Fruit of The Spirit – Faithfulness

Faithfulness of God

God's perfect loyalty and consistency in being true to his name, his character and his word.

Faithfulness of Man

Commitment to a relationship with God or fellow human beings; seen in that loyalty, devotion and service which is a reflection of God's own faithfulness.

Greek

Faithfulness - 3 times

Matt. 23:23; Rom. 3:3; Gal. 5:22

Romans 3:3 What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?

Hebrew

Faithfulness - 73 times

Gen. 24:27, 49; 32:10 Psa. 25:10; 26:3; 30:9; 40:10-11; 54:5; 57:3, Ex. 34:6 10; 61:7; 69:13; 71:22; 85:10–11; 86:15; Deut. 32:4; 20; 89:14; 91:4; 108:4; 111:8; 115:1; 117:2; 138:2 Josh. 24:14; Prov. 3:3; 14:22; 16:6; 20:28 Is. 16:5; 38:3; 11:5; 18-19 1 Sam. 26:23; 2 Sam. 2:6; 15:20; Jer. 31:3; 32:41 Lam. 3:23 1 Kings 2:4; 3:6; 2 Kings 20:3; Hos. 4:1; 2 Chr. 19:9; 32:1; Mic. 7:20; Psa. 33:4; 36:5; 37:3; 40:10; 88:11; 89:1-2, 5, Zech. 8:8 8, 24, 33, 49; 92:2; 96:13; 98:3; 100:5; 119:30, 75, 90, 138; 143:1;

Psa. 100:5 ¶ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Great is Thy faithfulness

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;

as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;

sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:

blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain] Here are just some ideas that should help us evaluate our own faithfulness.

- 1. Own God's standard of faithfulness. We are told that a manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness. It is not easy to define but we know it when we see it or when we lack it. If I want to be a faithful person I need define my entire life by Godly faithfulness. He is the perfect picture of faithfulness and the Bible reminds of this repeatedly. Thank him for his faithfulness that is so evident in all of our lives.
- 2. Evaluate every area of your life to determine how you're doing. It is easy to compare myself to others and feel good about my life. When I compare myself to the standard of faithfulness that God asks and provides for us than I begin to find out how I am really doing. Realize that faithfulness is powerful because it encourages and loves others while unfaithfulness is hurtful and discouraging. Above all else God is asking us to be faithful to him. When I do this everything else falls into place.
- 3. Confess and repent of those areas of unfaithfulness in your life. We all have them. Don't hide from them but bring them before God and be willing to deal with them. They are most likely continually areas of struggle. When you are unfaithful get up and move on. Don't let your unfaithfulness keep you from experiencing all that God has from you.
- 4. Expect the blessing of God that comes from faithfulness. Jesus told the faithful servants in the parable of the servants in Mathew 25 that they would be given more. 'Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Mathew 25:23. God does bless faithfulness!

No matter your track record of faithfulness realize that God is faithful and loves you very much. He desires faithfulness from us and has given his Holy Spirit to be the people and do the things that he has planned for us long ago.

Questions to Ponder

How are FAITHFULNESS and our conviction about the truthfulness of His Word connected?

What are key elements of FAITHFULNESS?

How does God's FAITHFULNESS help us in suffering and trials?

What are the enemies of FAIRHTFULNESS?