

God Is Not A Liar

While reading through the Acts of the Apostles I was faced with a reality that is not a reality in my life. When I see the boldness, authority and effectiveness of the Christians in the book of Acts, I had to be honest with myself and admit that they had something that I need. Although I have not come to a full revelation of how to come to that place, I know that it will not be by might, nor by my power, but by God's Spirit working in me. Jesus told the apostles, "wait for what the Father has promised, 'Which, you heard from Me; For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit ... and you shall receive power and shall be My witnesses.'" (Acts 1:4,5, 8) And we see in the epistle of Paul to the Ephesians that God is, "able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask, or think, *according to the power*, that works within us." (Eph 3:20) This being said, it is also a reality that the life and fruit of these men of God and the testimony we see of many believers today is not the same. But; recognizing and acknowledging this and our need for more of Jesus is one thing, and believing that God will bring us to walk in the fullness of His Spirit and enter into His rest is another. When we look at other Christians and our own lives, we get our eyes off of Jesus and His word. This can bring about much discouragement and we can lose hold of the confession of our hope. (Heb 10:23) Having been in this place of unbelief and hopelessness I was pondering recently why this happens to many of us and how we can build our faith and receive what God has promised. While considering these things a word came to me fairly clearly, "*God is not a liar.*" I later looked up some verses that speak of this and was encouraged by what I read. I would like to look at the four passages in the word that I came across.

The first passage I would like to look at is in second and third chapter of the epistle of Paul to the Romans:

²⁸For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. ^{3:1}Then what advantage had the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision? ²Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God. ³What then? If some did not believe, their unbelief (Gk: 570; unfaithfulness, disobedience) will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it? ⁴God Forbid! Rather, *let God be found true, though every man be found a liar*, as it is written, "That Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and mightest prevail when Thou art judged."

Paul shares with us that a Jew is one who has the foreskin of his heart removed and is given a new heart of flesh and a new spirit. It is not the natural descendants of Abraham who are children of God, but the children of the promise (Rom 8:9)—those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. (Gal 3:7) Today we can very well say that a 'Christian' is not one who is one outwardly (professes with their mouth and does things Christians do) but a 'Christian' is one inwardly (born again of the Spirit of God). If we look at things today we may see Christians who are not walking in victory and who do not have righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17) So what do we say

then? Is God not faithful? Is He not able to perform what He has promised every child of His? *Let God be true, though every man be found a liar!* “It is not as though the word of God has failed (or, taken no effect). For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.” (Rom 9:6) In other words, it is not as though the word of God is not true, but not all those who bear the name Christian are Christians. “I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” (Rev 3:1) We can take comfort in the fact that even though we may not be experiencing what God has promised and even though we may not see or know personally those who are walking in these promises, God’s word is still true. “For, ‘All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.’” (1 Pet 1:24,25) Consider this trustworthy (faithful) statement: “For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, (suffer) we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, *He remains faithful*; for He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Tim 2:11-13) Even when we fail to be true to and trust our Lord and Savior, He will remain true to His word and lovingly deal with us as sons and daughters and work on bringing us back to faith in Him.

The next passage, which speaks of the faithfulness of God that I would like to look at, is in twenty-third chapter of the book of Numbers. Balak had just called upon Balaam, a prophet of God, to curse Israel and was not pleased to find out that God would only bless His people. The second time God put a word in Balaam’s mouth (Num 23:16) he said:

¹⁸Arise, O Balak, and hear; give ear to me, O son of Zipper! ¹⁹*God 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?* ²⁰Behold, I have received a command to bless; when He has blessed, then I cannot revoke it. ²¹He has not observed iniquity in Jacob; Nor has He seen perverseness in Israel; the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

Oh, what a blessed assurance! God is not a man; He cannot lie and will always do what He has said. In the context of this passage God is said He would bless Israel; therefore, they will be blessed. (vs. 20) I think it is also important to take note of verse 21, which makes it clear why God was going to bless Israel. God did not see iniquity in Jacob at that time, nor did he observe perverseness. The blessing of God is always with those who diligently obey (listen to the voice of) the LORD and are careful to do all His commandments. (Deut 28:1,2) God’s plan since the beginning of time has been to give His people a future and a hope. He assures us that when we will call upon Him and come and pray to Him, He will listen to us. And when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him. (Jer 29:11-13) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him in love.” (Eph 1:3,4) A verse in first Thessalonians came to mind as I reflected on Balaam’s word from the LORD, “He said, and will He not do it?” (vs. 19) “Now may the God of peace *Himself* sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithful is He who calls you; and *He will* bring it to pass.” (1 Thess 5:23,24) When we walk with the Lord in sincerity and truth, “He who began a good work in us will finish (Gk: 2005; complete, perfect, accomplish) it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 1:6)

“Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (2 Cor 13:1) A third witness of God’s faithfulness to His word that I would like to look at is in the sixth chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews. The writer of Hebrews refers us back to God’s dealings with Abraham to remind us that God will do what He has promised if we are not sluggish, “but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” (Heb 6:12) God swore by Himself, saying, “‘*I will* surely bless you, and *I will* surely multiply you,’ and thus having patiently waited, he (Abraham) obtained the promise.” (Heb 6:14,15)

¹⁶For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. ¹⁷In the same way God, desiring *even more* to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, guaranteed with an oath, ¹⁸in order that by two unchangeable things, in which *it is impossible for God to lie*, we may have strong encouragement, we ho have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.

It is impossible for God to lie! He said *He will* do it. Therefore, we can have strong encouragement. God’s purpose for our life—to conform us to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28,29)—is unchangeable. He said, “*I will* put My laws upon their heart, and upon their mind *I will* write them.” (Heb 10:16) Though we may be in a state or situation as impossible as Abraham’s, who contemplated his own body as good as deed since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; let us hope against hope and believe in God’s word. (Rom 4:19, 18) May we obtain the testimony that Abraham has: “with respect to the promise of God, he did not wavier in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He has promised, *He* was able also to perform.” (Rom 5:20,21) What a hope we have in Jesus. A hope, which is, “an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil.” (Heb 6:19)

The final witness in the word that I would like to look at is in the first chapter of Paul’s epistle to Titus:

¹Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, ²in the hope of eternal life, which God, *who cannot lie*, promised before times eternal.

God has promised eternal life to those who have faith in His Son. (Jn 3:36) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, *reserved* in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Pet 1:3-5) For it is

“in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.” (Rom 8:24,25) We need to trust God’s word and fully commit our hearts to Him no matter what we may see with our natural eyes. “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (1 Cor 5:7) And, while we wait on Jesus and the Father’s promise (Luke 24:49), *He will* perform that which He has spoken and we *will* gain new (Heb: 2498; change, replace) strength. (Isa 40:31)

My prayer is that the truth that *God cannot lie* will build our faith in Jesus and His word. And as a result, we might run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, not growing weary and losing heart. (Heb 12:1-3) May the God who gives perseverance and encouragement, (comfort) bring encouragement to our souls through the Scriptures that we have looked at. (Rom 15:5,4) And if we find ourselves in darkness and despair, without hope and lacking faith, let this passage in the third chapter of the book of Lamentations bring us hope as it has for me in my darkest hours:

¹⁹Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness.

²⁰Surely my soul remembers and is bowed down within me. ²¹This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. ²²The LORD’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. ²⁴“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I have hope in Him.” ²⁵The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. ... ³¹For the Lord will not reject forever, ³²for if He causes grief, then He will have compassion according to His abundant lovingkindness. For He does not afflict willingly, or grieve the sons of men. ... ⁴⁰Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD. ...

⁵⁵I called on Thy name, O LORD, out of the lowest pit. ⁵⁶Thou hast heard my voice, “Do not hide Thine ear from my prayer for relief, from my cry for help.” ⁵⁷Thou didst draw near when I called on Thee; Thou didst say, “Do not fear!” ⁵⁸O Lord, Thou didst plead my soul’s cause; Thou hast redeemed my life.

Amen.