



World Christian Fellowship

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Galatians

Lesson 57 – Fruit of the Spirit

Faithfulness

Galatians 5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

"Who can find a faithful man?" **Proverbs 20:6**

The word for man is used in its generic sense which includes both men and women.

Why would Solomon ask such a question?

Is it difficult to find people who are faithful?

Is it too hard for people to be faithful?

How would you define Faithfulness?

The Scripture speaks of certain Ones being "faithful!"

Psalms 119:86, *All Your commandments are faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!*

Hebrews 3:5, *And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,*

Hebrews 2:17, *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

"Faithfulness" is fruit of the Spirit!

Derivation of the word comes from the concept of faith, belief, trust. To be faith-ful is to be "full of faith!"

What do the following Scriptures say about "faithfulness?"

Colossians 2:5, *For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*

Colossians 1:23, *if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

1 Timothy 3:11, *Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.*

What is the call of God for his people to be?

1 Corinthians 4:2, *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*

Revelation 2:10, *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Hebrews 3:14, *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*

Many of the early Christians faced strong trials and temptations that tried their faith in God. Because we live in a time of relative peace and prosperity, our faith may not be put to the test as strongly as some of them faced.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

What would be our decision if we had to endure the kind of hardship that they faced?

Would we deny our commitment to Jesus?

If we are tempted to complain about services lasting a few minutes longer, what would we do if we faced real hardship as a Christian?

If we complain because the building gets too hot or too cold, what would we do if we faced terrible persecution for Christ?

Have we grown too soft?

Are we too caught up in this materialistic age?

If we are addicted to our material things, what would we do if suddenly we were called upon to surrender them all up in order to be faithful Christ?

Which do we love most?

1 John 2:15-17, *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

Faithfulness is a Virtue

- 1. Because there are so few.**

Proverbs 20:6, *Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?*

- 2. Because God praises men by calling them faithful!**

Colossians 4:7, *Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me.*

2 Timothy 2:2, *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*

3. Because blessings are promised upon the faithful!

Revelation 2:10, *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Proverbs 28:20, *A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.*

Psalms 31:23, *Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.*

Psalms 101:6, *My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.*

Matthew 25:21, *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

4. Because such are like God!

Lamentations 3:23, They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Psalms 119:138, *Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.*

Contrast

The Faithful (**Matthew 25:21**)

- ✓ He was given a job to do and he did it well.
- ✓ He was dependable.
- ✓ He did what was expected of him.

The Unfaithful (**Luke 16:1-2, 10-12**)

He was a wasteful steward and did not do his job well.

If not dependable in few things, he won't be over many.

Faithful men and woman can give a good accounting.

Daniel 6:4, *So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.*

He was true to his responsibilities—no fault found. He was honest to the core.

It seems to be obvious that God judges more by man's character than by the number of talents, abilities, opportunities that he has. (Matthew 25).

Value of Faithfulness

A young lady who was a Christian married a non-Christian. He was attending services with her before marriage and thought he was interested and learning. After they got married, he stopped attending and even tried to get her to quit. But she kept attending "faithfully!" After the first child came, she missed a couple of Sundays. But on the third Sunday she got in the car to go to services, but the car would not start. He had taken the coil out of it so that it would not start. She was determined to go and starting walking. Her husband then began to feel ashamed of himself. He went and took her to the services. That night he went with her to services. Shortly after that he became a Christian.

What would have happened if the wife had given in and stayed Home?

Was she rewarded for her "faithfulness?"

God has had recorded in His Book of Life the lives of many who have been faithful in their service to Him.

As far as we know, all of the Apostles (except for the John) faced persecution and died a violent death because of their devotion and service to Jesus, the Son of God.

He had recorded in Hebrews chapter 11 a long list of men and women that were examples of faithfulness. The chapter ends with these wonderful words:

Hebrews 11:38, "*of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.*

Conclusion

We trust and pray that God may continue to grant us the opportunity to serve Him in quietness and peace. But, if the time should come when our faith will be challenged to the fullest, may we be prepared and faithful to the end.

What about your life?

Could it be looked upon as a faithful Christian?

Can people see in your life that trustworthiness, dependability, and steadfast obedience to Christ's Will?

Or, do they see wavering, uncertainty, on & off, Hot & Cold, and Instability?

Faithfulness is a virtue!

It is there in a person's life because he wants it and he has seen the value in his own life and in the lives of others as well.