

Subject: *Bearing Spiritual Fruit – FAITHFULNESS*

Scripture: *Galatians 5:22-23*

A faithful person is dependable, consistent, and reliable. A faithful person is on time and on task. A faithful person is someone you can always count on. Now, with that in mind, here's the question: how many people do you know like that?

How many people do you know that you can always depend on? How many people always tell the truth? How many people will always keep something confidential? How many people always follow through on their promises and assignments? The answer is probably not very many. Faithfulness is a rare quality indeed, and yet it is part of Christian character known as "fruit of the Spirit." God's children are to reflect God who is absolutely faithful in all His ways and words. The Old Testament words for faithfulness (Heb., *emunah*, *aman*) have the sense of "steady, stable, trustworthy, firm, and devoted to duty." The New Testament word (Gk., *pistis*) is found about 70 times and means "trustworthy, reliable, devoted to duty." The term is used to describe both God and His people.

1. The importance of God's faithfulness

A. God's faithfulness is great, infinite, and eternal

Psalms 36:5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

Psalms 89:1-2 ¹ *I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.* ² *For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.*

Psalms 119:89-90 ⁸⁹ *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.* ⁹⁰ *Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.*

Lamentations 3:22-23 ²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

B. God's faithfulness is based on His unchanging character

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

C. God is faithful in maintaining the physical world

Genesis 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Psalms 145:16 Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

D. God is faithful in keeping His promises

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.

Joshua 23:14 And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

E. God is faithful in calling sinners to salvation

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

F. God is faithful in forgiving sins

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

G. God is faithful in answering prayers

Psalms 143:1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

H. God is faithful in delivering us from temptations

1 Corinthians 10:13 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.

I. God is faithful in correcting us and making us holy

Psalms 119:75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

J. God is faithful in protecting us

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you, and keep you from evil.

1 Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

K. God is faithful in working out His plans

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

2. The importance of our faithfulness

A. Faithfulness is required of all God's servants

Matthew 25:21 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.

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

B. Faithfulness is required in all relationships

It is essential in the family (husband/wife, parent/child, brother/sister). It is essential in the workplace (employer/employee). It is essential in the school (teacher/student). It is essential in friendships (friend/friend).

3. Faithfulness in the family

A. Faithful, loving submission of the wife

*Ephesians 5:22-24*²² *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

B. Faithful, loving leadership of the husband

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

C. Faithful, loving obedience of the children

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

D. Faithful, loving nurture of the parents

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We must remember that faithfulness, like all the fruit of the Spirit, is a quality that God produces in His children. Our faithfulness is produced by God's faithfulness to us. He is faithful to save us and give us a new heart. He is faithful to enable us to be faithful in all areas of life. A Christian is a faithful person because He has a faithful God.