

OUR EVER FAITHFUL GOD

(1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

We worship and trust an ever faithful and loyal God who lovingly cares for His people (Exo. 34:6; Deut. 7:9; Psalm 117:1-2; Heb. 10:23). God's faithfulness is His divine character which points to God's absolute trustworthiness and complete reliability at all times. God is ever faithful because He is always true to His Word; He always fulfills what He promises; and He always does what He says. Reflecting from Paul's exhortation to the believers in Corinth, let's consider three manifestations of God's faithfulness.

1. God is faithful in _____ us as His people.

In verses 1 to 4, the Apostle Paul identifies five particular blessings that the people of Israel enjoyed as God graciously rescued them from their 400 years of captivity in Egypt and led them through the wilderness into the Promised Land. God faithfully blessed them with His divine guidance (1 Cor. 10:1; Exod. 13:21); His divine deliverance (1 Cor. 10:1; Exod. 14:15-31); His divine leadership (1 Cor. 10:2); His divine sustenance (1 Cor. 10:3-4; Exod. 16:15; 17:6) and the divine presence of Christ (1 Cor. 10:4). We, who are God's people, by virtue of our union with Christ are also on the receiving end of God's extravagant blessings (Psalm 23:1; 2 Pet. 1:3; Phil. 4:19).

2. God is faithful in _____ us about the danger of sin.

Spiritual downfalls may occur even during times of blessings as what happened to the people of Israel. While they were enjoying the gracious blessings of God in the wilderness, they abused the goodness of God and even rebelled against Him (1 Cor. 10:5-6). In verses 7 to 11, Paul recounts four besetting sins of Israel which he qualifies as desiring evil. The Israelites committed the sin of idolatry (1 Cor. 10:7; Exod. 32); the sin of sexual immorality (1 Cor. 10:8; Num. 25:1-2); the sin of putting the Lord to the test (1 Cor. 10:9; Num. 21); and the sin of grumbling (1 Cor. 10:10; Num. 16). God is so much concerned about our spiritual welfare that He gives us this sober admonition through His servant Paul: "*So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall*" (1 Cor. 10:12). The danger is not falling from salvation but of falling from holiness and usefulness in service. The danger that God warns us against is falling into sin to the point that we will provoke the chastening of God and lose our rewards in heaven.

3. God is faithful in _____ us with His enduring grace.

In verse 13, the Apostle Paul offers a threefold encouragement. First, our temptations and trials are not worse than other people's. In the words of Paul, "*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.*" (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 2:18; 4:15; 5:2). Second, our God is faithful and He will not let us to be tempted beyond our ability. Third, God always provides a way of escape that we may be able to endure our temptations and trials. In Christ and by His enduring grace, we are all overcomers (Rom. 8:37).
