

Intro:

We spent two sessions analyzing faith/trust.

Parts	Latin	Synonyms	Personality
Knowledge	Notitia	Understanding	Mind
Assent	Assensus	Agreement	Will
Trust	Fiducia	Reliance	Emotion

I. What do we know about God?

We only know what God reveals about Himself, either through discerning about Him through what He made (creation), or hearing and understanding his voice through what He said (Scriptures).

II. God's active demonstration of trustworthiness**III. Prophetic testimony to God's integrity****IV. The Indivisibility of God and His Words**

Ps 138.2b You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

A. Getting to know any person**1. The limitations of observation (actions)**

a. You might discern if someone is...

1) Hard-working vs. lazy

2) Technical vs. artistic

3) Highly social vs. introverted

b. But there are limitations

1) How do you know if your observation is correct?

2) What to you know about *why* someone acts in a certain way?

2. The need for communication

a. We need written or spoken word to understand others

b. We need "social context"

c. This is unique in all creation (animals don't worry about why any other creature is doing anything)

Communication is an inherent part of our nature as it is with God — we are made in the image of God.

3. The value of words

- a. False words make a false person
- b. True words make a true person

“People are inseparable from their words.”¹

B. God and His words

1. If you do not believe God’s words, can you say you are “trusting” God?
2. What kinds of words does God use?
 - a. Words about what God is like
 - b. Words about what God has done
 - c. Words about what God expects of man
3. If you have faith in God, but disagree with
 - a. What God says about himself
 - b. Or what God has done
 - c. Or what God expects

Do you have faith in God?

C. God’s exaltation of His words

Ps 138.2 | I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

1. Other versions

For You have magnified Your word above all Your name. NKJV

¹ Layton Talbert, *The Trustworthiness of God’s Words: Why the Reliability of Every Word from God Matters* (Geanies House, UK: Christian Focus, 2022), 58 (All other quotations will be noted merely by a page number [in brackets]).

for you have made your word [even] greater than the whole of your reputation. CJB

You have exalted Your name and Your promise above everything else. HCSB

for you have exalted your promise above the entire sky. NET

“At the very least, the verse teaches that God intends His word, along with His name, to receive the highest possible esteem over all else in creation. At the most, it asserts that as far as His own reputation and attributes are concerned, God Himself places *supreme* value on His word.” [59]

2. God’s name is...

- a. ... a metaphor for God’s power (Ps 44.5, 54.1)
- b. ... a metaphor for God’s reputation (Ps 8.1, 9; 135.13)
- c. ... a metaphor for God’s presence (Ps 52.9, 75.1)
- d. ... a metaphor for God’s very being (Ps 18.49, 61.5)

3. In Ps 138.2, David is saying ...

- a. “Name” is a theological shorthand for God’s revelation.
- b. Every other attribute of God works in harmony to fulfill what He said (His words).

The Lord lays all the rest of his name under tribute to his word: his wisdom, power, love, and all his other attributes combine to carry out his word. [Spurgeon n.d. 6:244, in Talbert 60]

- c. God is wholly preoccupied with the trustworthiness of His words.

D. Two key words: lovingkindness and truth [faithfulness]

Both words frequently paired in the Scriptures, esp. in the Psalms.

1. Lovingkindness (Heb. *chesed*)

- a. Expresses God’s loyalty to his covenants (his promises)

- b. Not merely aloof and impersonal duty, the word “carries a strong undercurrent of love that motivates acts of kindness” [61] to those in covenant with him
- c. God’s words are the basis and content of *chesed*, no lovingkindness without commitment to fulfilling words

2. Truth [faithfulness]

- a. Root meaning: “firmness, certainty”
- b. Characteristic of God’s nature
- c. Thus, it is also a term describing God’s words

“As a characteristic of God revealed to men, it therefore becomes the means by which men know and serve God as their savior (Josh 24:14; 1 Kgs 2:4; Ps 26:3; 86:11; Ps 91:4; Isa 38:3).”²

Both lovingkindness and truth are discerned when God’s actions = God’s words.

E. An Old Testament example: 2 Sam 7

1. The Davidic Covenant appears in 2 Sam 7, as God forbids David to build the temple, but gives David an eternal covenant instead
2. In response, David praises God for his word to him: notice the words in the passage set out in bold

2 Sa 7.25-29 “Now therefore, O LORD God, the **word** that You have **spoken** concerning Your servant and his house, confirm *it* forever, and do as You have **spoken**, that Your name may be magnified forever, ... “Now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your **words** are truth, and You have **promised** this good thing to Your servant. “Now therefore, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have **spoken** ...

² Jack Scott, “116 יְדָבָר,” in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody, 1980), 52.

3. Psalm 138 echoes this passage: “that Your name may be magnified forever”

“So indivisible are the words and the name of God that to perform one is to exalt the other.” [63]

4. God affirms his lovingkindness (covenant loyalty) to David in 2 Sa 7.14-15

a. If a son of David should depart from God’s words?

b. Nonetheless, God’s *chesed* would not depart from David

5. David’s response: v. 28 — “your words are true”

6. One more thing: 2 Sam 7.21

2 Sa 7.21 “For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know.

a. “According to your own heart” = God gave the promise because he wanted to

b. “For the sake of Your word” =

1) God’s past words

a) To Abraham: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen 22.18)

b) To Judah: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah” (Gen 49.10)

2) God’s present [to David] and future word [to succeeding generations]

2 Sa 7.16 “Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.””

God inseparably ties himself to his own word. If his word doesn’t come to pass, God is not who he says he is.