

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for September 24, 2023

Sermon Notes

When Our Faith Fails, God's Faithfulness Doesn't
1 Samuel 27 & 29 (pew Bible pgs. 249-250 & 251)

All of us, from the new believer to the mature saint, have times of spiritual testing that try and test our faith. We often fail those tests. Our failures and unfaithfulness are met by God's mercy. Even in the situations where it seems God is absent (God is not mentioned in 1 Samuel 27, and only once in chapter 29 by a pagan king), God's invisible hand is moving to uphold his purposes and his people. As Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:13, *if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.*

When our faith fails, we tend to look to the world for security (1 Samuel 27:1-7)

When faith fails, we often act like the world for its approval (1 Samuel 27:8-12)

When our faith fails, God is still faithful to sovereignly fulfill
his purposes and plans. (1 Samuel 29)

Applications:

Be aware: When our faith fails, God's faithfulness doesn't – but still there are consequences to our decisions.

Be thankful: When our faith fails, God is always faithful to his own purposes, his plans and his people.

Be assured: Even if we can't see or comprehend this reality, be assured that *"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.* (Proverbs 21:1)

Be confident: Only David's greater son – the Lord Jesus Christ – is fully and eternally faithful.

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
Coordinator
Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

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SEPTEMBER

29 Person vs. S. Alamance @ 7pm
HOMECOMING

30 WBC Women's Conference, 8am-1:30pm

OCTOBER

6 Person @ Orange @ 7pm

10-11 Mom 2 Mom Drop Off (FLC)

13 Person vs. E. Alamance @ 7pm

13 & 14 Mom 2 Mom Fall Consignment Sale

13-15 Trail Life Campout @ Grandfather Mtn

20 Person @ W. Alamance @ 7pm

20 & 21 AHG Campout

20 & 21 Trail Life @ NC Fall Junction