

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 1/4/10**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God is Faithful

### **Verse of the Week:**

I will declare that Your love stands firm forever, that You established your faithfulness in heaven itself. Psalm 89:2

When the great second baseman Jackie Robinson broke the color line in baseball in 1947, he had to endure boos, thrown objects, and abuse from opposing players and from some of his own teammates. One day in Ebbetts Field, he faced an especially difficult trial. As Jackie was tagging a sliding runner, the player raised his spikes and drove them into his chest. Robinson reacted instantly, and a fight began before umpires could restore order. However, opposing players continued to yell ugly names and fans threw trash at Jackie, howling at him in rage. Suddenly the shortstop, Pee Wee Reese, called time out. He walked over to Robinson as the crowd booed, put his arm around Jackie and faithfully stood beside him in silence. The courageous act of a friend assured Jackie of the support he needed to endure a trying time.

Our God is a faithful friend to His people and faithful to fulfill all His promises (Psalm 145:13). He does not save us from our sin to later forsake us during tough circumstances. When the game of life is "on the line," He is entirely faithful. He will be loyal to us, providing the strength necessary to be victorious! His commitment to us is very deep, unlike the shallow vows many people make today. When He vows to keep us, He always fulfills His vow!

Great is His faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23). It is so vast, it reaches to the skies (Psalm 57:10). Psalm 86:15 tells us that God abounds in both love and faithfulness. His faithfulness to us endures forever (Psalm 117:2). He is not only faithful today, but He will also be faithful tomorrow, the next day, and the day after (Psalm 100:5; Psalm 119:90).

What does His faithfulness mean to us? It means we can relax, knowing He will be continually present to help us. It means we can appeal to Him for help on the basis of His faithfulness (Psalm 57:3; Psalm 143:1). It means He is faithful to us when we are unfaithful to Him, for He can never disown Himself (2 Timothy 2:13). Yet, He will firmly and lovingly discipline His people, bringing them back to loving Him more than they love the false gods of this world (Psalm 89; Hebrews 12:5-11). When we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9)! What a great promise!

The Lord Jesus is our great example of faithfulness. In Revelation 1:5, He is called the Faithful Witness. He was a witness of what God is like. He promised to never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Whether we have just made an error to lose a game or made a great play to win one, He is with us just as closely. Let us rely completely upon Him, and make His faithfulness known to others (Psalm 89:1).

As a good friend is faithful to his fellow player, our God is even more faithful to us!

Time Out:

- (1) Skim Psalm 89:1-37 again. Underline every place the word faithful or faithfulness is used. What do these verses tell you about faithfulness?

- (2) What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 tell us about temptation and God's faithfulness?
- (3) Recall three instances when God has shown you His faithfulness.
- (4) Do you ever doubt God's faithfulness? Does your consistency change His faithful commitment to you? Of course not! Why not relax in His faithfulness to see you through every situation?