



The FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT CALLED TO BE MORE
FAITHFUL



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

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**Tuesday, February 28, 2023
Online Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.**

Zoom Meeting ID 973 678 1217, Passcode 6781293

I. What Is Faithfulness?

Faithfulness is a highly valued quality. It's also a rare one. That's why Proverbs 20:6 says, "...but a faithful person who can find? (NIV)

Prov 20:6 Many claim to have unending love, but a faithful person who can find?

So, what is faithfulness? Translated from the Greek word *pistis*, the word *faithfulness* means "steadfastness," "trustworthiness" and "consistency." It's defined in Webster's dictionary as "firmly adhering to duty; true fidelity; loyal, true to allegiance; **constant in the performance of duties or services.**"

A faithful person is dependable, true to their word, and diligent to fulfill their responsibilities—as a husband, a wife, a parent, a member of church, an employee, a boss or in any other role. More importantly, it is a fruit of the spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). This Bible Study is highlighting that fruit – Faithfulness. A fruit, visible. Not a seed, not a bud, but fruit. Fruit you can see, touch, taste, eat. Faithfulness, I submit is a foundation for truly knowing God. Without faith _____ (**fill in the blank**).



When you have the fruit of faithfulness flowing in your life, you can be trusted to do what's right even when no one is looking. Your employer doesn't have to watch over you every minute to make sure you're not goofing off. Your husband or your wife knows your eyes won't wander and your heart won't be pulled toward another. Your children know they can count on you to do what you've said you will do. And your church knows they can count on you in every way.

In the world, faithfulness is scarce. It's a rare commodity. But as Christians, we should be famous for being faithful! We should be known by everyone, everywhere, for being the most dependable and trustworthy person anyone has ever seen, because we have an endless supply of faithfulness available to us. **We've inherited the faithfulness of our heavenly Father!**

II. Why God Is Faithful

People in life will let you down. It's sad, but it's also true.

1 Corinthians 1:9: God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Sons, Jesus Christ our Lord. (NIV)

We're never to be suspicious of others or expect them to let us down (love believes the best in others). However, most of us have experienced the letdown of an unfaithful person in our lives in one way or another.

That's what makes God so special.

He will **NEVER** let you down. He is ALWAYS faithful. Faithful to you, faithful to His promises, faithful to every single word He says. There is so much power and comfort in His faithfulness to us.

The Bible tells us that God is trustworthy, reliable and unchangeable. He is the Lord who changes not, and **Hebrews 13:8 says Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.** That's faithfulness!

Why is it so important that you see God as faithful?

Because faith in Him (and His faithfulness) is the only way to please Him and the only way to receive every blessing He has for you.

God is still the same as He's always been. If He says to us in the Scriptures that something won't work, and we choose to do it anyway, our lives aren't going to work in that area. If He tells us certain behaviors and attitudes will bring a certain result, that's the way it's going to be.

God won't change His Word and His ways to accommodate us, because He's the same yesterday, today and forever. If someone is going to change, it will have to be us!

[Great Is Thy Faithfulness / Great Is Your Mercy - Donnie McClurkin & CeCe Winans - YouTube](#)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisolm William M. Runyan

1. "Great is Thy faith-ful-ness," O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon and stars in their
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear pres-ence to

turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-pas-sions, they fail not;
cours-es a - bove, Join with all na-ture in man-i - fold wit-ness
cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to - mor-row,

CHORUS

As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful-ness, mer-cy and love. "Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!
Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Great is Thy faithfulness!" Morning by morning new mer-cies I see; All I have

need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, un-to me!

While others might have seen only disappointment, **Thomas Chisolm** could see God working. Over the next 58 years, Chisolm wrote nearly 1,200 poems. He is best known for the poem he submitted to **William Runyan** at Moody Bible Institute in 1923. Runyan set the words of this poem to music, and it became one of the best-known hymns of the twentieth century. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" proclaims God's work and power in the lives of every believer, both uncommon and common. Chisolm said no special circumstance inspired him to write this poem, except the Bible's truth and his personal experience of God's faithfulness.

Near the end of his life, he gave this testimony:

"My income has not been large at any time due to impaired health in the earlier years which has followed me on until now. Although I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

Thou changest not The Bible says one thing never changes—God. The theological term for this claim is *immutability*. God does not mutate. He is eternally stable, and we can count on His consistent, permanent, and unchanging nature. God cannot change because He is perfect (Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6). Since He is stable, His love for us is stable. Why is it important for you to know and believe that God can't change? Because when you go through the storms and battles of life, you have a safe place to run to and an anchor onto which you can hold.

The writer of Hebrews says that what Jesus has done as your High Priest will last forever (Hebrews 4:14–16). He will always be your advocate and defender. God the Father will always hear Jesus on your behalf, and He is permanently on your side. When others abandon you, Jesus will remain the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

III. Faithfulness Pays!

Faithfulness isn't just about you doing right by others—it benefits you, too! And not just a little bit.

Second Chronicles 16:9a says God is searching all the time for people He can trust who will follow through when He gives them an assignment. He's looking for faithful men and women who will get the job done at any cost, regardless of inconvenience or discomfort. God can show Himself strong through those people because they can be trusted to do what's right. He can entrust them with power and riches. And He can continually increase them because they can always be counted on to be faithful to do with His resources what He tells them to do.

2Chr 16:9a For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.

And the benefits don't stop there. When we're faithful with people, we also have a great advantage. We will be favored and promoted. Faithfulness will cause your life to work and make you a success—spiritually and naturally. It will increase your income and influence. Faithfulness pays!

One of the great examples of this is found in the life of Joseph. Joseph, most beloved of Jacob's sons, is hated by his envious brothers. Angry and jealous of Jacob's gift to Joseph, a resplendent "coat of many colours," the brothers seize him and sell him to a party of Ishmaelites, or Midianites, who carry him to Egypt.



Proverbs 28:20: A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

No matter what happened to him (slavery, prison) he was diligent and faithful. There Joseph eventually gains the favour of the pharaoh of Egypt by his interpretation of a dream and obtains a high place in the pharaoh's kingdom. That faithfulness gave him promotion after promotion and increase upon increase—even in the most impossible situations. Eventually, he was promoted as the second most powerful man in Egypt!

The powerful force of faithfulness will promote you, too. Set out to become a faithful person—someone others, and especially God, can count on. Then watch God open supernatural doors for you that could never be opened without Him!

IV: Faithfulness Will Protect You

Did you know faithfulness isn't just a nice trait people have? Not only are faithful people promoted, but the faithful are also *protected*. That's right. Faithfulness closes the door on the devil and keeps him out of your stuff.

It will keep you safe and secure, even in the midst of a dangerous world. All you have to do is look at Daniel to know that. He was one of the most faithful men in the Bible. As a teenager, like Joseph, he was taken captive to Babylon as a servant in the king's palace. He was so faithful in that position, he kept being promoted, until eventually, King Darius set him over the whole realm!

What happened next?

Those who had wanted his promotion looked for a way to destroy him. But because there was no dirt to dig up on him, they had to make something up!

Of course, that's when they came up with the plan to "catch" him being faithful to pray to God after first making it illegal to do so. With the threat of death under King Darius' order, Daniel was still faithful to pray to God every day. He could have stopped praying for the 30-day timespan this decree was in effect, but he was going to honor God, regardless of what happened. Lions' den or no lions' den, he was going to keep doing exactly what he'd always done because he valued being faithful to God above the king's decree.



Daniel's faithfulness shut the door on the devil and made even sleeping in the lions' den of no threat to him. He was perfectly protected! He had confidence that God would be faithful to him. Sure enough, God not only brought Daniel out of the lions' den unharmed, but He also caused the tables to be turned on Daniel's enemies, so they could never try to hurt him again. (Daniel 6:24)

The same power is available to you in your life. When you are faithful, it closes the door on the devil to steal, kill and destroy in your life. Faithfulness is obedience to God, and when we are obedient, we are protected from the enemy's devices.

Determine to become a faithful person! Then, enjoy the fruit that comes from yielding to the Spirit.

Psalm 31:23

V: The Faithful Are the Ones Who Prosper

People are often jealous of those who seem to continually increase or receive promotions at a greater rate than the norm. These successful individuals likely have one thing others don't—faithfulness.

That's what Jesus was illustrating in the Parable of the Talents **Matthew 25:14-30**

It's easy to see in that parable how the kingdom of God works. He gives us an assignment, and if we're faithful over it, then He gives us a bigger assignment. He prospers and promotes us and, as a result, we experience the joy of the Lord.

If we shrug off our assignments, the opposite happens. We miss out on our opportunities for promotion and experience regret. That's what happened to the wicked servant at the end of the parable. He suffered loss because he behaved unfaithfully.

How did the man with “1” bag behave unfaithfully?

Because he didn't really know his master. He thought the man was unfair. The same kind of thing happens today. People don't know the Lord, so they misjudge Him. They get mad at Him and go around saying things like, “God has never done anything for me. He's never helped me. He doesn't care anything about me.”

People who make those kinds of statements have a wrong concept of God. They think He's at fault for all the bad things that happen in the world. Because they don't have any understanding of what the Bible says about Him, they're afraid that He's unjust and can't be trusted. Instead of obeying Him, they keep living life their own way, and their lack of faith holds them back from walking in His blessings.

It isn't hard to figure out. The faithful are the ones who prosper most. If you find yourself stuck in the same place year after year, check your faithfulness—to God, to His commandments and to those He's called you to honor.

He wants you to prosper!

VI: Why the Little Things Matter

Faithfulness doesn't just apply to the "big things" in life. God cares about the heart, so even the small things matter. In fact, a truly faithful heart will be diligent in all things, not just those that are seen by others.

That's why Jesus said the small things are a gauge to determine whether someone is worthy of greater blessing and responsibility (**Luke 16:10-13**). He also spoke about being faithful in handling what belongs to other people. He said that if you don't take care of their things, you won't be entrusted with your own. That means if you want more nice things to enjoy, you need to check up on how you're treating the resources of others.

How well are you caring for the equipment that belongs to your employer, for instance? Are you treating the desk, truck or whatever else your employer has provided you, with respect? Are you treating them as if you had to pay for their upkeep and repair out of your own pocket?

If you're believing for a home of your own, but right now you're still renting, how well are you taking care of your rental house or apartment? Are you being careless with it and tearing it up, or are you treating it as if it belonged to you?

Those are important questions because your faithfulness in such matters has everything to do with your increase!

If you're believing for a better job, set yourself up for increase by being faithful in the job you have. If you want to be a brain surgeon, but right now, you're waiting tables and saving money so you can go to school, wait on those tables the very best you can. Even though it might seem like a little thing to you, Jesus told us to be faithful in the little things. So, be a blessing to everyone who comes into that restaurant.

Morning by Morning, new mercies I see.....

Be faithful in the small things. Demonstrate to God that you are worthy and capable of handling even more. He has so much He wants to give to you!

VII: How To Become Faithful

We've studied the benefits of being faithful. Now, we're getting down to the part—how to become a faithful person so you can start enjoying the good life and the Fruit of the Spirit, Faithfulness!

First, let's look at the Bible characteristics of a faithful person. Take this as an opportunity to do a self-check.

FAITHFUL

1. Faithful people can be trusted by those they serve. They show up consistently, serve consistently, give consistently.
2. Faithful people keep a confidence—they don't reveal secrets or go around talking about matters that should be kept quiet (Proverbs 11:13).
3. Faithful people are loyal. They don't cheat, steal or abuse their positions.
4. Faithful people are truthful and honest. They don't lie or bend the truth (Proverbs 14:5).
5. Faithful people are reliable and dependable. They show up on time every time, and they do what they say they will do (Proverbs 25:13).

We all want to be around faithful people! Now it's time to become one. Here's how.

Faithfulness grows as you practice it. Like all the other fruit of the spirit, the more you focus on doing it, the more it grows. You can become more faithful by spending more time in the Word of God, and when you get to a verse about diligence or faithfulness—take a “selah moment” and stop and think on it. Ask yourself if you're living that way. Even better, ask God to reveal to your heart the areas where you need to grow in faithfulness. He is faithful to show you!

The way of the world is to be unfaithful—to do as little as you can get away with—on the job or in your relationships with others. The way of the world is to forget about honor, commitment and loyalty, and just do whatever you want to do.

We have to swim upstream against that tide to walk continually in faithfulness. We have to feed on what the Word says about it and make a commitment. You have everything on the inside of you that you need to become a faithful person who can be trusted with promotion and increase. One day, it will become a way of life instead of an effort, and the rewards will make you so glad you set out to become faithful!

When it comes to walking in faith, it is important you do not stand in your own way. There are times when the barrier to us walking in our purpose and overcoming our obstacles is not because of others but because of our decisions. We disbelieve in our abilities. We self-sabotage opportunities that are good for us. We want to be in control of every area of our life. Only God knows our innermost being since He is the one who created us in our mother's womb. ***The truth is that HE is in full control of your life.*** Not you. He knows your struggles, your challenges, as well as your fullest potential! He calls us to do amazing things, and it is time you TRUST in Him and watch how blessed your life becomes!

We are reminded of this in Psalms 139:13-14, that God knows everything about us from the top of our heads to the soles of our feet! ***We are fearfully and wonderfully made! Make the decision to fully submit to God and break every stronghold holding you back from pursuing your destiny!*** No more self-doubt! No more feeling inadequate and insecure! No more being defeated because of broken promises or relationships! No more allowing your hardships to define you or your future!

Have Faith!! Trials and challenges are bound to happen. Remember, no matter what, you're never alone in this process! God is always present! Keep the Faith!! Be Faithful!!!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust.....



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