

Faithfulness

God is faithful – he is totally trustworthy to keep his promises and to be true to who he is.

A.W. Tozer wrote: “All that God does agrees with all that God is, and being and doing are one with him... God, being who he is, cannot cease to be what he is, and being what he is, cannot act out of character with himself.”

If we are children of God then faithfulness is part of our character. Being faithful is merely a fruit of being children of God – it is a fruit of the Spirit. If we are not faithful then we bring our being into question i.e. Our being children of God and our being filled with the holy Spirit.

David Wilkerson writes: “Some think of faithfulness to God as simply living without lust or maintaining victory over sinful habits. Others think it means being constant in Bible reading, prayer, giving and church attendance. Still others think of it as performing good deeds, or keeping pure by avoiding all evil. These things in themselves can never make us faithful to God... All these wonderful things are commanded by the Word, and we will do them if we are faithful, but in themselves they do not constitute faithfulness. Faithfulness to God is impossible unless it springs from a trusting, believing heart... Unbelief in its slightest form is hateful to God... Faithfulness, then, is simply believing that God will keep His Word.”

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Jesus is referring to the kingdom of God (v. 14 cf v.1)

1) We have all been entrusted with kingdom property.

- No one can say that God hasn't entrusted us with anything.
- What kind of things has he entrusted us with?
 - The Word of God
 - Spouse
 - Children
 - Property
 - Gifts
 - One another – the church
 - Our work/business
 - Money
- Many of these things don't seem to be directly related to the Kingdom of God. However we don't live in a dichotomy of sacred and secular.
- When we live in the Kingdom of God we see all things as being under the Lordship of Christ and thus all aspects of life have been entrusted to us by God.
- We cannot be faithful with things in the church and unfaithful in other parts of our lives.
- “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” 1 Corinthians 4: 2
- Faithfulness is shown in different ways:
 - To be faithful to keep your promises.
 - To be faithful to carry out a task entrusted to you.
 - Moral faithfulness in relationships.

2) Faithfulness means being responsible for the Kingdom property that has been entrusted to you.

- It also means remaining true to the character of Christ – God is not a liar and we can trust him to keep his word.
- Can we be trusted to keep our word, or do we go back on our promises?
- It is using or developing what has been entrusted to us for the benefit of the Kingdom.
- It is resisting temptation to do the wrong thing and doing the right thing even if it hurts.
- Faithful in trials – it is during hardship that our faithfulness is tested.
- “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Revelation 2: 10
- Jesus was faithful to death and he received the crown of life.
- Even if we are faithless God is always faithful.
 - If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. (2 Timothy 2: 13)
 - We can always rely on God because He is completely reliable and trustworthy.
 - He wants us to have that same reliable character that we are to be proven faithful in every way.
- Faithfulness is primarily to God and God had constantly condemned Israel for their unfaithfulness.
- Although Israel was constantly unfaithful to God, God’s faithfulness to the covenant that He had made with Israel kept Him from rejecting Israel completely.
- Marriage is a reflection of God’s relationship with his people. He intends us to remain faithful to our partners as a reflection of His faithfulness to us and our faithfulness to Him.
 - However, faithfulness in marriage is an essential characteristic of the marriage relationship without which a marriage cannot survive.

3) Faithfulness will be accounted for

- God will hold us accountable for what he has entrusted to us.
- He won't expect more than he has entrusted to us
- He does not compare what we have done with what others have done but he expects only a responsible account of what he has given us. Each was entrusted according to their ability.
- Faithfulness gains greater rewards and more trust in the Kingdom
- It brings about a sharing in the joy of the Lord.
- Unfaithfulness is equated to wickedness and laziness.
- It results in that person being stripped of all that he had and not being trusted again.
- A person is not cast out into hell for not performing in the kingdom of God, but unfaithfulness is an outward manifestation that a person has not known God, whereas faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit.