

Built to Last

BEN JUSTER



There is an old saying: “They don’t make them like they used to.”

Most of us have experienced the frustration of owning a “lemon”—that car that always seems to break down at the worst possible moment. You fix one part, and something else fails. It’s unreliable, unpredictable, and exhausting.

I have some friends who have older cars that seem almost indestructible. They may not look impressive. The seats are worn. The paint is faded. The carpet has holes in it. But change the oil, replace the tires, and the engine just keeps going. Year after year, mile after mile, it proves itself dependable. That is a picture of faithfulness.

Faithfulness is not flashy. It is not always exciting or impressive. It simply keeps going. It shows up. It does the job. It endures. There is something deeply comforting about a faithful person. You know where they stand. You know they will be there tomorrow. You can build your life around them.

In Hebrew, the word for faithful is נֶאֱמָן (ne'eman). It means trustworthy, dependable, proven, and reliable. It is not a theoretical virtue. It is something demonstrated over time.

Scripture says: “Many a man proclaims his loyalty, but a faithful man who can find?”— Proverbs 20:6. Faithfulness is rare, but it is the very quality that sustains covenant, community, and calling. So what does it really mean to live a life of faithfulness?

1. We Learn Faithfulness from a Faithful God

We do not manufacture faithfulness on our own. We mirror it. We reflect the faithfulness of the God we serve.



“Know therefore that Adonai your God, He is God—the faithful God who keeps covenant kindness for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His mitzvot.”— Deuteronomy 7:9

God’s faithfulness is not occasional or situational. It is covenantal and generational. It is not just something He does—it is who He is. Jeremiah proclaims in the midst of sorrow and judgment upon Israel, **“Great is Your faithfulness.”**

The sages taught: **“The seal of the Holy One, blessed be He, is truth.”** (Talmud, Shabbat 55a). Truth and faithfulness are inseparable. God is steady, dependable, and trustworthy across generations. Even when leadership changes, seasons shift, or circumstances become uncertain, God remains *ne’eman*.

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”
— 2 Timothy 2:13

May this truth set you free—we do not become faithful in order to earn God’s love. We learn faithfulness because we have already received it!

2. Faithfulness Is Proven Over Time, Not in Moments

Faithfulness is not measured in bursts of enthusiasm. It is measured in longevity. **“Your faithfulness endures from generation to generation.”** — Psalm 119:90



Anyone can be passionate for a season. Anyone can show up when the spotlight is on. But faithfulness chooses presence over praise. It continues when the excitement fades. It shows up when no one is watching.

Faithfulness is like that old, reliable car. It may not look impressive, but it keeps running. In the Scriptures, we see this in the transition from Moses to Joshua. Moses' faithfulness did not end with his own ministry. It prepared the next generation to walk in what God had begun. Faithfulness is not only obedience today—it is transmission tomorrow.

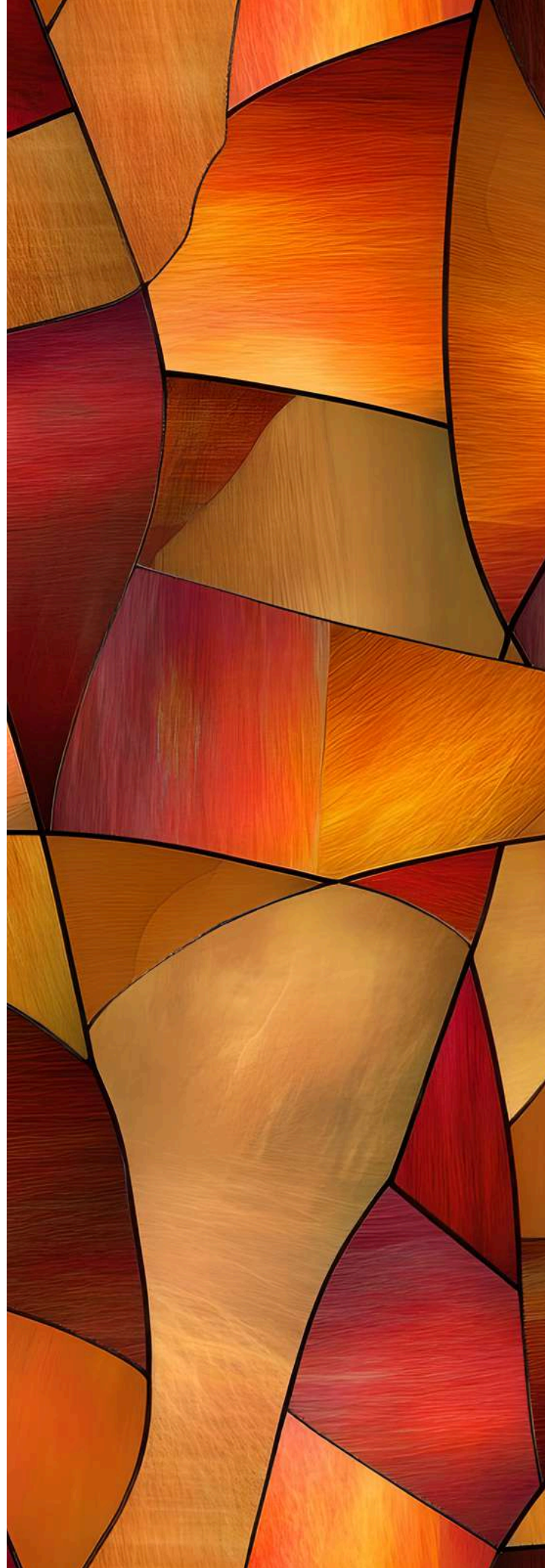
3. Faithfulness Is Lived in the Small, Unseen Things

Faithfulness is built quietly through daily consistency. *"One who is faithful in the smallest matters is also faithful in much."*—Luke 16:10.

And, "What is required of stewards is to be found trustworthy."—1 Corinthians 4:2. Faithfulness is about stewardship, not ownership. We are caretakers of what God has entrusted to us—our relationships, our responsibilities, our calling. Small acts of integrity reveal true character. We do not suddenly become faithful in a crisis. We reveal in crisis what we have practiced in secret.

The sages continue by capturing this tension well: "It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."—Pirkei Avot 2:16

Faithfulness is not about dramatic accomplishments. It is about showing up, doing the work, and trusting God with the outcome.





4. Faithfulness Is Relational, Not Abstract **Faithfulness is not a vague spiritual idea. It is demonstrated in how we love people.**

Scripture almost always expresses faithfulness in the context of covenant and relationship—with God and with others.

Faithfulness looks like:

- A spouse who keeps their word
- A parent who engages day after day
- A friend who remains present in hard seasons
- A leader who serves rather than controls
- A believer who continues to pray even when discouraged

Many people proclaim loyalty. Faithfulness, however, stays when things become difficult. It does not ghost people when conversations grow uncomfortable. It does not disappear when the season becomes inconvenient.

Faithfulness is:

- Loyal — constant in allegiance
- Steadfast — firm and unwavering
- Devoted — loving and committed

Faithfulness is relational because covenant is relational.

5. Faithfulness Carries Us Through Transition

God entrusts change to faithful people.

Transitions are part of every community, every family, and every life. Seasons change. Leadership shifts. New assignments emerge. But the future is sustained not merely by gifted people, but by dependable people.

The goal is for us to hear Yeshua say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a little, so I'll put you in charge of much."*—Matthew 25:21. God is not asking for perfection. He is calling for perseverance.

There are days when our faith is strong, and there are days when we are simply holding on. The good news is that even when we struggle, God remains faithful. As Mother Teresa famously said, *"God is not calling you to be successful. God is calling you to be faithful."*

Practical Steps Toward a Faithful Life

Faithfulness is not an abstract ideal. It is a daily practice. Here are some practical ways to cultivate a life of ne'eman.

1. Start with Daily Covenant Connection

Set aside a consistent time each day for prayer and the Scriptures. Faithfulness to God grows out of regular, relational time with Him. Choose a simple daily rhythm—morning prayers, a Psalm, or a short portion of Torah, or the Gospels.

2. Keep Small Commitments

Faithfulness begins with the little things.

- Arrive on time.
- Return messages.
- Finish the tasks you start.
- Keep your word, even when it is inconvenient.

Small consistencies build strong character.



3. Serve Without Needing Recognition

Faithfulness chooses presence over praise. Find one area of quiet service in your community or congregation where you can contribute regularly, even if no one notices.

4. Stay Relational in Difficult Seasons

Faithfulness is proven when relationships are strained.

- Initiate a difficult but loving conversation.
- Pray for someone who frustrates you.
- Choose reconciliation over withdrawal.

5. Think Generationally

Faithfulness is not just about today. It is about what we pass on.

- Mentor someone younger in the faith.

- Share your testimony with the next generation.
- Invest time in discipleship rather than in personal growth alone.

A Community Built to Last

God is looking for a people who are **ne'eman**—trustworthy, steady, and rooted in covenant. Not flashy. Not fragile. But faithful.

Faithful to Messiah.

Faithful to one another.

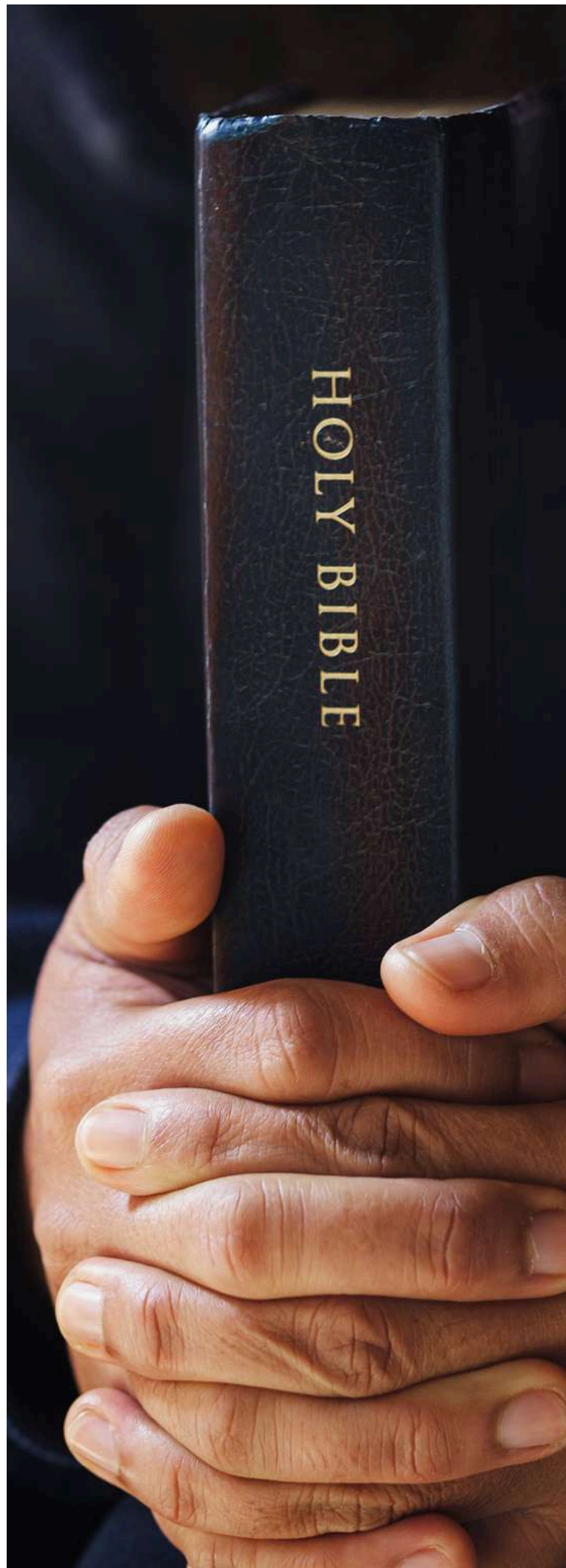
Faithful in the small things.

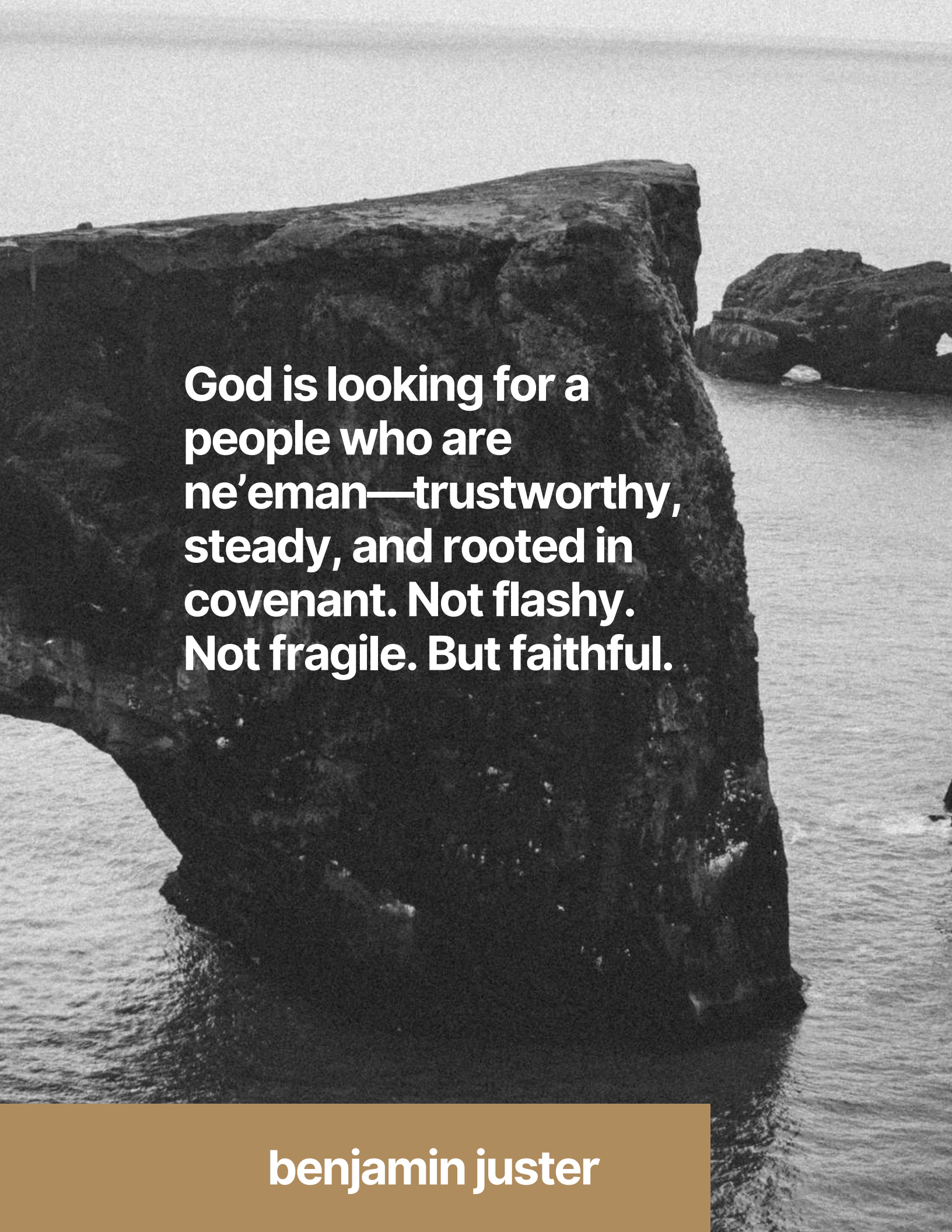
Faithful for the long haul.

May we become a community built to last—rooted in covenant, sustained by God's faithfulness, and worthy of trust in this generation and the next!



Benjamin Juster
Editor in Chief





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