

## God Is Faithful

**No matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20-21).**

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 1:16-24

**Song:** “Yes, and Amen”

Willie Sumlar started his job for the Essex County government in Newark, New Jersey, on August 12, 1957. For 62 consecutive years, Sumlar worked in the maintenance department without missing a day. He was awarded a plaque by the Essex County government upon his retirement in 2019. “You know me. I complete the day,” he told those at the party on his last day.

Willie Sumlar completed what he started. That’s a trait we admire. We want to be able to count on things and people. Paul reminded the Corinthians that God is like that. He’s faithful.

All of us wrestle with the uncertainties of this life. Political and cultural strife are common. Technology is rapidly changing the way we do things. It feels, at times, as though nothing is certain. But in the swirling waves of uncertainty, we can find an anchor. God is faithful. He keeps His promises. Our lives are not built on the shifting sands of culture, because God makes us stand firm in Christ. We don’t have to be afraid.

**Father,** thank You for Your faithfulness to me and the many ways You demonstrate it. I will trust You. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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August 26–30. **Bill Thomas** lives in Moberly, Missouri. He works in a local church and at a Christian Bible college.

## God's Promise

**[God said to Abraham,] “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:3).**

**Scripture:** Genesis 12:1-9

**Song:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

A promise is a promise. Perhaps no secular story demonstrates this like the Greek legend of Damon and Pythias. King Dionysius was angry at Pythias, so the tyrannical monarch imprisoned him and set a day for his execution. Pythias longed to see his family before he died, and he petitioned the king. Dionysius agreed to let him do so on one condition: that Damon, Pythias's friend, be held and even die in Pythias's place if he did not return by his execution date. Pythias kept his promise and returned. The king was so moved by their friendship that he let both men live.

A promise kept makes a difference. It did in the legendary friendship of Damon and Pythias, and it did for Abraham and his descendants. God promised to make Abraham into a great nation through which all nations would be blessed.

God kept His word to Abraham, and He will keep His promises to us. We don't have to go through difficult times alone. Jesus has promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). When we're tired and think we can't go another step, the Lord promises to give rest to all who are weary and burdened (11:28). When we feel attacked, we can know that God is for us (Romans 8:31). We can depend on God's promises!

**Father,** thank You for the peace You provide through Your promises. In Jesus' name, amen.

## God Is Just

**Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had (Genesis 12:20).**

**Scripture:** Genesis 12:10-20

**Song:** “Holy, Holy, Holy”

The 2019 movie *Just Mercy* chronicles the true story of Walter McMillan (1941–2013), who was wrongfully accused of a 1986 murder in Alabama. Though innocent of the crime, McMillan was found guilty and sentenced to death. Attorney Bryan Stevenson took McMillan’s case and was able to exonerate him. With justice finally obtained, McMillan walked out of death row a free man.

The world we live in is often unjust. Yet we can remember that right and wrong matter not only to us but also to God. As God’s people, we long for justice, knowing that God calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). Abram enjoyed God’s blessing, but facing a problem, he fled to Egypt. Fearing for his life, he lied about his relationship with Sarai. Pharaoh and Abram were fine with the lie, but God was not.

God is just and is never going to be OK with injustice or deception. There are times when we find ourselves dealing with injustice or untangling a web of deceit. It can be frustrating and discouraging. Though despair and discouragement are easy responses, we mustn’t give up hope. God will not let evil triumph. We can trust in God’s character and nature. The day will come when His truth and righteousness will reign.

**Father**, in these challenging times, help me remember that You are just and You will not allow evil to triumph. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## God Provides

**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want (Philippians 4:12).**

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:10-19

**Song:** “Be Thou My Vision”

One of Aesop’s fables is called “The Dog and His Shadow.” It’s the story of a dog that is given a slab of meat from the butcher. As the dog walks home carrying the meat in his mouth, he comes across a stream of water. As he crosses the bridge, he stops and looks into the water. Seeing his reflection, he thinks it’s another dog with another slab of meat. Wanting that slab too, he snaps at the shadow in the water, only to drop the slab he’d been holding. Not being content with what he had led to him losing it all.

The apostle Paul knew the secret of contentment. It’s important for us to know it as well. Not being content with what we have can lead to all kinds of problems. Jealousy and resentment accompany discontentment, and these rob us of the enjoyment of God’s provisions, including the joy of salvation.

Whether times are good or tough, God provides. Whether the bank account is large or small, God supplies what we need. Whether life is smooth sailing or challenging, God sees us through. God gives us what we need. Contentment doesn’t come from what we have in this life. It comes from deepening our trust in the Lord.

**Father,** thank You for supplying all my needs. Help me be content in Your provision. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## Complete in Christ

**As you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. . . . In Christ you have been brought to fullness** (Colossians 2:6-7, 10).

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:6-12

**Song:** “Christ Is Enough”

In 1982 the song “Wind Beneath My Wings” was written by Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley. The song has been sung by over 200 artists and was made famous when Bette Midler sang it in the 1989 movie *Beaches*. The lyrics to the song were inspired by a poem Henley wrote. Its message honors those in our lives who have quietly provided vital support, helping us do and be more than we could on our own.

Has anyone done more for us than Jesus? Only when we give ourselves fully to Him do we become what He created us to be. He is greater than all things and is all we need for a purposeful life here and for eternal life beyond.

Life can be tough. Sometimes we deal with gut-wrenching events that leave us wondering whether our lives have any meaning. We get disappointed and ponder our purpose. The things of this world can erode our confidence and steal our joy. Our relationship with Jesus is what makes us whole. Meaningful life is found in walking with Jesus. He alone provides security, strength, and confidence. He is our constant support, bringing us to fullness in Him.

**Father**, thank You for Jesus and the wholeness He brings to my life. When everything else falls away, He remains. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## The Lord Is My Refuge

**LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure** (Psalm 16:5).

**Scripture:** Psalm 16

**Song:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

The story of “The Three Little Pigs” has been passed down through the years. It tells of three pigs, each of whom built his house in the woods. One house was made of straw. Another was made of sticks. And a third was built of brick. When the big, bad wolf came, he was able to blow down the first two houses, causing the little pigs inhabiting them to flee to the third house. Try as he might, the wolf could not huff, puff, and blow down the brick house. The pigs were safe inside.

Though we are not chased by a big, bad wolf, life can be dangerous. There are all kinds of things that threaten to bring down what we’ve built for ourselves. We need an unassailable shelter where we are safe, no matter what.

We have such a refuge in the Lord. Sometimes the world can become harsh, even cruel. When that happens, we are often left shaken and feeling insecure. There are times when we may begin to doubt God and even be tempted to abandon our faith and take up with the world. In those challenging moments, we must know where to run. The Lord loves us, cares for us, and provides for us. We find safety, security, and eternal peace in His presence.

**Father,** thank You for being there for me when things get hard. I will turn to You today. In Jesus’ name, amen.