

Faithfulness

Lesson 8

Introduction.

- I. The seventh quality listed as “the fruit of the Spirit” is “faithfulness.” (Gal. 5:22).
- II. The word “faithfulness” comes from the Greek “pistis” [**pis tis**] which is often translated “faith.”

A. Rom. 3:25; 1 Cor. 2:5; 15:14, 17; 2 Cor. 1:24; 3:23; Phil. 1:25; 2:17; 1 Thess. 3:2; 2 Thess. 1:3; 3:2.

Rom. 3:25 “Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through **faith** in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”

1 Cor. 2:5 “That your **faith** should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

1CO 15:14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your **faith** also is vain.

1CO 15:17 and if Christ has not been raised, your **faith** is worthless; you are still in your sins.

2CO 1:24 Not that we lord it over your **faith**, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm.

B. It is also used in the sense of “faithfulness” or “trustworthiness.” (Matt. 23:23; Rom. 3:3; Tit. 2:10).

Matt. 23:23 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye tithe mint and anise and cummin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law, justice, and mercy, and **faith**: but these ye ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone.”

Rom. 3:2 “Much every way: first of all, that they were **intrusted** with the oracles of God.” “intrusted” is from “pisteuo”[pis teu oh] the verb form of “pistis.”

Tit. 2:10 “not purloining, but showing all good **fidelity**; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”

C. The word is most often translated “faithfulness” in Galatians 5:22. Amp., ASV, NASB, NIV, Marshall

1. The KJV has “faith.”
2. The sense of the translation is “faithfulness.”

I. God is faithful

A. He is 100% dependable.

1. We can rely on God.
2. He will never let us down. (Heb. 13:5,6).

HEB 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

HEB 13:6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

B. Scriptures testify to God’s faithfulness.

DEU 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the **faithful** God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

1TH 5:24 **Faithful** is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1CO 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is **faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is **faithful** and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

HEB 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is **faithful**;

II. **Christians Are To Be Faithful.** (1 Cor. 4:2).

“Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found **faithful.**”

- “Steward” is from “oikonomos” [oi kah **nah** mos] meaning a “manager, one entrusted with something.”
 - A. The Christian must be **faithful to God’s will**, not do what is right in his own eyes. (Matt. 7:21; Prov. 14:12).
 - B. He must be **faithful to our word**. (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9).

EPH 4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.	COL 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,
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- C. He must faithfully **use talents**. (Matt. 25:14-30).
 1. If each members buries just one talent, hundreds of talents are buried.
 2. It is essential we use our talents.
 3. It is essential we seek to discover our talents and develop them.
- D. He must faithfully **use time**. (Eph. 5:16; Lk. 10:38-42).

EPH 5:16 making the most [make the best use] of your time, because the days are evil. NASB
EPH “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” ASV

“making the most of” comes from “exagorazo” [ehks ah gah **rah** zoh] meaning “purchase, buy back, redeem.”

Mary & Martha

LUK 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

LUK 10:39 And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet.

LUK 10:40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

LUK 10:41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

LUK 10:42 but only a few things are necessary, really only one, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her. "

Listening to Jesus was the best possible choice of the use of her time.

Martha was a good woman, but was giving up the great privilege of listening to the Savior.

1. **How time is to be used.**

- a. Study (2 Tim. 2:15)
- b. Teach & serve others.
- c. Worship
- d. Be with family
- e. Recreation
- f. Making a living (1 Tim. 5:8).

2. How time is wasted.

- a. Lack of organization/procrastination
- b. Reading cheap, worthless materials.
- c. Watching too much T.V. (Prov. 23:7).
- d. Meditating on real or fanciful injuries. (Matt. 18:15).
- e. Pondering past mistakes (Phil. 3:13,14).

PHI 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

PHI 3:14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **See 1 John 1:9**

- f. Worry (Matt. 6:25,26).

MAT 6:25 "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?"

MAT 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"

- g. Gossiping (1 Pet. 3:10).
- h. Lying in bed too long. (Prov. 20:13).

PRO 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you become poor; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.

- i. Unnecessary long telephone conversations, etc. (Eccles. 5:2).

ECC 5:2 Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.

E. Money (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).

- 1. Our wealth belongs to God. (Psa. 24:1).

“The earth is Jehovah’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

- 2. We must give account of our stewardship.
- 3. We are not merely accountable for a percentage of our wealth, but for all of it.
- 4. Everything we have belongs to God - no exceptions.

F. Faithfulness in attendance (Heb. 10:24, 25).

HEB 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

HEB 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.

1. Worship God
2. Encourage Others
3. Build up self

G. Faithful as friend.

1. Help - encourage, bear burdens, etc.
2. The one Paul is talking about does not talk about friend behind back.
3. Love at all times. (Prov. 17:17). “A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.”
4. Does not reveal confidential information. (Prov. 11:13).

PRO 11:13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

- a. We do not have an obligation to tell every thing we know about others.
- b. We reveal bad things to help - not to hurt.

H. Faithful to **father** or **mother**, **husband** or **wife**, etc.. (Eph. 5:22, 23; 6:1, 2).

EPH 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. EPH 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. See Eph. 5:25, 28.	EPH 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. EPH 6:2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),
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III. Reward Of Faithfulness

A. It nearly always bring reward in this life. (Prov. 28:20).

“A faithful man shall abound with blessings; But he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be unpunished.”

B. It always ends with eternal life (Rev. 2:10).

1. Faithful even it means death. (Matt. 10:22).

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end [death], the same shall be saved”

2. Faithful until death (to the end of life).
 - a. It is vital that we remain faithful until death.
 - b. Death may come naturally, by accidents, by persecutions, etc.
 - c. We do not control death, but we do control faithfulness.
 - d. It is a decision, a commitment we make.

Conclusion.

- I. Let us be faithful to all our duties to God and man, and persevere to the end.

II. Let us admonish and encourage others to faithfully persevere to the end.

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