

## Grace Guide

### God IS: Faithful

*"These stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." --Joshua 4:7* "In 1941, sculptor Gutzon Borglum completed his work on Mount Rushmore. The 60-foot-high granite heads of four US Presidents now stand like sentinels of democracy over the Black Hills of South Dakota. The imposing likenesses of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt remind visitors of our nation's heritage and history. God told Israel's leader, Joshua, to take 12 stones from the middle of the Jordan River for a similar purpose (Josh. 4:1-7,20-24). The Lord wanted future generations to have a memorial to their national history. He wanted them to remember that as He parted the Red Sea to get them out of Egypt, He also parted the Jordan to get them into the Promised Land. He wanted them to live not only in the present, but with the reminder of the values, faith, and experiences of their founding fathers: Moses, Aaron, and Joshua. God understands our human nature and knows that "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" occurs all too often in our spiritual lives. We need physical reminders of spiritual truths. We need to pile up stones, write journals, and tell family stories to help us remember the miracle of God's provisions that neither we nor our children can afford to forget. **Think About It -- How has God shown Himself to be faithful to you and your family in the past? How can you make sure you'll remember? With whom can you talk about it today?** Precious memories of yesterday can be precious moments today." --M R De Haan II

It's easy for us to write off God's faithfulness as being only in the "big, important" things in life. But the truth is, He gave you the breath you just took. And the next one. He numbers the hairs on your head. Those might seem like insignificant things to us, but not to God. His faithfulness permeates every part of our life, both big and small.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list, but **God's faithfulness** applies to His...

Temporal blessings (1Tim 4:8; Ps 84:11; Isa 33:16,)

Spiritual blessings (1 Cor 1:9)

Support in temptation (1Cor 10:13)

Support in persecution (1 Pet 4:12, 13; Isa 41:10)

Sanctifying discipline (Heb 12:4-12)

Direction in difficulties (2Chr 32:22; Ps 32:8)

Enabling of His own to persevere (Jer. 32:40)

Bringing to glory (1 Jn 2:25).

Hudson Taylor, the humble servant of God to China, demonstrated extraordinary trust in God's faithfulness. In his journal he wrote:

"Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not

expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

We may be faint and weary, but our heavenly Father is all-powerful. Our feelings may fluctuate, but He is unchangeable. Even creation itself is a record of His steadfastness. That's why we can sing these words from a hymn by Thomas Chisholm: "Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love." What an encouragement to live for Him! Our strength for the present and hope for the future are not based on the stability of our own perseverance but on the fidelity of God. No matter what our need, we can count on the Father's faithfulness.

**He who abandons himself to God  
will never be abandoned by God.**

*What a gracious assurance amid our own unfaithfulness, "The Lord is faithful!"- that the unfaithfulness of the believer never alters, and can never alter- the faithfulness of God. My soul, anchor yourself on this rock of the Divine veracity. Take hold of that blessed parenthesis which has been, to many a tossed soul, as a polar star in its nights of darkness- "Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." He loves them in life- loves them in death- loves them through death- loves them into glory!*

*Are you not at this hour a monument of God's faithfulness? Where would you have been, had not the magnet of His grace kept you, and drawn your fugitive affections towards Himself? From how many temptations has He rescued you- laying hold of you on the precipice, when about to plunge headlong down; employing, sometimes constraining grace, at other times, restraining grace- making this your brief history- "Kept by the power of God," and overruling all- ALL for His own glory, and your own good? -*  
John MacDuff

We don't have time to go through all of these, but Naves Topical Bible suggests a list of scriptures with this charge: *For the greatest benefit from the following Scriptures, read the text, not passively but instead consciously and actively "interrogating" the text, making a list in your life journal of what the Spirit of Christ teaches you about God and about man. Obey any instructions or commands you encounter, as you allow the Holy Spirit to renew your mind and to "cultivate faithfulness". Then offer prayers and praise to your Father for graciously teaching you these profitable, eternal truths.*

Ge 6:18; 9:15,16; 21:1; 24:27; 28:15; 32:10; Exodus 2:24; 6:4,5; 12:41; 34:6; Leviticus 26:44,45; Deuteronomy 4:31; 7:8,9; 9:5; 31:6; 32:4; Joshua 21:45; 23:14; Judges 2:1; 1Samuel 12:22; 2Samuel 7:14,15,28; 22:31; 23:5; 1Ki 8:15,20,23,24,56; 2Kings 8:19; 13:23; 1Chronicles 17:27; 28:20; 2Chronicles 6:4-15; 21:7; Ezra 9:9; Nehemiah 1:5; 9:7,8,32; Psalms 9:10; 18:30; 19:9; 25:10; 31:5; 33:4; 36:5; 37:28; 40:10; 89:1,2,5,8,14,24,28,33,34; 92:1,2,14,15; 94:14; 98:3; 100:5; 103:17; 105:8,42; 111:5,7, 8, 9; 117:2; 119:65,89,90; 121:3,4; 132:11; 138:2; 146:6; Isaiah 11:5; 25:1; 42:16; 44:21; 49:7,16; 51:6,8; 54:9,10; 65:16; Jeremiah 29:10; 31:36,37; 32:40; 33:14,20,21,25,26; 51:5; Lamentations 3:23; Ezekiel 16:60,62; Daniel 9:4; Hosea 2:19,20; Micah 7:20; Haggai 2:5; Zechariah 9:11; Matthew 24:34,35; Luke 1:54,55,68, 69, 70,72,73; John 8:26; Acts 13:32,33; Romans 3:3,4; 11:1,2,29; 15:8; 1Corinthians 1:9; 10:13; 2Corinthians 1:20; 1Thessalonians 5:24; 2Timothy 2:13; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:10,13-19; 10:22,23,37; 1Peter 4:19; 2Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:9; Re 6:10; 15:3