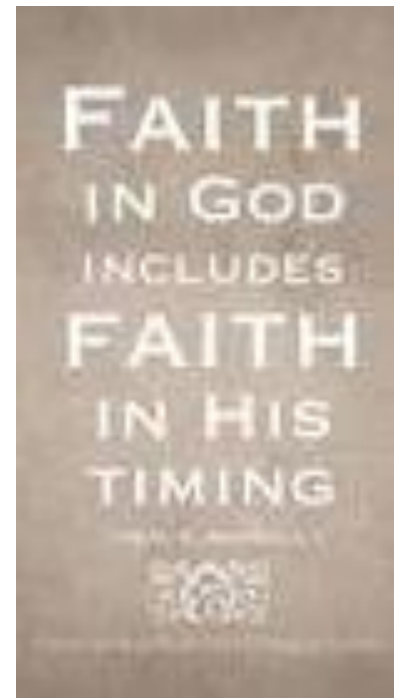


GOD'S FAITHFULNESS



This year we again saw the faithfulness of God in our carols by candlelight event

- That we had fine weather on the day of the carols after several days of torrential rain
- At the last moment having 750 battery operated candles donated for the event by Battery World
- The availability of the food van and many helpers to cater for the crowd
- God providing the finances to meet ALL expenses, and
- Having several anointed singers who helped to minister into the lives of those who came



- As we look forward to 2019 how important it is that we live our lives based on God's faithfulness
- It is so important that we are also prepared to embrace the new things that God has planned for our lives and church in 2019

In the book of Isaiah we read,

**“Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a
new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not
know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:18-19)**



- God's blessings in our lives are given by Him
- **We see this clearly in the book Haggai where God chooses to bless His own people**

“Is the seed still in the barn? As yet the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have not yielded *fruit*. But from this day I will bless you.’ ”
(Haggai 2:19)



- **Walking in simple obedience to God's will for our life is a great key to experiencing God's blessings and favour upon our life**

**In the book of Isaiah we read,
“If you are willing and obedient,
You shall eat the good of the land.”
(Isaiah 1:19)**



**Jesus Himself said,
“More than that, blessed are those who hear
the word of God and keep it!” (Luke 11:28)**

**For this reason knowing and following the will
of God for our lives in 2019 is crucial if we are
to see God’s continual favour upon our lives**

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)



- There is no better place than walking in the will of God for our lives. In His will we see God's provision, doors opening that no man can close and God making *all* the connections that we need to fulfil His plan for our life

- May I encourage you today to wholeheartedly follow God's plan for your life in 2019
- We all as believers have an important and unique ministry. We all need one another in the Body of Christ



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand *that we should walk in them.*” (Ephesians 2:10)

Just believe that your life can make a great difference in the lives of many in 2019 as you flow in God's plan for your life

In the book of Ecclesiastes we read,
“For *God* gives wisdom and knowledge
and joy to a man who *is* good in His sight; but
to the sinner He gives the work of gathering
and collecting, that he may give to him who
is good before God. This also *is* vanity and
grasping for the wind.”
(Ecclesiastes 2:26)



**There is a great blessing in walking in simple
humble obedience to God's will for our life**

- **The bible is full of Scriptures that reveal the faithfulness of God**

In the book of Lamentations we read,

*“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.*

They are new every morning;

Great is Your faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,

“Therefore I hope in Him!”

*The LORD is good to those who wait
for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.”*

(Lamentations 3:22-25)



King David wrote,

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” **(Psalm 37:3-5)**



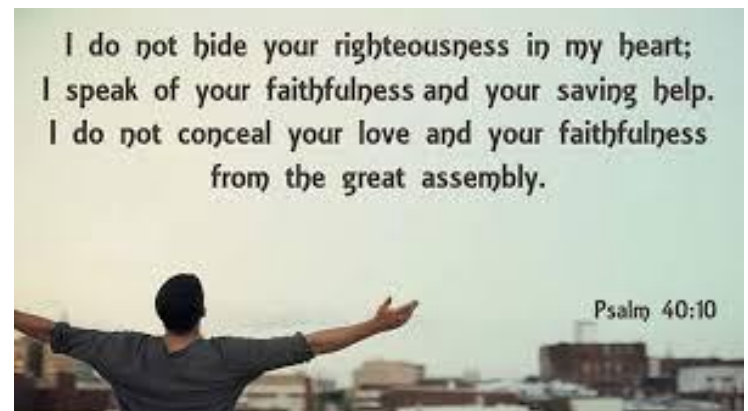
King David, who knew God intimately, also wrote,

“I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart;

I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth

**From the great assembly.”
(Psalm 40:10)**



- Today I will be looking at a number of aspects of God's faithfulness that can give us hope and encouragement at all times



1) That God will never leave nor forsake us when we have committed our lives to Him

In the book of Hebrews we read,

**“...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What
can man do to me?” (Hebrew 13:5-6)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Romans 8:38-39)**



Though others at times will reject and even abandon us, we can be assured that God never will. We are secure in His love

2) That God is always both willing and able to deliver us when we encounter trials and tribulations in life.

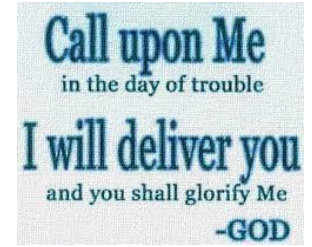


- As Christians we will invariably experience trials and challenges because of our faith but we can depend on God's faithfulness
- God will always see us through the storms of life

King David wrote,

*"Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all."*

(Psalm 34:19)



The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

The Apostle Paul knew God’s proven ability and faithfulness to deliver him from troubles in life

3) That God comforts us during the trials that we experience in life

- God is always *available to comfort us* when we experience disappointments and setbacks in life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.” **(2 Corinthians 1:3-5)**



The Psalmist wrote,

**“God *is* our refuge and strength,
A^[a] very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)**



4) God's ongoing protection over our lives

King David wrote, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me;

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil;

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

And I will [\[a\]](#)dwell in the house of the LORD [\[b\]](#)Forever.” **(Psalm 23:4-6)**



Jesus Himself said,

**“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?
*And not one of them falls to the ground apart
from your Father’s will.” (Matthew 10:29)***

**“Do not fear therefore; you are of
more value than many sparrows.”
(Matthew 10:31)**



- Nothing can ever happen to us apart from the will of God for our life when Jesus is truly Lord of our life. God is sovereign in the affairs of this world. God is able to protect us from harm

5) God promises to continually meet our every need in life when we put Him and the things of the Kingdom first in our life

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19)**



Jesus Himself said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**



“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” **(Matthew 6:34)**

6) That God promises to direct our steps in life if we let Him lead

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**



King David wrote,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

(Psalm 37:23-24)



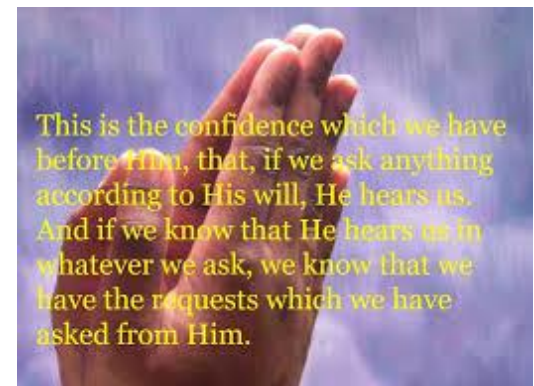
- **If we continually put Christ first in our life and allow Him to lead we can be assured that God will direct our steps in life**

7) God's willingness and ability to answer our prayers that are in line with His will for our life

The Apostle John wrote,

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

(1 John 5:14-15)



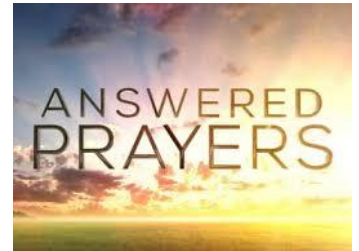
Jesus Himself said,

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.” **(Mark 11:22-24)**



- God is never limited by our ability but simply by our availability and lack of faith in believing in His power to do great things in and through our lives.
- We have a God who answers prayers



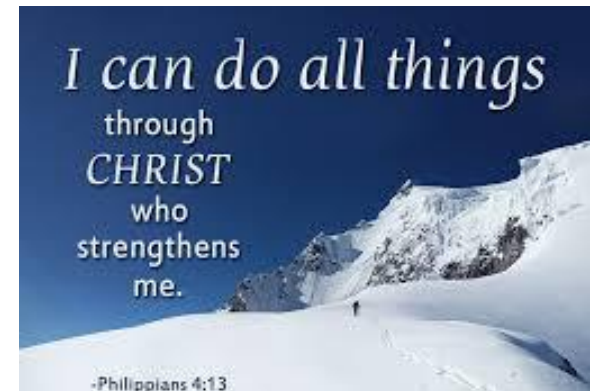
Jesus also said in relation to prayer,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works that these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I WILL DO IT.”

(John 14:12-14)

8) God's enabling power in our lives as believers

- God will anoint and empower us to do all that He calls us to do in life. We do not have to depend on our own ability and strength

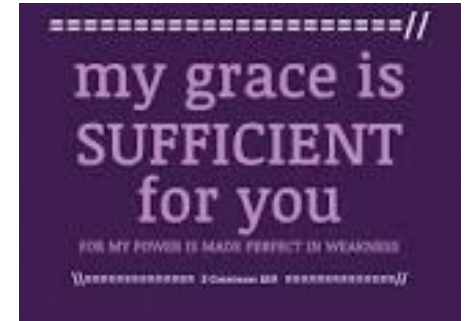


The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

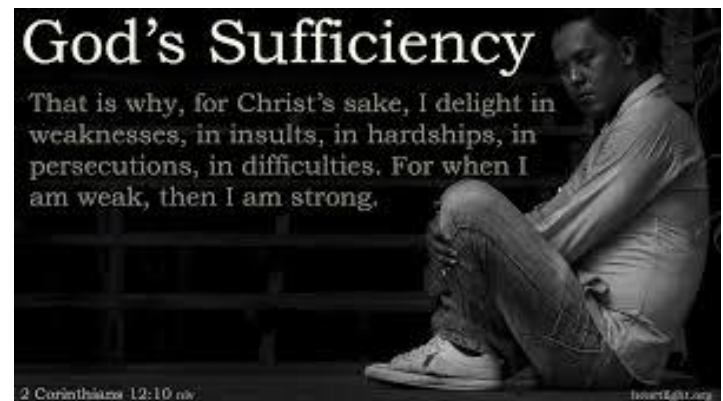
The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to [\[a\]](#) buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” **(1 Corinthians 12:7-9)**



“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” **(2 Corinthians 12:10)**

- **God’s strength is made perfect in our weakness**



9) God promises to help us to fulfil His plan for our life if we simply remain faithful to following His plan for our life



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

(Philippians 1:6)



Again we read the words of King David in Psalm 37

“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

AND



10) That one day as believers we have a guaranteed future eternal home with Jesus

Jesus Himself said,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)



So as believers not only do we have a present hope and future in all of life's complexities but also a future hope beyond the grave

Jesus also said,

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” **(John 14:1-3)**

- **For believers to be absent from the body is to be with Jesus**



So in conclusion:

- May I encourage you to continually trust in God's faithfulness. We can depend upon Him at all times
- That you would frame your future based on God's incredible faithfulness towards us, and
- That you would fully entrust your plans to God in 2019 and live for Him so that your life will make a great difference in the lives of many in the coming year
- What a wonderful and faithful God we serve

