

Julie Kauflin
FAITHFUL IN EVERY SEASON

I. Introduction

II. Remember Who God is...

"His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'" - Daniel 4:34-35

A. God is all powerful...

*Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.
- Jeremiah 32:17*

B. God is all knowing...

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it all together.
- Psalm 139:1-4*

C. God is faithful, steadfast and good...

For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord! - Psalm 117:2

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- Lamentations 3:22*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
- Psalm 23:6*

D. God is compassionate...

...casting all your anxieties on him, because He cares for you.
- 1 Peter 5:7

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is an everlasting rock. - Isaiah 26:3-4

III. Remember God's Past Faithfulness...

A. Always begin with the gospel.

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" - Romans 8:32

B. Trace His hand of providence.

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. - Psalm 89:1

*"Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable?
Has His steadfast love forever ceased?
Are His promises at an end for all time?
Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has He in anger shut up His compassion?
Then I said, "I will appeal to this,
to the years of the right hand of the most high"
I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds.*
- Psalm 77:7-13

C. Recount His hand of providence in situations.

D. Write down all the ways that God is showing Himself faithful during the trials.

IV. Remember God's Promises of Future Grace...

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. - Jeremiah 29:11

"How is it imaginable that God should withhold, after this, spiritual blessings or temporal blessings from His people? How shall He not call them effectually, justify them freely, sanctify them thoroughly, and glorify them eternally? How shall He not clothe them, feed them, protect and deliver them? Surely if He would not spare His own Son one stroke, one tear, one groan, one sigh, one circumstance or misery, it can never be imagined that ever He should, after this, deny or withhold from his people, for those sakes all this was suffered, any mercies, any comforts, any privilege, spiritual or temporal, which is good for them." - John Flavel

- A. God has promised to give us grace for every situation.

"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:8

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." - 1 Corinthians 10:13

- B. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us.

"for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."" (Hebrews 13:5, ESV)

- C. He has promised to use every situation to bring about growth in our lives.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4

- D. How does God accomplish his purpose in our lives?

"Not by shielding us from assault by the world, the flesh, and the devil, nor by protecting us from burdensome and frustrating circumstances, nor yet by shielding us from troubles created by our own temperament and

psychology, but rather by exposing us to all these things so as to overwhelm us with a sense of our own inadequacy and to drive us to cling to him more closely. This is the ultimate reason, from our standpoint, why God fills our lives with troubles and perplexities of one sort and another: it is to insure that we shall learn to hold him fast.” - J.I. Packer

“Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah” - Psalm 62:8

V. Practical Steps

- A. Identify specific areas where we are failing to trust God.
 - 1. Big areas (marriage, children, provision)
 - 2. Little areas (comparison, appearance, gifting)

- B. Be vigilant to maintain the spiritual disciplines, (prayer, Bible study, meditation) Recommended books:
 - 1. *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Its Cures, Faith on Trial* – Martyn Lloyd-Jones
 - 2. *Knowing God* - JI Packer
 - 3. *Trusting God* - Jerry Bridges
 - 4. *Holding on To Hope, Hearing Jesus Speak into our Sorrow, Be Still my Soul* – Nancy Guthrie
 - 5. *Streams in the Desert* – L.B. Cowman
 - 6. *Morning and Evening* – CH Spurgeon
 - 7. *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering* - Tim Keller
 - 8. *Suffering: Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense* - Paul Tripp
 - 9. Anything written by Joni Earickson Tada

- C. Engage others to help you in the process.
 - 1. Husband
 - 2. Other women
 - 3. Older children
 - 4. Friends

- D. Confess your unbelief to others.

“Faith is a refusal to panic, come what may. Whatever your circumstances at this moment, bring all you know to be true of

your relationship to God to bear upon it. Then you will know full well that He will never allow anything to happen to you that is harmful. 'All things work together for good to them that love God.' He loves you with an everlasting love. I do not suggest that you will be able to understand everything that is happening. You may not have a full explanation of it; but you will know for certain that *God is not unconcerned. That is impossible.* The One who has done the greatest thing of all for you, must be concerned about you in everything, and though the clouds are thick and you cannot see His face, you know *He is there.*" - Martyn-Lloyd Jones, *Spiritual Depression*

E. Embrace waiting.

F. Rejoice.

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the field yields no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. - Habakkuk 3:17-18

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." - Revelation 21:4