

Faithfulness Part One

In this lesson we will explore what being faithful means, and why being faithful to God is important. We will also show Biblical examples of faithfulness, as well as how we can show faithfulness in our lives today. Because there is so much information to cover on this topic it will be broken down into two parts.

Why is faithfulness important?

Hebrews 3:12-14 “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end” Being faithful to God is an ongoing life long process. Yes, we will all stumble and sin from time to time but if we truly repent, we can go right back to being faithful to God. However, there is no retirement from being a faithful Christian. One must be steadfast to the end of their life to be counted as one of God’s children. This is why Christians no matter how strong must continue to study God’s Word and restrengthen themselves. Also, being in the company of other faithful Christians can be a source of strength. One of the purposes of Christ’s church is for Christians to strengthen one another, helping each other through life’s ups and downs.

2 Peter 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.” Christians are all only human and will fail sometimes to live as God would have them. Like the dog and pig Peter spoke of, a Christian that has fallen needs to clean themselves up again through repenting, changing the part of their life that does not please God, and becoming faithful to Him again. It is not easy to be a faithful Christian, nor did God ever promise it would be. Still, if anyone is willing to make the necessary changes in their lives, they can become a Christian. Anyone can choose to become a faithful Christian, and if they remain faithful, they will be in Heaven.

Jude 21 “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” This life no matter how long we live is temporary. Eternity is forever. So it is far more important to be prepared for eternity than it is to worry about the problems of this life. Yes, sometimes the problems of this life can be very important, but they are far less important than where you will spend eternity. Staying a faithful Christian until the end of this life causes one to be ready for everlasting life in Heaven, because of God’s mercy towards us. Those that are not faithful Christians will not receive God’s mercy, but rather His wrath and be lost eternally.

What is faithfulness?

Matthew 7:16-20 “Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.” Christians will be known by how they live their lives. People around a Christian should notice something different about them. It could be they notice that the Christian does not participate in some activities. It could be they notice that the Christian does some things they do not. Perhaps they will see the Christian does not use foul language or that they are always dressed modestly. Perhaps they will see that the Christian is generally kind to others. They will probably notice that the Christian knows something about the Bible, and tries sometimes to share that with them. Over time people that observe a faithful Christian will see their life is different. It should not be the case that people around a Christian are stunned to learn that their friend is a Christian. A Christian’s “light” should not be hidden.

Matthew 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” It is not enough just to believe in Jesus. It is not enough to know God’s Word. A faithful Christian is obedient to God because they do His will. A Christian that is faithful lives in obedience to God.

Luke 12:42-44 “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.” God does not count among His faithful those that do not do His will. A faithful servant of God will be about His business, by obeying His will.

John 20:27-29 “Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” Today, God has left us His Word so that we may know how He wants us to live. Because of the Bible, which God gave us through humans He inspired, we can know of Jesus and His teachings even though we were not present 2,000 years ago. A faithful Christian is obedient to God, by following His will in His Bible, even though they were not able to see these things unfold 2,000 years ago. Much like, because of recorded history we can believe George Washington existed even though we were not around at that time to see his life. We believe George Washington existed even though the writers of history were not men inspired by God.

Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.” A faithful Christian will be obedient to God over being obedient to man. Christians should certainly obey the laws of the land. **1 Peter 2:13-17** “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” However, as Peter

said in Acts 5:29 if there is a conflict between the laws of man and the laws of God, faithful Christians must choose God over man.

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” Faithful Christians are striving to live as God would have them live. Sometimes it can be very difficult but we either walk in the light, or we walk in the darkness. We can not walk mostly in the light. There is no middle ground. A Christian that is leading a pretty faithful life, but has that one sin they will not give up, is not walking in the light. Jesus was not partly in the light; He was all in the light. His blood cleanses Christians from all their sins. When Christian stumble and repent they again walk in the light with Jesus. However, a Christian that is not trying to give up that certain sin, and is not truly repenting of it, is not walking in the light, and is not living as a faithful Christian. A faithful Christian is not perfect but is striving towards it.

Examples of faithfulness

Numbers 12:7 “My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.” God Himself acknowledges the faithfulness of Moses, WOW! Moses was not perfect; he was not allowed to enter into the promise land of the Israelites. However, Moses was given the difficult task of getting the Israelites to follow him out of Egypt and to the promise land. Moses though not perfect, did God’s will, and had a strong relationship with God, because He was obedient even through much adversity. Sometimes it is not easy to do what God asks. Moses like all of those faithful to God will one day be in Heaven.

Deuteronomy 7:9-10 “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.” and **1 Corinthians 1:9** “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” God keeps His promises. He loves us and wants us to follow Him and He is faithful to His Word. He will reward the faithful and unfaithful in the way He said He will. God rewards the faithful with Heaven and the unfaithful with Hell.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” God gives us free will to accept or reject Him. We will get the consequences of our own choices of either accepting or rejecting Him. However, God will not allow any situation to happen in our lives in which we have no choice but to sin. Sometimes we might find it difficult to avoid sin, but we will never be forced beyond our will to sin. When we sin it is because we have chosen to do so.

Ephesians 6:20-22 “For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.” Paul’s faithful service to God caused Him to have to deal with many difficult situations

but in this passage, He speaks of a Christian named Tychicus. He calls Tychicus a faithful minister in the Lord. While we do not know a lot about Tychicus, He is spoken of briefly by Paul several times in the New Testament, and by Luke once in Acts 20:4. Apparently, He was a man going about doing God's will by helping to spread the message of Jesus. Going about trying to teach others the gospel is certainly part of being a faithful servant of God.

Colossians 1:2-6 "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth" Paul speaks of a group of faithful Christians in Colosse. They were apparently demonstrating their faith enough for word to get back to Paul. They were apparently also known to care about fellow Christians. Their faithful actions demonstrate to us that our faith should not be hidden. A faithful Christian should live a life in which others can see Christ in us. Other people should be able to see also that we care about other Christians and are not all self-absorbed. Christians don't need shirts or bumper stickers that declare they believe in Jesus; their life shows it.

Colossians 1:7-8 "As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit." Like Tychicus, we don't know that much about Epaphras. We do know that Paul speaks of Him a few times in the New Testament. He apparently helped Paul teach others the gospel of Christ. Teaching the gospel of Christ to others is something a faithful Christian does. A faithful Christian should take advantage when they have the opportunities to teach others about Christ, you never know who you might reach. Christians are not responsible if a listener rejects Christ, but they are responsible to try to spread the Word.

Colossians 4:7-15 "All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here. Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house." In this verse Paul acknowledges several other Christians that are a comfort to him. Faithful Christians should be a comfort and support system for one another, to help lift each other up in difficult times and keep each other strong in the Lord. Sadly, one person spoken of here, Demas,

at some point must have fallen away from Christ, 2 Timothy 4:10. Hopefully, some day He came back to Christ, but we do not have a record of it. Sometimes it is difficult to remain a faithful Christian. When Christians support each other, it can make it easier to be faithful.

Hebrews 2:17-18 “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” and **Hebrews 3:1-6** “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” Jesus was faithful to His mission to die for us on the cross so that we can have salvation in Heaven, if we are obedient to Christ. In coming to earth and living a life here on earth, Jesus knows what we go through, and knows what it is like to face temptations. While Jesus did not give into temptation, He is able to understand us, and make intercession for us with God, **Hebrews 7:25** “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” Jesus has built a way for us to go to Heaven if we will but follow Him.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” God will faithfully forgive us and cleans us from all our sins when we truly make a change in our lives and become faithful to Him, by obeying Him.

Due to the length of information on this topic the lesson Faithfulness Part One will conclude at this point. The next lesson Faithfulness Part Two will continue and conclude this lesson topic.