

## FAITHFULNESS.

### GALATIANS 5:22-23.

1. The Fruit of the Spirit called 'Faith' in the King James Version of the Holy Bible is rendered 'Faithfulness' in every other Translation that I consulted.

That is, The Living Bible, The Amplified Bible, New Century Version, Revised Standard Version, New Living Translation, New International Version, New American Standard Bible and New King James Version.

2. Eight different Versions render it as 'Faithfulness' rather than 'Faith.'

It is fitting that Faithfulness is listed as one of the Fruit of the Spirit.

3. 'Faithfulness' is not about What We Believe. That's 'Faith.'

Instead, it is about How We Live In Response To What We Believe.

4. 'Faithfulness' is a quality that is required of God. 1

Cor. 4:2 says, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found Faithful."

5. Prov. 25:19 says, "Confidence in an Unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint."

So if a person is not faithful or dependable, he cannot be trusted and has no value.

6. He will be a disappointment and a failure to all who know him.

Let's look at the subject of Faithfulness.

A. The Marks.

B. The Motivation.

C. The Methods.

### A. The Marks Of Faithfulness.

I. We Should Be Faithful With Regard To Our Families.

1. If a person is not faithful at home, he will not be faithful in any other area of his life.

One should be faithful to his or her spouse, both morally and physically.

2. There is no greater mark of unfaithfulness than adultery.

However, physical adultery is not the only kind. There are those who are married to their jobs or sports or to something else that has priority over one's spouse.

3. First place in our lives must be reserved for the Lord. Anyone or anything that is more important to us than God is an idol.

However, if the Lord has priority in our lives, we will be faithful in every area of our lives.

So we should be Faithful to our Families which includes our Spouses and our Children.

II. We Should Be Faithful With Regard To Our Finances.

1. Jesus said in Luke 16:10-12, "He that is Faithful in that which is least is Faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

"If therefore ye have not been Faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?"

"And if ye have not been Faithful in that which is

another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?"

2. What would you do if you had a million dollars?

That's not really the question because you don't have a million dollars.

3. Instead, what are you doing with the money you have now, even though it is not a million dollars?

I have heard people say what they would do if they had a lot of money or if they won the lottery.

I suspect it would be similar to what they are doing now.

4. I heard a story one about a man who told his Pastor that if he had 100 pigs, he would give 50 of them to the Lord.

The Pastor then asked him, 'What would you do if you had ten pigs?'

The man replied, 'That's not fair Preacher. You know I have ten pigs.'

5. But that Pastor got to the Truth. He didn't want to give anything to God. It was only an excuse.

The Test of Faithfulness in the Spiritual Realm is seen through our Faithfulness in our Finances.

6. 1 Cor. 16:2 says, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him..."

So we should be Faithful in our Finances which includes our Tithes and Offerings as well as meeting our other Financial Obligations.

### III. We Should Be Faithful With Regard To Our Friends.

1. Prov. 17:17 says, "A Friend loveth at all

times, and a brother is born for adversity."

What is a 'Friend?' He is someone who multiplies joy and divides sorrow.

He listens to our silence and comes in when the world is going out.

2. He is there when everyone else has gone.

It may cost him something and require a good deal of effort on his part at times.

Being a Friend may not always be convenient.

How dependable are we as Friends?

3. It has been said, 'A Friend in need is a Friend indeed.'

So we should be Faithful to our friends which includes those times when it may not be easy or convenient.

### IV. We Should Be Faithful With Regard To Our Fellowship.

1. Rom. 12:5 says concerning Believers,

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

Heb. 10:25 speaks of "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."

2. We have all heard it said that 'One doesn't need to attend Church to be a Christian.'

However, the Christianity of the person who neglects attending the House of God is questionable.

The one who is Faithful in his Church Attendance is saying, 'God, You are important to me.'

'Pastor, you are important to me.'

'Brothers and Sisters in Christ, you are important to me.'

3. It is only because of your Faithfulness and

mine that this Church remains a Light and a Voice to this Community.

So we should be Faithful to our Fellowship which includes our Attendance, our Prayers, our Finances and our Witness.

V. We Should Be Faithful With Regard To Our Faith In the Word Of God.

1. Some people have set themselves up to judge the Word of God in an effort to discredit it.

There are those today, as there have been for centuries, who want to destroy the Word of God and His Kingdom.

2. The Roots of Christianity in this Nation run deep. However, they have never been more under attack than they are today.

There are those, in places of authority, who are working tirelessly to silence any reference to God.

Remember, we are only one generation away from paganism.

3. General William Booth, (1829-1912) the Founder of The Salvation Army, had this to say at least a century ago. He said,

‘The Chief Danger of the Twentieth Century will be Religion Without The Holy Ghost, Christianity Without Christ, Forgiveness Without Repentance, Salvation Without Regeneration, Politics Without God and Heaven Without Hell.’

4. It’s the Truth! The old General was speaking prophetically.

So we should be Faithful to our Faith in the Word of God which includes Hearing and Obeying what it says.

Here we see the Marks of Faithfulness.

They involve our Families, our Finances, our Friends, our Fellowship and our Faith in God’s Word.

**B. The Motivation Of Faithfulness.**

1. Why should we be Faithful?

It is because of the Faithfulness of God to us.

Much is said in His Word about His Faithfulness.

1 Cor. 1:9 says that “GOD IS FAITHFUL, by Whom ye were called unto the Fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. 1 Cor. 10:13 says, “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.”

2 Thes. 3:3 says that “...THE LORD IS FAITHFUL, Who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.”

3. In Heb. 2:17, He is called “...A Merciful and FAITHFUL High Priest...”

In 1 Peter 4:19, He is called “...A FAITHFUL CREATOR.”

1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, HE IS FAITHFUL and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

The Prophet said in Lam. 3:23, “...Great Is Thy Faithfulness.”

4. His Faithfulness to us should cause us to be Faithful to Him.

Here we see the Motivation Of Faithfulness.

It is because of God's Faithfulness to us.

### **C. The Methods Of Faithfulness.**

#### **I. We Should Be Faithful In the Small Things.**

1. Zech. 4:10 says, "For who hath despised the day of Small Things?..."

In Matt. 25:23, Jesus was giving the Parable of the Talents.

He said, "...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."

2. In Luke 19:17, we have the Words of the Master with regard to the Parable of the Pounds.

He said, "...Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been Faithful in a Very Little, have thou authority over ten cities."

#### **II. We Should Be Faithful In The Secret Things.**

Prov. 11:13 says, "A talebearer revealeth Secrets: but he that is of a Faithful Spirit concealeth the matter."

Prov. 25:9 says, "Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a Secret to another."

#### **III. We Should Be Faithful In The Sacred Things.**

1. The Apostle Paul said in 2 Tim. 2:2, "And the things thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to Faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

In Rev. 2:10, Jesus said to the Church at Smyrna,

"...Be thou Faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

2. Here we see The Methods Of Faithfulness.

It is in the Small Things, the Secret Things and the Sacred Things.

### **FAITHFULNESS.**

1. It is almost always a Positive Word. In fact, I can't think of anything negative that can be said about Faithfulness.

It is one of the Nine Fruit of the Spirit.

2. A. The Marks of Faithfulness involve our Families, our Finances, our Friends, our Fellowship and our Faith in God's Word.

B. The Motivation of Faithfulness is the Faithfulness of God to us.

C. The Methods of Faithfulness involve the Small Things, the Secret Things and the Sacred Things.

3. Remember, Faith involves What We Believe while Faithfulness involves How We Live In Response To What We Believe.

Let's be Faithful! It is a Requirement of God and it Pleases Him.