

Faithfulness

Welcome to this time of Quiet Reflection. Take your time reading to yourself (or out loud) some or all of these bible passages, and then pausing for a few minutes after any that you wish to reflect on.

The Taizé chants between readings can be sung in your head as often as you like, or out loud, or listened to from these links, pausing as you wish:

Bless the Lord my soul - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

Nothing can trouble - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRsxU_3-fpk

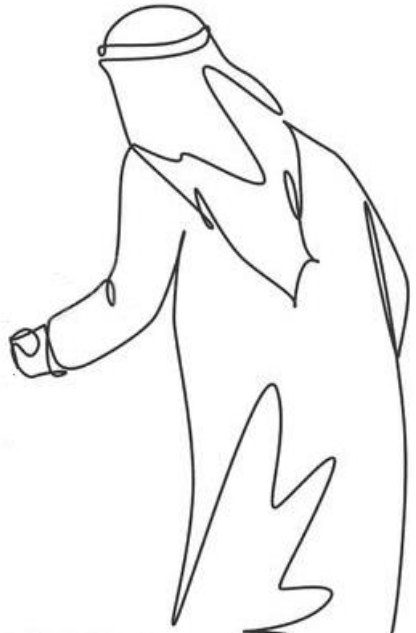
O Lord hear my prayer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nCy2j07ECM>

Beginning

*Nothing can trouble,
nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God
shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble,
nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.*

Genesis 24.22-32

Abraham's servant bowed his head and worshipped the Lord and said, 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness towards my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the way to the house of my master's kin.'



Exodus 34.1-11

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with Moses there, and proclaimed the name, 'The Lord.' The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed,

'The Lord, the Lord,
a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and
faithfulness,
keeping steadfast love for the thousandth
generation,
forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.'



Leviticus 25.18

You shall observe my statutes and faithfully keep my ordinances, so that you may live on the land securely.

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Leviticus 16

If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall overtake the vintage, and the vintage shall overtake the sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and live securely in your land. And I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and no one shall make you afraid.

Deuteronomy 32.4

The Rock, his work is perfect,
and all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without deceit,
just and upright is he.

1 Samuel 12.24

Only fear the Lord, and serve him faithfully with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you.

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Samuel 22.14

Then Ahimelech answered Saul, the king, 'Who among all your servants is so faithful as David? He is the king's son-in-law, and is quick to do your bidding, and is honoured in your house.'

2 Chronicles 29.6

For our ancestors have been unfaithful and have done what was evil in the sight of the Lord our God; they have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the dwelling of the Lord, and turned their backs.

2 Chronicles 31.18

The priests were enrolled with all their little children, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, the whole multitude; for they were faithful in keeping themselves holy.

2 Chronicles 36.14

All the leading priests and the people also were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord that he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 9.33

You have been just in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honour suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;

the Lord hears when I call to him.

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Psalm 30.4

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

Psalm 33.4

For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

Psalm 36

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,



your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Zechariah 8.8

They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Ecclesiasticus 6

Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter:
whoever finds one has found a treasure.
Faithful friends are beyond price;
no amount can balance their worth.
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;
and those who fear the Lord will find them.

Ecclesiasticus 39.24

To the faithful his ways are straight,
but full of pitfalls for the wicked.

*Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God's holy name.
Bless, the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.*

Matthew 8.5-13

When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible distress.' And he said to him, 'I will come and cure him.' The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.



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Mark 10.46-10.52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him,

'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Acts of the Apostles 16.13-15

On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

1 Corinthians 1.9

God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 5.22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things

1 Thessalonians 5.27-28

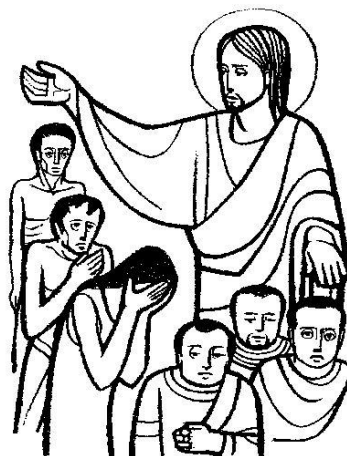
May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

2 Timothy 2.13

if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

1 John 1.9

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



1 Corinthians 16.13-14

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

Passage to be read slowly – explore what resonates with your feelings

Psalm 40

Thanksgiving for Deliverance and Prayer for Help

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.

Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.
Then I said, 'Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.'

I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O Lord.

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

Do not, O Lord, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe for ever.

For evils have encompassed me
without number;
my iniquities have overtaken me,
until I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
Let all those be put to shame and confusion
who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonour
who desire my hurt.
Let those be appalled because of their shame
who say to me, 'Aha, Aha!'

But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, 'Great is the Lord!'

As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God.

Time for Silent Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer.
O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer.
O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

O Lord hear my prayer.
O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.
O Lord hear my prayer.
O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.

Hymn – Great is thy faithfulness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfH5k>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

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!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father,
give us patient faith in times of darkness,
and strength to meet any troubles in the days to come.
May we may ever draw closer to you,
and find strength within the shelter of your love.
Amen.