

Who is Our God?

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Date: 05 July 2026

[0:00] Take your Bibles this morning, go over to Deuteronomy chapter 32, Deuteronomy chapter 32 this morning. American history, we celebrate on the 4th, but July 2nd is actually the day that the resolution passed for our independence.

July 4th was the day that they gathered to sign the document that had been finalized and put all the little nuances on. You know, it's kind of like we do today. You can agree upon something and then you kind of make sure everything's in order and everything's put where it ought to be.

And then they signed it, but it was actually the Lee Resolution that they voted on that our nation, our new nation, broke away in a political separation from the British Empire and the authority of King George III.

Now I want you to understand because we live in an age when people try to, I think, take things opposite of where even the founders intended. When we understand what's actually taking place because I want you to understand that they did not take what they did lightly.

It wasn't something that was just, let's wake up one day and do this. It was something that was long time in the process of coming and developing. And they didn't take it lightly because they knew the ramifications if they failed.

[1:48] You know, sometimes we fail to measure what things are really going to cost. But you know, sometimes even though it may have great cost, it's worth investing.

It's worth doing. When you think about when they wrote at the end of the Declaration of Independence, I took time this week to, I spent about three days just reading, catching up on American history and what people in modern day are saying.

And it's one of those things, sometimes it makes your head hurt. You know, how different people want to interpret through their lens the dynamic of what takes place. To both extremes.

But it said this, it says, And for the support of this declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence. Now I want you to understand that the word divine is important.

Because they were saying we're going to rely upon what God would choose to allow to take place. And they were so firm about that. Notice what it said. We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

[2:59] I want you to understand, when they signed that, it was not something they did lightly. They understood that not only were they going to be judged of men, but I want you to understand by the very phrasing and what they did on their sacred honor was a religious statement.

It was an honoring statement to the Lord to say they understood that they were going to be judged also by God for the choices they made that day.

They were going to be held to account. Because I want you all to remember one very important thing. Sometimes we think about consequences in a negative sense, but you realize every decision you make in life has consequences.

Sometimes they're positive consequences, and sometimes they're negative consequences, depending upon all the factors involved, including the intent of your heart before God.

And we're going to find out here this morning. But I want you to be clear here, because as we gather, we need to be careful that we don't gather to worship a nation. I want you to understand we don't gather to worship a nation that these men founded, but the God they trusted in and founded upon.

[4:14] His principles and His truth. Because our worship belongs to the Lord and to none other. Now I want you to understand, if you honor the Lord, God tells us we ought to do those things properly, to pray for those in authority, to do those things of our nations.

God is the maker and founder of nations. We have to keep all the scripture in context, but one of the most important things is to understand who God is, and that God is the one that we need to look to and to trust.

Because my trust is not in a nation. When you look at history, nations come and go. But my Savior stands sure. He has not changed.

My God has not changed. He stands for sure. When we understand that when they wrote the declaration, another line in there was this.

It says they were appealing to the supreme judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions.

You know what? They understood that what they were doing had consequences.

[5:23] And they understood not only were they going to have physical consequences if they lost, they understood that the choices they made that day could have eternal consequences.

It could have accountability to God for the choices that they made. They would give account to their creator for the course that they set that day. You know, the same is true today.

We'll give account for our thoughts and actions that we do today. How we treat and process through these things, we will one day give account. And when we look and understand that, we find that in Deuteronomy chapter 32, God brought me to this passage this week, because I think it's important, because Deuteronomy 32, we find Moses getting ready to leave the scene.

And he charges the people that are about to go into the land to form a new nation. And he gives them some principles, because I want you to understand, America is not Israel.

We didn't replace anything. But I want you to understand, God's principles always stand firm. No matter where it is or what you're doing, God's principles are unmovable.

[6:43] And we're going to see some principles that Moses gave to the people, some reminders, some focus to keep in account, to understand what is critical.

So if you found Deuteronomy chapter 32 this morning, let's stand together for the reading of the word of God. And we're just going to read a couple of verses here as we get started into this passage here this morning.

And as we look down at verse 3, the Bible tells us this. It says, because I will publish the name of the Lord, ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

He is the rock. His work is perfect. For all His ways are judgment. A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, as we just come before you this morning, Lord, as we consider this challenge of Moses to the people as they were on the cusp of going into the land to form a nation that you had set them and separated them to accomplish, Lord, but help us to see the principles that Moses challenged them with, the focus and the understanding as they walk through not only the first generation, but for generations to come.

[8:05] Lord, as we just consider these things today, Lord, we just thank you for our nation, but Lord, help us to never lose sight that the ultimate one is you. You are the one that's over all these things.

Lord, you are our rock, the one we can always rely on. Lord, help us to keep our focus in the direction that it ought to be to keep things in the right priority in the right place.

And Lord, we just love you and thank you. In Jesus' name. Amen. May be seated. You know, I want you to see here, Moses, as he opens his charge to the people, spoke with the authority and he declared the greatness of our God.

You know, no matter where we are, what we do, we always need to keep in mind the greatness of our God. Because when you'd understand how great God is, it keeps you focused and looking and attentive to the right things.

When you lose sight of who God is, it's easy to get distracted. Because there's a lot of things to draw your attention. There's a lot of things that are not necessarily bad.

[9:16] Some of them may even be good, but if they're out of priority, they become a wrong thing. We need to understand that the priority given is important. Now notice that Moses here understood and he wanted the people to have a focus upon the greatness of God.

You'll notice here, as we see here, look up in the verse one of this chapter. It says this, Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak, and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass.

Now notice, he says, All creation should listen. O ye heavens, O earth. In other words, Moses said, These are things that apply all the time. These are principles for eternity, for a people to understand that personally you need to know who God is.

Because I want you to understand, we don't have a God of our nation, we have a God of individuals. He's not concerned so much about nations as he is people. Jesus didn't come to die for a nation.

[10:33] He came to die for you and for me. When we understand what the purpose is and what took place, Moses here was publishing, he was proclaiming the name of the Lord.

He wanted to give glory to God. You know, above all, that ought to be our priority. To understand that God deserves the glory. You know, Psalm 96 in verse 8, the word of God tells us this, Give unto the Lord the glory due his name.

Give unto him the glory due his name. You know, and when we give him glory, I just want you to notice something, there's some actions that come with it.

that reveal that because it's not just words. You know, one of the things today that I think gets confusing for people, they think if they voice something, it's worshiping God.

Worshiping God in voice is part. God wants your heart and direction of your thoughts and your minds. When you understand that worship isn't words, worship is action and priority.

[11:49] To say, God, you are the priority. That is worship to the Lord. You know, when we understand this thing about the Lord is first in those things.

You know, as our nation was being founded, one of the things that's distinct about our founders is they were not afraid to give glory to God. They were not afraid of those things.

You know, you think about even the declaration that we talked about. Think about that famous line that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights and among these are life and liberty and pursuit of happiness that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men.

You know, when you break that down biblically, you'll find that they had a biblical thought. They had a biblical understanding, knowing that God established government.

You know, throughout Scripture you know and realize that God is the maker of nations and He's the one that takes down nations. Nations will come and go. God will one day judge the nations.

[12:58] But you know what? The judgment of the nations is in this life. I want you to understand one day as an individual you're going to stand before the Lord and give account. When we understand the life that's given to us, that's Genesis chapter 1.

You know, endowed by our Creator. The one who started all this. The one who is the author of liberty. The one that provides joy and contentment and the fruit of our labors.

He's the one that blesses us. You know, Psalm 119 verse 45 says, I will walk at liberty for I seek thy precepts. You know, liberty is not found in government.

Liberty is found in Christ. That we might pursue it. That we might obtain it. That we might have it. It's not built upon a nation. You know what our founders thought?

They said, we need a nation where people can be at liberty to love God. And they understood that principle. Notice what it tells us here.

[14:00] Look back at verse 4. As Moses describes God, he says this. He calls God, he is the rock. Not a rock.

He is the rock. Look over to Psalm 95. Psalm 95 in verse 1 says, O come, let us sing unto the Lord. Let's make a joyful noise to what? The rock of our salvation. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

He is the rock of our salvation. He is the one that is there. You know, 1 Corinthians chapter 10, the apostle Paul reminded the church at Corinth and he says, and did all drink the same spiritual drink? For they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them and that rock was Christ. I want you to understand the same one who brought Israel out of Egypt and set them free is a picture of the rock who came and died on the cross for our sin that we might be free.

[15:10] To understand that picture is important. And we notice here his description because oftentimes I think we lose sight of this. It says his work is perfect.

In other words, what God does and what God allows is morally right and never wrong. You know, sometimes people get the idea that, well, why did God allow this to happen to me?

And they start accusing God. We're going to look at that in a little bit because Moses addresses that those who want to judge God. I want you to understand it rains on the just and unjust alike.

Sin and its effect is affecting everybody. Whether you're saved or lost, there's some effects of sin that come in this present life. There's things that we cannot control.

Things that God allows. And we can't say, God, you were evil for allowing this. I want you to understand his work is perfect. All his ways are judgment.

[16:14] In other words, the mode of action and the verdict or sentence of those things is perfectly true. He's the God of truth and without iniquity. He acts in moral fidelity, never in unrighteousness or unjustly.

I want you to understand the God that Moses tells us to look to is right in everything. And here in a little bit we're going to see Moses warns the people, don't look back at God and say, God, we're going to hold you to account.

You know what? What we face in this life is the consequences of sin. A fallen world has fallen world problems. The good news is one day all this will be gone.

If your hope is in Christ, you don't look for this life for everything because we realize this will pass. this life will come and go.

When we understand this picture, it's important. Now look at verse 5. Notice, he gives a warning here and he says, they have corrupted themselves. Their spot is not the spot of his children.

[17:25] They are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requit the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? Is not he thy father that hath brought thee? Excuse me, bought thee?

Hath he not made thee and established thee? You know, think about what he's challenging them. He says, don't be foolish. Moses here is speaking this to Israel.

But our nation, I want you to understand, needs to understand that same principle because you know what happens? When God starts blessing, people get thinking that it's them that did it.

Look down at verse 15 in this passage. Verse 15, notice what Moses tells them and he says, but Jershom waxed fat, that's Israel, and kicked.

Thou art waxen fat, thou art growing thick, thou art covered with fatness. When he forsook God, which made him and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation.

[18:28] And they provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations, provoked they him to anger. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God, to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom our fathers feared not.

Of the rock that begat thee, thou art unmindful, and hath forgotten God that formed thee. Now, I want you to understand, this is a very important principle.

Because the word fat there means blessed, which is kind of ironic when you think about America. You know, one thing that I've observed as I've traveled the world, in most of the rest of the world, the fat people are the rich people.

America is the only place you'll find fat poor people and skinny rich people. Generally speaking, when you travel the world, if you see somebody that's fat, means they've got a lot of resources. And they don't have to labor hard, they don't have to do a lot. And people look and say, well, America hasn't been blessed. I tell you what, we're over-blessed. But you know what happens when we get blessed?

[19:44] We forget our God. It's easy when God's blessings come to forget who God is. Moses warns the people, and he says, you'll start doing things contrary to what God wants.

You know, when we understand as a nation, he's pointing to the reality as Proverbs 14 tells us, righteousness exalted the nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

You know, the natural course of mankind is sin. Notice it says they corrupted themselves in verse 5. God didn't corrupt them, they corrupted themselves.

You know, sin will corrupt being a perverse and crooked generation. You know, I want you to see, notice in verse 6, he says, O foolish people and unwise, is not he the father that bought thee?

Hath he not made thee and established thee? Here they are, they're forgetting who he is and what he's done. You know, they deem the things of God inappropriate.

[20:54] They say, God, you've blessed us, but we don't want to have a part in what you've done. We want to do it our own way, to do our own thing. Moses reminds the people that the blessings we receive from God can themselves draw us away.

They are wax and fat. It was then that they and even us can forsake God and lightly esteem the rock of his salvation.

You know, these verses ought to do more than just inform us. These verses ought to make us grieve. It ought to make you sad to see people turn away from the God who has done everything.

You know, as I look at our nation as it's changed through the generations, you'll see a pattern in our nation of people trusting God and then when God begins to bless and they get comfortable, God becomes secondary.

And you'll see this curve not only in our nation but throughout history. You see it when you read through the book of Judges. You know, Judges, there's this circle that keeps going.

[22:07] God blesses them. They turn away from God. God allows the ramifications, the consequences of their choices to come into play until they finally call upon Him.

When they get their focus back right and sometimes it takes a few generations. You know, today it's amazing how people have turned away from the God who our founders said, hey, we need to make sure He is a focus.

He is the one that has established our land has been overtaken with things. Yeah, I've seen things in the last five years it's like you would never thought you would have saw. Sorcery, witchcraft.

Let me just make a statement. The word sorcery comes from the Greek word pharma. Has to do with drugs. Now, I'm not talking about prescription type stuff that might you get for, oh, Doc, I got a pain.

People, I want you to understand they take drugs not to relieve but to try to reach a place called nirvana, a self-consciousness.

[23:13] You know, it is a focus upon self. We have the practice of sorcery within our nation is extreme. Say, preacher, what do you mean?

You can order on Etsy a witch to cast a spell. That ought to grieve us that a nation who understood the very liberties that they were seeking were from God have forsaken those things to the point that they've turned and worshipped other gods.

Worship things contrary. You know, we see earth worship today. You know, I'll just make a bold statement. The environmental movement in general is earth worship. They make this ball of dirt their god.

They understand the amazement of what this earth is in which we live and they forget the one who created it. It ought to make us grieve. We have a love of self and pleasure, materialism and the love of money.

False religions are overtaking the land. From new age, I'll just give you a little warning. You need to be careful who you listen to that say they're Christian.

[24:30] There's a lot of new age tied into it. You need to be understanding what it is they're speaking about because they sound biblical but the terms they use are new age.

They are terms that worship and point you to another god. I want you to understand the danger of it and we see this spiritism. You know, think about today why I'm spiritual but not religious.

It's like that's the most ironic statement you can make. I mean, it's like, I'll say it's a dumb statement. You know, that's like saying I had breakfast but I don't like to eat.

We find these things in our nation they exalt men and the state above God. I want you to understand as believers we have to be careful because we need to look at the scripture and filter those things through scripture to say God, help me to know exactly how to put these things in the right priority and the right place that Lord, you are never moved from being the rock of my salvation. that rock is unmovable. It never gets usurped by something else. You know what? Politics can usurp God.

[25:44] Now I want you to understand our political dynamic is important but there's a balance to say I want to make sure this never takes the place of God because you know what?

The devil's happy when people especially believers get focused away worshiping something other than the God that saved them. When we understand what's happening here it ought to grieve our hearts when we understand this generation has grown up even further from him.

We have a generation that does not know the God who made them. Some of them might be sitting here today. You know we have a system that's telling our kids all sorts of contradictory information. You know what amazes me in a generation this is a side note I guess. One of the things that grieves my heart is when I have parents that you talk to well I'm going to let my kids make their decision about things.

You know what I want you to understand something very clearly. God doesn't tell us to allow your kids to make every decision we are to guide them and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

[26:52] That's a responsibility to not let them wander wherever they want to wander. It's to direct them and guide them and let them know there's a God that not only loves them it's a God who died for them and to know why he did.

Because your sinful heart is wicked your little kid is not an angel. I've got nine great kids you know nine grandkids they're not great grandkids yeah I'm not that old but my grandkids are great.

But I want you to understand I know one thing they were born with a sin nature and they need to know a Savior who can save them no different than anybody else's.

When we understand those things because look here next as we look look down at verse 28 he declares this as Moses walks through he gives God's assessment it says for they are a nation void of counsel neither is there any understanding in them oh that they were wise that they understood this that they would consider their latter end.

You know I want you to understand God has not left us to our own opinion about ourselves but the fact is this when people turn from God often times the things I hear and the things that scripture reveals is people start saying I don't think God made the right choice.

[28:17] I don't think God is who he says he is. They begin to render their own assessment you know what it leaves a nation void of wise counsel lacking the most basic understanding of the things of God.

You know one of our founding fathers George Washington at his first inaugural address said this he said his fervent supplications to that almighty being who rules over the universe who presides in the councils of nations and whose providential aids can supply every human defect.

You know what we need just as even our founding fathers especially George Washington he understood one thing he said I need God's direction.

He says I can't lead I can't do what I ought to do without God. It's not in my power in my knowledge but in what God has given. God gives the assessment of the situation.

Notice what it says in verse 29 it says here that they would consider their latter end they failed to understand that they need to look not merely for the immediate benefit but for the long term good.

[29:38] You know one of the problems we have in our nation today especially among politicians I'll just spell out it's a baseline they're in it for the immediate how does it affect me right now instead of how is it going to affect my children and my grandchildren.

Leaders don't look for just what's immediate now they look to what they're leaving what is carried forth when we understand that we need to look not just at the immediate but understand their latter end.

God has revealed his assessment you know God says this in Jeremiah 17 he says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked who can know it I the Lord search the heart I try the reins you know a wicked heart is one that places God that operates that places themselves of judge of right and wrong you know we live in a generation that tries to judge God and they miss the reality of their latter end because instead of us judging God the Bible says that every knee will bow every tongue confess and there is everybody when you stand before God his greatness and his glory his holiness it'll take the most arrogant soul and humble them the question is where are you going to be humbled because if you're humbled before God in this life and you recognize you need a Savior and you call upon him

God says there's a different accounting than for if you don't when we understand this picture it's important look down in verse 31 it says for this it says for their rock is not as our rock even our enemies themselves being judges you know trying to judge God for their vine is the vine of Sodom and the fields of Gomorrah their grapes are grapes of gall and their clusters are bitter their wine is the poison of dragons and the cruel venom of asps you know I want you to understand that everybody's going to found their faith upon a rock it's either going to be a rock of their own imagination a little r rock of anything that they can put there but it says their rock is not as our rock if your faith is in God if your faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ who came and saved you the moment you called upon him you became part of his family when you understand our latter end I want you to understand Psalms tells us some trust in chariots and some in horses but we will remember the name of the Lord our God you know I want you to understand people today well I'm agnostic or I'm atheist I don't trust anything yeah you are you're trusting yourself or you're trusting a philosopher you know one of the problems we have today I think a lot of people get led astray because they trust what somebody says about the Bible more than what the Bible says you don't know how many times I've had discussions and the thing comes up and says well did you hear well

such and such in 1500 wrote this I'm like I really don't care what they wrote in 1500 it may give you a little insight but it doesn't supersede the book that's where truth is truth is in this pulp of the day not because of me but because of the book when we understand the scripture notice as we go on down through here this this morning look here it says this and it says in verse 34 it says is not this laid up in store with thee and sealed up among thy treasures to me belongeth vengeance and recompense for their foot shall slide in due time for the day of their calamity is at hand and the things that shall come upon them make haste for the Lord shall judge his people

[33:43] I want you to understand that we're going to give account to God Peter says who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead the judgment of God Moses reminds the people of their latter ends you're going to be judged of God God's judgment will be present the Lord will hold the rebellious to account it's in his hand to execute vengeance and recompense for the evil that has been done you know that's reason the writer of Hebrews in chapter 10 verse 31 says it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God to understand that the Bible I want you to understand those speaks of two judgments speaks about his judging his people the judgment seat of Christ 2nd Corinthians we find in chapter 5 and verse 10 that God says we all must appear before him when we understand that picture even as a believer you know that's the reason that salvation isn't licensed

God's still going to hold you to account for the decisions that you make the difference is is one you're missing out on the rewards God wants to give you because you've invested in the wrong things you see once you're saved you're secure your eternity is locked in I want you to understand that happens at the moment you call upon him as savior he is the earnest of your salvation if you have not the spirit you're none of his that's the reality you need to ask yourself is God's spirit working and talking in my life through his word if it's not you ought to ask yourself a question why not when we understand that God's going to judge but I want you to understand we're going to be judged for reward not for condemnation our works are going to be tried by fire you know I believe there's going to be a lot of people that are going to be sad on judgment day when they stand before the Lord even I'm talking about believers here when they see all the blessings and the rewards the Lord wanted for them and they come with all the things that want to say

Jesus look what I did for you even after you're saved you can do things for the wrong reason and it gets burned up because our focus wasn't on the right things but there's another judgment the great white throne judgment where God's going to judge all those that refused Revelation chapter 20 speaks of it 2 Thessalonians 1:9 speaks of it it tells us very clearly one day anybody who is not saved anybody who hasn't called upon the name of the Lord is going to be raised again to stand judgment before God in a final dynamic and it says they'll be cast into the lake of fire I want you to understand hell is a real place we live in a generation it amazes me how many people talk down or reimagine hell I want you to understand Jesus never speaks kindly or gently about this place called hell it's a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth why because it's an eternal separation from the God who created them let's talk quickly about our response look over to verse 46 and he said said to them set your heart unto all the words which I testify among you this day which he commanded your children to observe and to do all the words of this law for it is not a vain thing for you because it is your life words which I testify among you you know the word of God is powerful you know the Bible says it discerns even the thoughts and intents of the heart you know

Hebrews 4:12 takes that very clear doesn't it he is the discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart have you ever thought that understood that that's one thing we can never understand about somebody else we can understand a lot of things but you can never truly understand somebody else's thoughts or intents but God knows yours he knows mine he measures!

[38:31] from a different measurement when we understand the law of the! the word psalm 19 verse 7 says the law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple you know I want you to understand that as we celebrate as a nation we don't need to be celebrating just worshipping a nation I want to draw your attention to the God that they understood was there the God they understood they were going to give account the same God who you and I are going to give account nations come and go but a soul is for eternity you know what are you going to do you know they saw the importance not only for them but for the generations to come you know John Adams made an interesting statement he said this our constitution is made only for a moral and religious people it is wholly inadequate for the government of any other!

you know what he understood he said hey this isn't just for our generation we need to pass on some things if this is going to stand to another generation we need as a people of God to pass those things on to another generation that is why it's important not only to pass on the truth of God's word but to also help them understand who our God is they need to observe to guard and to do to carry out all that is written in the word of God to understand what God would have you know this morning it's important that we not just look for today but we look to invest both personally and generationally in proclaiming the goodness and greatness of God but it will not only impact the next generation it will impact you notice what he tells us here your life in verse 47 you know really today it's not about our nation it's about you and me what are you going to do with God where do you stand every one of us will one day stand before them either at the judgment seat of Christ to receive reward of the great white throne judgment to be judged solely amongst among our works you know it grieves me when people say the very things you think are going to help you are the very things that are going to judge you you know if you've never trusted Christ as the rock of your salvation the great news is he offers it freely to you today the Bible tells us for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved you know what happens when somebody rejects salvation they lightly esteem the rock instead of fleeing to him while they still have a chance we have many today that look to God in a wrong sense they like the concept of God but not who God is today if you don't know Christ as your Savior I encourage you to get that taken care of if you're not sure I encourage you in just a moment we're going have an opportunity to we have somebody show you from God's word how to know that you can be saved but believers here today I want you to set your heart on the words of this book just as those before us gave glory to God and handed his truth down to us I want you to understand to let us personally and understand our responsibility to proclaim his goodness and greatness to those who come after you know that's the reason Joshua charged the people he says choose you this day whom ye will serve he says but as for me and my house we will serve the Lord this morning you have a choice what are you going to do with the rock of your salvation heads are bowed and eyes are closed this morning what about you today is God speaking to you about some things in your life maybe here today and don't know Christ as Savior I encourage you to come we'll have somebody show you from God's word what God has said not what the preacher or somebody else said but what does God's word say that which is true and just and accurate maybe you're here today as a believer you know without a doubt that there was a time and a place that you called upon him as Savior and there's some things to say that they're hindering because I'm not being obedient to carry on to be an example to another generation your faithfulness not only affects you it affects somebody else what about you today as piano plays what about you