

## ***“Great is His Faithful Love”***

**Father’s Day, 2020**

**Psalm 103:11-14**

Pastor and author, Chuck Swindoll, tells the story of when he worked at a local five-and-dime store while he was in high school. He stole six softballs from the store, and took them home and hid them in his room (he said that to this day he is baffled as to why he did it). His mother found them and told his father. His father told him that they were taking them back to the store where he would confess to his boss about what he did.

His boss listened to his confession while his Dad waited in the car. His boss told him, “You’re fired.” He said he stumbled back to the car as low as he could be emotionally. His Dad told him on the way home that he had done wrong by stealing the softballs, but that he had learned a valuable lesson. He said when you steal softballs you get fired, and if you don’t get fired, you lose something you can’t get back—self-respect. When they got home and before they went into the house, Chuck says that his Dad put his arm around him in an understanding way. He said his Dad gave him the gift of grace. He said that his Dad never told anyone else about the incident. He took it with him to his grave. Chuck said he learned about the gift of grace and forgiveness through his Dad’s actions.

Today is Father’s Day in our nation. We honor our Dads who have been good and faithful. We thank God for the godly men who have lived before us, and who set an

example of what it means to be a godly dad. Most of all, we honor our heavenly Father who loves us unconditionally, and who offers each of us immeasurable love and grace. King David praises God for His *“benefits”* (v. 2) that we enjoy from being His children. One of the benefits is His faithful love. Let’s look back at this passage of scripture and learn from God’s faithful love.

### **1. His faithful love is immeasurable (103:11)**

***“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His faithful love toward those who fear Him.”***

- Do you feel unloved? Do you feel that no one genuinely cares about you? Throughout the Scriptures, God’s love is proclaimed through word and deed. David says that God’s faithful love is *“as high as the heavens are above the earth...”* That is immeasurable, since the universe goes forever. For those who *“fear”* the Lord, or who revere Him, His love for you is everlasting and immeasurable.
- In Hebrew, *“faithful love”* is *chesed*, which means enduring love, grace, mercy, faithfulness, goodness, and devotion. It is used 240 times in the OT describing God’s love for His children. You are loved with an immeasurable love. God is wholly faithful and devoted to you. He will not walk out on you, or abandon you. He will always be there for you. God told Jeremiah: *“I have loved you with an everlasting*

*love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you” (Jeremiah 31:3b).*

2. **His faithful love is compassionate and forgiving** (103:12-13)
  - You have probably had a relationship with someone whose love was conditional and fickle. They love you as long as you do what they want you to do, or as long as you have a good job or plenty of money. Their love is not unconditional. One could argue that it is not genuine love. God’s love is unconditional and unselfish. His love is compassionate and forgiving. When He forgives, God no longer brings our sins against us. David says in this chapter: *“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in faithful love”* (v. 8).
  - The Apostle John described God’s love this way: *“God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins”* (1 John 4:9-10). In His compassion for our hopelessness, God sent Jesus to rescue us, and give eternal life. God is a compassionate Father who forgives and restores, because He knows our weaknesses and frailties (vs. 13-14). Run to God for forgiveness and restoration.

Do you need to be loved? Are you in need of compassion? Do you need forgiveness? Turn to God. He will take your sin away. David said: *“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us”* (v. 12). Praise God for being a loving, compassionate Father who understands our weaknesses, and is quick to forgive.