. We owe everything to Him. "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (Revelation 4:11 ESV)

B. God demands our praise. We are repeatedly directed to "Praise the Lord" The book of Psalms is bursting with examples of when to and how to praise God. Throughout the Old Testament, He reminded the Israelites that He was their God and He delivered them out of bondage.

C. God desires our praise. When we worship God out of a grateful heart, it demonstrates that we love Him and acknowledge Him to be our God. He wants us to be sold-out to Him.

2. God's faithfulness is celebrated in Heaven.

A. The Angels – Every description of Heaven includes angels praising God. They are witnesses to His faithfulness throughout the history of mankind and know that He keeps His promises because they've seen it.

B. The Covenant Keepers – All those who died before Jesus' sacrifice longed to see the fulfillment of the promise and rejoice to see that God was faithful to keep His covenant.

C. The Redeemed – Those who have been sealed with the Holy Spirit have seen God "make good" on His promise of redemption. This will be fully realized after the Judgment. Paul tells the church at Ephesus, "In (Jesus) you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV)

3. God's faithfulness is experienced by His followers.

A. Constant Presence – The indwelling of the Holy Spirit means that we are never alone, even when we think we are. God is always with us; and promises to never leave. Deuteronomy 31:6b says that God “will not leave you or forsake you.”

B. Constant Joy – The joy of God's salvation within us is ever present. No matter our current circumstances, we have joy because we know that God will be faithful in the end. Nehemiah told the people “do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10b)

C. Constant Strength – God's strength is never-failing! God doesn't get weary or need to sleep. When we are at our weakest, it is the strength of God that gets us through. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says that God's “power is made perfect in weakness.” Paul goes on to tell us in verse 10 that in his weakness is actually strong because of God's strength.

Conclusion/Application – God is faithful to keep His promises. All of creation honors and praises His faithfulness. How can you build your life on God's faithfulness?

- You can begin by acknowledging His faithfulness. Thank God for being trustworthy.
- You can search for the promises God made and look for their fulfillment.
- You can live each day fully trusting in Him; abandoning your own strength and ability to wholly lean on Him.

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