

THE FRUIT OF FAITHFULNESS

Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 25:21

- *"When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control."* (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **Being faithful means "being reliable, trustworthy, dependable, consistent."**
- **We should strive to be faithful because God is faithful.**
- *"The unfailing love of the LORD never ends! . . . Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day."* (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- **We should strive to be faithful because everyone appreciates faithfulness.**
- *"Putting confidence in an unreliable person is like chewing with a toothache or walking on a broken foot."* (Proverbs 25:19)
- **We should strive to be faithful because God will reward our faithfulness.**
- The Lord - *"Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities."* (Matthew 25:21)
- ***How can we develop more faithfulness in our lives?***

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

KEEPING OUR PROMISES

- *"A person who promises a gift but doesn't give it is like clouds and wind that bring no rain."* (Proverbs 25:14)
- **We need to be careful about the promises that we make to God and others.**
- *"Don't trap yourself by making a rash promise to God and only later counting the cost."* (Proverbs 20:25)
- **The #1 problem in parent-child relationships is resentment, and the #1 cause of resentment is broken promises.**
- *"It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it."* (Ecclesiastes 5:5)

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

SUPPORTING OUR <u>FAMILY</u>

- **We need to be faithful in keeping our marital vows to our spouse.**
- *"Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and who commit adultery."* (Hebrews 13:4)
- **We also need to be faithful in providing for our family.**
- *"Those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers."* (1 Timothy 5:8)

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

USING OUR <u>TALENTS</u> TO SERVE GOD

- *"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10)
- **Faithfulness is doing what we can with what we have to serve the Lord and others.**
- **We won't all be team stars, but we can all be faithful team members.**

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

STANDING BY OUR <u>FRIENDS</u>

- *"A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need."* (Proverbs 17:17)
- ***Who are 5 friends I can count on, and 5 friends who can count on me?***
- *"There are 'friends' who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."* (Proverbs 18:24)

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

HANDLING OUR <u>MONEY</u> WELL

- Jesus - *"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"* (Luke 16:11)
- **How we handle money is a test of our faithfulness to the Lord.**
- *"On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."* (1 Corinthians 16:2 LB)
- **To be "faithful" in giving to the Lord we must: 1) give faithfully, 2) give regularly, 3) give proportionately (i.e., a tithe), and 4) give generously.**
- *"God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

GIVING OUR BEST AT <u>WORK</u>

- **If we were hiring people we would want them to be dependable.**

- Jesus - *"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities."* (Luke 16:10)
- **Success comes from being faithful in the little things that others overlook.**
- Jesus - *"If you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own?"* (Luke 16:12)
- *"Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and the Master you are serving is Christ."* (Colossians 3:23-24)

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

SUPPORTING GOD'S <u>CHURCH</u>

- *"Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In His grace, God has given us all different gifts for doing certain things well. "* (Romans 12:5-6)
- **When we became a Christian we became a soldier in the Lord's army, and He and others are depending upon us to fulfill our responsibilities.**

Becoming A Faithful Person Involves:

LIVING FOR THE <u>LORD</u>

- *"Give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is."* (Romans 12:1-2)
- **We must be faithful to the Lord even when no one is watching us.**
- *"I can never escape from Your spirit (O God)! I can never get away from Your presence!"* (Psalm 139:7)
- **We must be faithful to the Lord in our thought lives as well as our actions.**
- *"Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life."* (Proverbs 4:23 NCV)

- **We need to become faithful in the "small things" as well in the "big things."**
- Jesus - *"Unless you are faithful in small matters, you won't be faithful in large ones. If you cheat even a little, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"* (Luke 16:10-11)
- **We cannot overestimate the importance of faithfulness.**

- Paul - *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness . . .”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?***