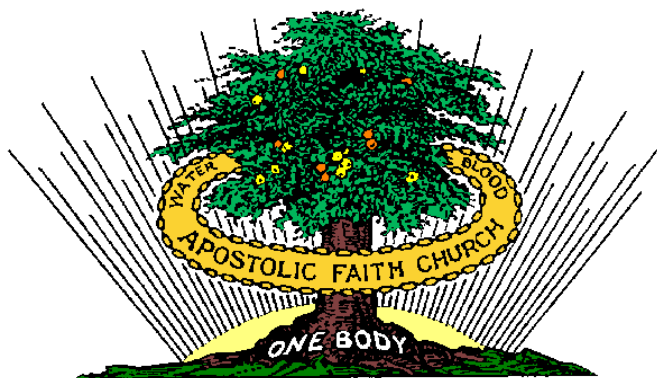


Apostolic Faith Church
66 Muscliffe Road,
Winton,
Bournemouth,
Dorset
BH9 1NW



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No. 5523 19/3/26

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The Faithfulness of God in Trying Times

God never begins a story only to abandon it halfway. What God starts, He sustains, and He fulfills His promises to His people, and the scriptures say He watches over His Word to Perform it (Jeremiah 1:12, NASB). Philippians 1:6 declares: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

There are moments in the life of the Church when the people of God have gone through challenging situations; moments when the future has felt uncertain; moments when the people of God quietly ask, "What is God doing now... What is God saying now? Such seasons are not new. Throughout history, the people of God have faced these moments, and walked through similar situations. But the Lord God has always come through and given His people great victories through wondrous miracles.

And it is precisely in the moments of trials and pain; in the seasons of dryness and testing, that God arises with a powerful command: Remember the wonders I have done for you, the great miracles I have performed for your deliverance, the victory in the times of trying. The scripture declares in the book of Psalm 105:5: "Remember the wonders He has done." Because when the people of God forget what God has already done, faith begins to weaken. But when God's people remember the works of the Lord and the faithfulness of God, their hope begins to rise again.

The nation of Israel did not survive merely because of military strength or human leadership. Israel survived because it carried a living spiritual memory of God's wondrous works. They remembered the day the red sea was separated to make a way where there was no way; the day manna fell from the heavens, the day God defeated impossible enemies, and the day water flowed from a rock.

Every miracle became evidence of God's faithfulness, which is why God repeatedly commanded them: "Tell your children what I have done." Because the faith of the next generation would be built upon the memory of God's works. When Israel was in the wilderness, sometimes they focused only on what was in front of them. They saw the heat, thirst and uncertainty. And in certain moments they began to say something dangerous, a negative confession: "Perhaps God has abandoned us." But the problem was not God's absence; the problem was the loss of spiritual memory of what God had done for them.

Because if they had truly remembered what God had already done, they would have realized something powerful: The God who gave the victory and opened the sea would not abandon them in the desert.

Every generation in the life of the Church that God raises goes through different seasons: seasons of growth, seasons of expansion and seasons of visible miracles. But there are also seasons of dryness, seasons of testing, seasons of trials and serious reflection, of redefining their standing and spiritual realignment.

These moments do not mean that God has abandoned His Church. Often, God uses these moments to prepare His Church for a new dispensation in its life and history. But to walk confidently into the future, the Church must look back and remember the prayers God answered, the lives He transformed, the doors He opened and the times when things seemed impossible but God made a way where there seemed no way.

God never begins a story only to abandon it halfway. What God starts, He sustains. Philippians 1:6 declares: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

This reveals something profound: the life and existence of the Church is not sustained merely by human effort or clever gifted individuals yielding a lot of power, it is sustained by the faithfulness of God. Yes, leaders change, generations shift and circumstances evolve, but God continues guiding His work. God never changes. The Bible declares that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever", Hebrews 13:8. And God continues building His work through generations. He raises people, He calls them, He prepares their hearts, He qualifies them, He gives them a yearning after Gods Own heart, and He sends them out for battle, a good fight of faith.

God's faithfulness is greater than any situation. If we examine the history of the Church through the years something remarkable becomes clear. The Church has faced persecution, internal struggles, seasons of uncertainty, but one thing has never changed: **God has always sustained His people** because the Church of the Lord does not belong to men. The Church belongs to Jesus Christ. And as Jesus declared in Matthew 16:18: "I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Hallelujah! As we look back, we are able to see the faithfulness of God, the victories He gave our fathers, the battles He won for us, the miracles He performed, the deliverance of His people. We therefore have a Testimony in Jesus' Name. The Scriptures says... And they overcame by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of their Testimony! (Revelation 12:11).

The same God who was faithful to our Founders and our Fathers who sacrificed to pioneer the works of the Lord all over the World and Africa in particular where the Church is experiencing exponential growth, will continue to show his faithfulness to His people, and will Sustain His church.

By Rev. Samuel Paquissi
Country Overseer – Angola

