

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-  
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** I Thessalonians 5:23-24 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*”

**Quote:** “Christ’s faithfulness is not dependent on our faithfulness, because He cannot act contrary to His own nature.” D.A. Carson The capstone of God’s faithfulness is found in the Person and work of His Son. [Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; 11:4-5; Matthew 1:21; John 17:3, 24; I John 3:8; Revelation 17:14]

**S**ustaining faith rests in God’s faithfulness to His promises and to His purposes. He is always true to His character and will finish the work that He has begun in all whom He has called to Christ. “Now may the God of peace Himself *sanctify you completely*, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be *preserved blameless* at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*”<sup>1</sup>

God is faithful to sustain and sanctify the tried and the tested believer. As He did with Israel, God has promised, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”<sup>2</sup> Like a master conductor, He faithfully orchestrates every detail to conform His people to the likeness of Christ. “And we know that *all things work together for good* to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”<sup>3</sup> Even in the midst of trials, we can be confident that He brings about our circumstances as part of His providence for our good and His glory.<sup>4</sup> Peter writes, “Let those who suffer *according to the will of God* commit their souls to Him in doing good, *as to a faithful Creator.*”<sup>5</sup> Paul testified that God’s purpose behind his “thorn in the flesh,” or “messenger from Satan to buffet” him, was to sanctify him by keeping him humble, dependent and empowered by God’s grace.<sup>6</sup>

God is faithful to chasten the wayward believer. David

wrote, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that *in faithfulness* You have afflicted me.”<sup>7</sup> The writer of Hebrews reminds us, “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For *whom the LORD loves He chastens*, And scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”<sup>8</sup>

God is faithful to rescue the tempted believer. In preserving us, God will also faithfully provide the means of victory over temptation as we look to Him. “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but *God is faithful*, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”<sup>9</sup> “*The Lord is faithful*, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”<sup>10</sup>

## God is Faithful!

God is faithful to forgive the repentant believer.<sup>11</sup> Even when our faith falters, and we make sinful choices, “*He is faithful* and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”<sup>12</sup> He has promised, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”<sup>13</sup>

God is faithful to provide for and to protect the obedience believer.<sup>14</sup> Truly we can sing with the hymn writer, “Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!”<sup>15</sup>

1 I Thessalonians 5:23-24 2 Hebrews 13:5; Isaiah 43:1-2 3 Romans 8:28-32 4 Acts 9:16; John 9:3; 11:4 5 James 1:2-4; I Peter 1:5-8; 4:16-19 6 II Corinthians 12:7-10; 7 Psalm 119:67, 71, 75 8 Hebrews 12:5-8 9 I Corinthians 10:13 10 II Thessalonians 3:3 11 Romans 2:5-11 12 I John 1:9 13 Isaiah 1:18 14 Job 1:10; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:13 15 Thomas Chisholm; Philippians 4:19; Job 1:10; Lamentations 3:22-23