

The Lord is Faithful

But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. ~ 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Discover the Context 2 Thessalonians 3



Look up these passages that use the phrase, *but God*. Underline the word *but* in each passage, and write down the truth that it is emphasizing.

- ▶ Psalm 73:26
- ▶ Acts 13:28-30
- ▶ Romans 5:6-8
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 3:6
- ▶ Ephesians 2:3-5



The word *but* is a contraction, used to suggest a contrast. In the above passages, the contrast is between something bad or negative and God who steps in to override the bad.



How has God shown himself faithful to you this summer? What are some things that you can thank God for?

At our camp we like to play freeball—it’s basically dodgeball with a twist. There are no teams. Everyone is for themselves, which means you have no allies, no one to hide behind, no one to turn to for safety. You are on your own to stay alive. And you are a moving target. Sound crazy? Actually, it’s a camp favorite!

Have you ever felt like you are on your own in real life? Feeling like you are under attack as you’re trying to survive the summer? If your camp’s goal is to share the truth of the gospel with kids, you better believe that you are smack dab in the middle of a war zone with a very real enemy that is throwing stuff way more dangerous than dodgeballs.

“But the Lord is faithful”—the first five words of today’s verse. Whenever you open up God’s word, look for this transition. You will find this kind of phrase over and over again: “But God ...” Here the Holy Spirit reminds you that you are not in this battle by yourself. If you are a believer in Christ, God has stepped in to help you. You do not fight alone. In fact, this verse says that God will strengthen you and guard you, literally make you stable, set you fast, establish you firmly. No more moving target. God can pick you up, plant you securely behind him in the battle zone, and shield you from the attacks, while wielding his sword and fighting the enemy back.

Have you been feeling like you’re under attack? Maybe you had resistance from your family or friends about serving at camp, or you’re finding camp harder than you anticipated. Maybe you are getting into quarrels with your bunkmates, or you’re getting sick. Don’t give up. Don’t quit. When the battle begins to rage, the enemy will try to discourage you. Persevere because you are not fighting alone—the presence of God almighty makes all the difference in the world. He did not call you to camp to then forget about you. He did not give you salvation and then leave you on your own. He is faithful. He will always be faithful. He is with you. (MAM)