

1 John 1:9, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, &
Lamentation 3:22-23
Responding to God's Faithfulness

Sunday Morning
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1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, **he** [God] **is faithful** and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken [happened to] you but such as is common to man [happens to everybody]: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it [you can do what's right].*

1 Thessalonians 5:24 **Faithful is he** [God] *that calleth you, who also will do it* [sanctify you and keep your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless (from the previous verse)].

Lamentations 3:22-23 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed [destroyed], because his compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness.***

I. Introduction

- A. All of God's attributes demand and deserve a response! We should desire to please Him with our response to His faithfulness.
- B. One part of God's character (one of His attributes) is His faithfulness
 - 1. Four promise Scripture passages on God's faithfulness
 - 2. Many Christians have memorized these promises
- C. Definition of faithfulness: remaining consistently loyal and loving regardless of circumstance, cost, or challenge

II. God's Forgiveness Demands Response of Honesty (1 John 1:8-10)

A. Theme of 1 John 1

- 1. Book written to Christians
- 2. Confessing our specific sins is **not about** our salvation, but about our fellowship with Christ

B. Conditional Promise on our part

- 1. God is always faithful
- 2. Only 2 possible human responses to sin
 - a. Cover it: Try to hide it, justify it, ignore it, or say it as not as bad as somebody else's sin (unsaved always do this, Christians who do this break fellowship with God)

- b. Confess it: Say the same thing about our sins as God says about them. Confess them as many times as necessary. Don't let unconfessed sin get in between you and God.
- 3. "If...Then" (action/consequence) clauses of Christian response, verses 8-10: (*see table on the last page of these notes*) The Apostle John lays out three cases for three groups of people. They all **start with** the statement "If we..." and **end with** two consequences for our actions:
 - i. The unsaved, verse 8, will not admit they are a sinner.
 - ii. The Christian who lives to please God, verse 9, doesn't try to hide the sin God so clearly sees.
 - iii. The Christian who lives for self, verse 10, will justify himself and refuse to respond when he knows God's Word clearly describes his actions as sin.

C. Be honest with yourself about your sin

- 1. Don't do these actions
 - a. Compare yourself to others
 - b. Confuse what the Bible describes as sin with some psychological shortcoming
 - c. Compromise
- 2. But rather confess

Proverbs 28:13 *He that covereth [hides] his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*

D. Christian response to sin

- 1. See it like God does
 - a. Yesterday if refusing to admit to sin (no fellowship with God)
1 John 1:10 *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*
 - b. Today currently if refusing to admit sin (unsaved)
1 John 1:8 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
 - c. Confession is agreeing with God
- 2. Say specific sin to God
- 3. Simply believe God's faithfulness & He will forgive it
 - a. God forgives the sin
 - b. God cleanses us from all unrighteousness in that prayer to Him

The Action/Consequence statements of 1 John 1:8 - 10

	Verse	"If we..." Text	1 st "Consequence	2nd Consequence
i	1John1:8	<i>say that we have no sin</i>	<i>we deceive ourselves</i>	<i>the truth is not in us</i>
ii	1John1:9	<i>confess our sins</i>	<i>he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins</i>	<i>he [God] is faithful and just to cleanse us from all unrighteousness</i>
iii	1John1:10	<i>say that we have not sinned</i>	<i>we make him [God] a liar</i>	<i>his [God's] word is not in us</i>

III. God's Escape from Temptation Demands Humility (1 Corinthians 10:11-14)

A. Be humble enough to:

1. Acknowledge there is no difference between you and others

- a. You are not unique in your experience of trials
- b. Old Testament saints also had similar trials as us and serve as our example

1 Corinthians 10:11 *Now all these things happened unto them [people in the Old Testament] for ensamples [examples]: and they are written for our admonition [so we can learn from their mistakes], upon whom the ends of the world are come [because we are living at the end of the age].*

2. Admit you can't defeat sin on your own

- a. You need humility to admit that you need help
- b. Pride will not help you overcome a trail or temptation

1 Corinthians 10:12 - 13 *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall [If you think you can resist temptation in your own strength you are in danger of falling]. ¹³There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man [other people have been tempted this way]: but God is faithful, who will not suffer [allow] you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it [you can do what's right].*

3. Ask for your escape & take your step of faith humbly

Psalm 34:6 *This poor man [the man in need of mercy] cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*

B. Christian response to run away from idolatry (anything that takes the place of God in your life)

1 Corinthians 10:14 *Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

C. God is faithful to limit the trial or temptation to be within your ability to overcome it

IV. God's Calling Demands Hope in the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

A. Context of preceding verses

1 Thessalonians 5:16-23 *Rejoice evermore. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. ¹⁹Quench not [Don't extinguish your relationship with] the Spirit. ²⁰Despise not prophesying [Listen when God's Word is shown to you]. ²¹Prove [test] all things; hold fast that which is good. ²²Abstain from all appearance of evil. ²³And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. The first six verses instruct us in Christian living
2. The last verse is a benediction for Christian living

B. Your hope in the Lord during a difficult time will produce

1. Security and protection

Isaiah 41:10 *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed [worried about what will happen]; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness*

2. Strength and power

Joshua 1:9 *Have not I [God] commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed [worried about what will happen]: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest [with you wherever you go].*

3. Satisfaction and peace

Psalms 27:13-14 *I had fainted [I would have lost heart], unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

C. God is faithful in His call for Christian living, and He also will work in each Christian's life

V. Conclusion

A. Lamentations is a depressing book (except for 3:21 – 24). Lamentation was Jeremiah talking with God about the horrible situation His people were in because of the choices they had made in the past.

B. Our response should have:

1. Honesty remembering my past

Lamentations 3:19 [My strength and hope were gone] *Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall* [bitterness and poison].

2. Humility remembering my experiences

Lamentations 3:20 *My soul hath them* [my strength and hope] *still in remembrance, and is humbled in me* [I grieve about my loss].

3. Hope in God's faithfulness, mercies, & compassions

Lamentations 3:21-24 *This I recall to my mind* [I remember this about the LORD], *therefore have I hope.* ²²*It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed* [destroyed], *because his compassions fail not.* ²³*They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.* ²⁴*The LORD is my portion* [Whatever the LORD gives me is enough], *saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.*

4. God will restore His people (even though they don't deserve it) because of His mercies

Lamentations 3:31-32 *For the Lord will not cast off for ever* [The Lord's discipline will end sometime]: ³²*But though he cause grief* [the punishment is severe], *yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.*