

FAITHFULNESS, FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23; Proverbs 20:6; Psalm 12:1-2; Revelation 2:10

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "She has been so faithful to him," "they have been faithful to their Church, etc." What is meant by "being faithful?" Is it being consistent? Is it being trustworthy? Is it being reliable? The Christian, of all people, should be one of faithfulness for he/she has Jesus as his/her example and is told many times in the Bible that one has to remain faithful in order to be blessed. Any person who is led by the Holy Spirit will certainly be encouraged and motivated to produce the positive attitude and actions of "faithfulness."

I. WHAT ABOUT THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS AND GOD THE FATHER?

1. The faithfulness of Jesus:

- Jesus was faithful in fulfilling His being the Son of God.
 - Just as Moses was a faithful servant - Hebrews 3:1-
 - Jesus was faithful in carrying out the work given Him - John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:29
- Jesus is faithful in being mankind's High Priest - Hebrews 2:17-18
 - Faithful, because Jesus understands man's weaknesses - Hebrews 4:14-15
 - Faithful, because Jesus richly supplies believers with grace and mercy - Hebrews 4:16

2. The faithfulness of God:

- God has always been known as a God of faithfulness - Deuteronomy 7:9
- God is faithful, reliable, trustworthy to all who are His Children:
 - Will not allow any of His Children to be tempted beyond what they can bear -
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - Will protect His Children from the Evil One - 2 Thessalonians 3:3
 - Will complete His work of Salvation in the believer - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

3. The believer must be faithful to Jesus and God, the Father as well - Revelation 2:10-11, 25-26; 3:11-12

III. AREAS THAT CHRISTIANS NEED TO HAVE GREATER FAITHFULNESS

1. Christians need to be more faithful to God and Jesus:

- More faithful in the way one uses his/her gift/talents - Matthew 25:21
- Too often a person is like the "one" talent man who buried his talent which greatly displeased the Lord - Matthew 25:24-26
 - Moses at the burning bush made excuses.
 - For every excuse, God can provide a way to be faithful.
- One can begin by being faithful in small things:
 - Jesus commented on such small things - Luke 16:10
 - If one can't be relied on for small things, how can one be expected to be considered reliable enough when things get tough? Jeremiah 12:5

2. Christians need to be more faithful to the Church:

- The family of God always has need of true, faithful, reliable, trustworthy, loyal, members.
- Lack of faithfulness in God's people can be seen in several ways:
 - Forsaking the assembling themselves together - Hebrews 10:24-25
 - Lack of participation in the family life of the Church:
 - neglecting opportunities to learn and grow together in God's Word

- leaving it to someone else to carry out the work of the Church
 - Not being concerned about the welfare of one's fellow Church members.
 - One cannot take such unfaithfulness lightly:
 - One is of little value to those who need him/her - Proverbs 25:19
 - One actually undermines the work of the Lord - Proverbs 18:9; Matthew 12:30
 - Every Christian needs to be more faithful to his/her Church:
 - "If everyone was as faithful as I am, what kind of Church would this one be?"
 - How many would be in Sunday School?
 - How many would be teaching a class?
 - How much would the Church grow numerically and spiritually?
 - Would this Church even be here?
3. Christians need to be more faithful to their families:
- Fathers need to be more faithful in fulfilling their spiritual roles - Ephesians 6:4
 - Mothers need to be more faithful in fulfilling their family responsibilities - Titus 2:3-5
 - Husbands and wives need to be more faithful to one another in their respective duties - Ephesians 5:22-23
 - Children need to be more faithful - Ephesians 6:1-3
4. Christians need to be more faithful to themselves:
- Sometimes one seems to wear his/her faith like the "current" style of fashion, changeable:
 - If it is fashionable to be a faithful Christian, then he/she is, if not, then he/she is not.
 - Christians who act like this are harming themselves:
 - They are also harming those who cannot rely upon them.
 - Thankfully, there are many Christians who are faithful to themselves as well as to God:
 - These will be preserved by the Lord - **"...for the Lord preserves the faithful..."** Psalm 31:23
 - These will be blessed by the Lord - **"...A faithful man will abound with blessings ..."** Proverbs 28:20
 - Christians owe it to themselves to be faithful to themselves as well as other.

CONCLUSION:

1. Faithfulness:
 - describes a person on whose faithful service one may rely on, whose loyalty one may depend, one whose word can be unreservedly accepted.
 - describes the person in whom there is the unswerving and inflexible fidelity of Jesus Christ and the utter dependability of God.
2. The Christian who is being led by the Holy Spirit is to produce the fruit of the Spirit:
 - will follow in the footsteps of God and Jesus whom he/she serves
3. Christian, will YOU not strive to be faithful in your service to God, the Church, your family and Yourself?