

Worth Celebrating // 25th Celebration

Introduction:
This week Matt provides a stand alone message for the **25th Anniversary Celebration at** Grace Community Church. This message is titled '**The Faithfulness of God**'.

It is amazing that this weekend we are celebrating 25 years at Grace! We have been through a lot together here at Grace, but through all the highs and the lows we can always count on the **Faithfulness of God**.

Questions:

1. What does it mean to you when Matt says ' The last 25 years at Grace is all about the faithfulness of God'? How has God been faithful to us at Grace?

2. How would you define God's faithfulness? Why is the verse from Lamentations interesting when you consider the circumstances of the author when it was written? **Lamentations 3:22**

3. Where does God's faithfulness flow from? If God's faithfulness is rooted in two things, how can you know that it's rooted in Love? What does the Hebrew word ‘hessed’ mean to God’s faithfulness? Do you agree that you need both love and faithfulness to build a life on? Do you know that His faithfulness is His love expressed?

4. Why can't you understand Love starting with human beings? Why did Matt say that our love is completely backwards, and a bad definition of love? If you want to

understand love, why do you need to look to Jesus? How has Jesus demonstrated His love for you? **1 John 4:10; John 3:16-17; Romans 5:8-10**

5. If it's true that God's faithfulness is rooted in two things, how can you know that it's rooted in Mercy? Why do you need mercy? Why is it important that Jesus saved you in spite of yourself? What was your situation before you were saved? Why does your original nature deserve God's wrath?

6. What did Matt give as the definition of mercy? Would you agree that we need mercy because we're driven by our stomachs, that we eat first and ask questions later? What provides you with the evidence to know that God is for you and not against you? Why can you know that you can trust Him, even when things don't work out how you thought or how you prayed they would? Do you know that Jesus knew you when He saved you, He knew what He was buying? **Ephesians 2:4-5**

7. What's the danger of thinking that it's your faithfulness that makes Christianity work? Why did Matt say that your faith is like a rope? Do you believe that your faith can hold the weight of your life? If it's not your faith, what is it that holds all the power? What is the promise of the gospel? **2 Timothy 2:13**

Key takeaway*: This isn't about our faithfulness, this is all about the faithfulness of our great God. He's been so, so good to us. He was faithful then, He will be faithful now. And He will be faithful in the future, because He cannot deny Himself. Great is Your Faithfulness to me!*

Summary:

- The last 25 years at Grace is all about the faithfulness of God
- Faithfulness is God's unwavering reliability to be who He says He is and to do what He has promised, regardless of human failure or circumstance
- His faithfulness is rooted in Love
- You can't understand Love starting with human beings
- His faithfulness is rooted in Mercy
- Mercy is not getting what we deserve

- We must always keep before us that it is God’s faithfulness, not ours that makes Christianity work; the promise of the gospel is God’s presence