

## The Fruit of Faithfulness

Someone once asked "Who can find a faithful man?" The word for man is used in its generic sense which includes both men and women<sup>1</sup>.

- Why would he ask such a question?
- Are such people scarce?
- Is it too hard for people to be faithful?

As we look closer at this concept, we need to define the term. How would you define it? \_\_\_\_\_

The Scripture speaks of certain Ones being "faithful!"

- Ps 119:86
- Heb 2:17
- Heb 3:5

"Faithfulness" is said to be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22).

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?"

- Col 2:5
- 1Tim 3:11
- Col 1:23

What is God calling on his people to be?

- 1Cor 4:2
- Heb 3:14
- Rev 2:10

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.

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

Would we deny our commitment to Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> The majority of this study comes from Paul Cantrell;  
[http://camphillchurch.org/study\\_books/FRUIT%20OF%20THE%20SPIRIT,%20Bearing%20the.pdf](http://camphillchurch.org/study_books/FRUIT%20OF%20THE%20SPIRIT,%20Bearing%20the.pdf)

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? \_\_\_\_\_

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Which do we love most? (1 John 2:15-17) \_\_\_\_\_

#### FAITHFULNESS IS A VIRTUE

1. Because there are so few.

- Prov. 20:6

2. Because God praises men by calling them faithful!

- Col 4:7
- 2Tim 2:2

3. Because blessings are promised upon the faithful!

- Rev 2:10
- Ps 101:6
- Prov 28:20
- Matt 25:21
- Ps 31:23

4. Because such are like God!

- Lam 3:23
- Ps 119:138

#### CONTRAST

The Faithful (Matt. 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.

Read → Dan. 6:4 - He was true to his responsibilities—no fault found. He was honest to the core.

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

### THE VALUE OF 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 faced persecution and died a violent death (except for John) because of their devotion and service to Jesus, the Son of God. He had recorded in Heb. 11 a long list of men and women that were examples of faithfulness. The chapter ends with these wonderful words: "Of whom the world was not worthy!" (Heb. 11:38)

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!

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My Notes and Thoughts

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? \_\_\_\_\_

What mindsets or attitudes are keeping you from being faithful? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is faithfulness so important to the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one new action or habit you are adding to increase your level of faithfulness?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is one new nugget you gained from our session? \_\_\_\_\_

Write down and share with your group a specific testimony of God's faithfulness in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

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