



Go for God!

“The Fruit of the Spirit is FAITHFULNESS!”

HOW TO BE A FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN SERIES (Part 6)

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.*

Galatians 5:22-23

~THREE KEYS TO FAITHFULNESS:

> Key #1 – Let’s Understand FAITHFULNESS?

- Faithfulness speaks of being faithful, loyal, constant, staunch, steadfast, and resolute. Let’s define each aspect of faithfulness:

FAITHFUL implies unswerving adherence to a person or thing or to the oath or promise by which a tie was contracted.

LOYAL implies a firm resistance to any temptation to desert or betray.

CONSTANT stresses continuing firmness of emotional attachment.

STAUNCH suggests fortitude and resolution in adherence and imperviousness to influences that would weaken it.

STEADFAST implies a steady and unwavering course in love, allegiance, or conviction.

RESOLUTE implies firm determination to adhere to a cause or purpose.

The *faithfulness* of God and His Word is a constant theme in the Bible. *Faithfulness* is an attribute ascribed to God in many places, especially in the Psalms (Ps 36:5; 89:2,5,8; Isa 11:5; etc.), which exhibits His character as worthy of the love and confidence of man and assures us that He will certainly fulfill His promises as well as execute His threats against sin.

It is particularly prominent in Psalms 89 and 119. God is *“the faithful God who keeps covenant”* (Deut 7:9) and in Lamentations 3:22 - *Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*

> God’s faithfulness is the source of the Christian’s:

- Personal growth - Romans 10:17 - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

- Assurance of salvation - Hebrews 10:23 - *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

- Deliverance from temptation - 1 Corinthians 10:13 - *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

- Forgiveness of 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.*

C.H. Spurgeon once said, A little faith will bring your soul to heaven; a great faith will bring heaven to your soul.

> ***Key #2 – Let's Witness the Faithfulness of JESUS!***

It is not surprising that this aspect of God's nature, which is faithfulness, should also belong to the Messiah.

- Let's experience the REVELATION of Christ's faithfulness:

(1) Jesus is a FAITHFUL WITNESS (Revelation Ch. 1);

(2) Jesus is FAITHFUL to an UNFAITHFUL church (Revelation 3:13-22);

(3) Jesus is the FAITHFUL WARRIOR (Revelation 19:11-21).

(4) Jesus in Scripture is a FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST - Hebrews 2:17-18 - *Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*

> ***Key #3 - Let's be FAITHFUL!***

God's faithfulness should be so deeply reflected in the lives of His people (Gal 5:22) that they can be called simply "the faithful."

"The faithful" was used in both the Old and New Testaments, listen to Psalm 31:23-24 - *Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.*

In Ephesians 1:1-2 - *To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul gives a faithful saying in 1 Timothy 1:15 - *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*

- In PERSECUTION! – Daniel Ch. 6 (Principle & prayer produces peace & prosperity.)

The United States Marine Corps adopted the motto, Semper Fidelis in 1883, on the initiative of the 8th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Colonel Charles McCawley. "Semper fidelis" signifies the dedication and loyalty that individual Marines are expected to have for "Corps and Country", even after leaving service. The Marines frequently shorten the motto to "Semper Fi."

- In MARRIAGE! – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Be faithful to submission & love.)

Michelangelo, painting the matchless frescoes on the high ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, spent countless hours on his back from high scaffolding, carefully perfecting the details of each figure. A friend asked him why he took such pains with figures which could be seen only at a distance by viewers. "After all," said the friend, "who will know whether it is perfect or not?" "I will," replied the artist.

- In the CHURCH! – 2 Timothy Ch. 2:1-13 (Faithfulness breeds the faithful.)

Spurgeon said that the greatest compliment ever paid him was spoken by one of his outspoken enemies who said: "Here is a man who has not moved an inch forward in all his ministry. At the close of the nineteenth century he is teaching the theology of the first century, and is proclaiming doctrine current in Nazareth and Jerusalem in the first century!"

- Till the RAPTURE! - Matthew 24:36-51 (Remain faithful.)

- For great is your REWARD for being FAITHFUL! - Matthew 25:14-30

The *Baltimore Sun* conducted a contest, and the following poem received a prize for the best answer to the question, "What would you do if you had one more year to live?"

- Mary Davis Reed wrote the following:

*"If I had but one year to live;
One year to help; one year to give;
One year to love; one year to bless;
One year of better things to stress;
One year to sing; one year to smile;
To brighten earth a little while;
One year to sing my Maker's praise;
One year to fill with work my days;
One year to strive for a reward
When I should stand before my Lord,
I think that I would spend each day,
In just the very self-same way
That I do now.*

*So if I have a year to live,
Or just one day in which to give
A pleasant smile, a helping hand,
A mind that tries to understand
A fellow-creature when in need;
'Tis one with me—I take no heed.
But try to live each day He sends
To serve my gracious Master's ends."*