

Faithfulness Part Two

Due to the length of this topic the lesson begun in Faithfulness Part One will now continue and conclude as the lesson Faithfulness Part Two.

How Christians show faithfulness

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” A Christian living a faithful life, out of love for their fellow man, will want their light to shine, not out of arrogance, but to live a life that pleases God. Being a faithful Christian, one takes the opportunity, when they have them to try and teach others about the Bible. Because a faithful Christian lives a different life than most people around them it will eventually stand out. Some people might be drawn to a faithful Christian’s light, and want to know more, others may decide they don’t like the Christian and what they stand for.

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” A faithful Christian will put God and His will first in their lives. One example of this is being at Bible class and worship services every time possible. We all get ill and sometimes have to miss, but there should be very few times a faithful Christian is not at worship services or Bible class. Because God is first in a faithful Christian’s life, they do not schedule other things at the time they know the church meets, and will not look for excuses to miss. A faithful Christian remembers the Bible says in **Hebrews 10:25** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” Another example is, when a faithful Christian gets their income God is thought of first, and not second or worse. A faithful Christian determines how much of their income they are giving to the church off the top, not off the bottom, or whatever is left. A faithful Christian remembers the Bible says in **1 Corinthians 16:2** “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” and **2 Corinthians 9:7** “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” Also a faithful Christian has a positive attitude about both of these examples or they have a Christian heart problem. These are just two examples of putting God first.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” and **Philippians 1:21-24** “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.” A faithful Christian will want to serve God in whatever way they can, and do so willingly. Because they know that this world is not their home, but rather Heaven is, they will be about doing God’s will, and not be willing to compromise it with false doctrines. This is not done out of arrogance as if they are something special, but rather to try and live as God wants them to live. Christians must remember to teach or be examples to others in love, not anger, or out of some superiority feeling. Faithful Christians not only want to go to Heaven, but want others to go as well.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.” and **Titus 2:11-14** “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” A faithful Christian does the best they can to be constantly living in a way pleasing to God, and when they stumble and fall, repenting and correcting themselves. We don’t know when we might pass away, or when Christ might return, so a faithful Christian strives to live ready to meet Jesus at any time.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” and **Hebrews 6:1-6** “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” One cannot be a faithful Christian if they do not know the Bible. A faithful Christian will take the time to study and learn from the Bible, so they can grow as Christians. Bible knowledge helps a faithful Christian grow past the basics of the Bible, and learn it more deeply. Study of the Bible helps Christians spot error being taught so they do not fall for it, and are able to refute it in a loving way. It takes time and effort to be a faithful Christian, it doesn’t just happen by itself.

2 Peter 1:5-11 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” Being a faithful Christian is a life time journey not a quick sprint. A Christian must grow in all the virtues Peter talks about above to be fruitful before God. Our Creator will not accept unfruitful Christians into Heaven. Growing in these virtues makes a Christian grow to become stronger and less likely to sin.

Results of faithfulness

Matthew 25:21-23 “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done,

good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” A faithful Christian will be rewarded by our Savior with eternal salvation. There can be no greater reward than eternal salvation. Being a faithful Christian is worth it because they will be the only ones that obtain salvation. Don’t you want to be faithful?

Luke 9:57-62 “And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” God must come first in our lives if we want to go to Heaven, and to a faithful Christian He does. Those that put other things before God will not be in Heaven with His faithful Christians.

Revelation 2:10 “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” Being a faithful Christian until death gives us eternal life in Heaven. Jesus, through His sacrifice on the cross, made it possible for all of His faithful followers to go to Heaven, which is the ultimate result of being a faithful Christian.

Conclusion

Hopefully, we all now can better understand that God does expect faithfulness from His people. However, a Christian that is faithful to God has a home in Heaven waiting for them, and people that are not faithful to God do not. Take some time to ask yourself, have you been faithful to God? If so, then please continue to live life in this way that pleases God, if not why not change now?