

Fruit on the Vine: Faithfulness Galatians 5:16-24

INTRODUCTION

Today we come to the fruit of **faithfulness**. The word "**faithfulness**" is related to the word "**faith**." When a person is faithful, you can trust them. You can put your faith in them, and they won't let you down. It's the same way with God. When we say God is faithful, we mean He is dependable; He is reliable; He can be trusted.

Faithfulness is such an important quality for us to develop as believers. All relationships are built on trust. When you grow in faithfulness, people will learn they can depend on you, and you will enjoy stronger, healthier relationships with the people in your life.

There are so many areas where we need to be faithful in life. We need to be faithful at home, faithful at work, faithful in marriage, faithful to our commitments, faithful to our word, faithful with our money, faithful to family and friends, faithful to the church, faithful to the Lord. As you can see, faithfulness is a big deal. Here's a definition for your **consideration**: **faithfulness is a Spirit-produced quality in the life of the child of God that demonstrates trustworthiness, reliability or dependability toward God and others that springs from ongoing faith in God and His word.** Those who are faithful are dependable, and we can place our trust in them.

I. Faithfulness is _____ in God's _____

A. God is faithful in all His _____

(Psalm 25:10, 100:5)

B. God's _____ is trustworthy and true

(Numbers 23:19; Psalm 19:7-10)

II. Faithfulness is _____ in the life of the Son of God

(John 17:4; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Revelation 1:5)

When we think about God and faithfulness, we also want to look at Jesus and His life. And when we do, we see that Jesus as God's Son also displayed this fruit of faithfulness in His life.

III. Faithfulness _____ in God's _____

If faithfulness marks our covenant Lord, then it should also mark His people since we are being renewed in the image of Christ.

A. Faithfulness is a matter of _____

(Proverbs 11:3; Daniel 6:4)

B. Faithfulness is a matter of right _____

(Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 5:15-17)

C. Faithfulness is a matter of _____

(Colossians 4:17; 2 Timothy 4:7)

IV. _____ in faithfulness

Here are several things we can do to grow in the spiritual fruit of faithfulness in your life.

A. _____ God's faithfulness to you

How is God faithful to us?

- 1. God is faithful to keep His _____.**
- 2. God is faithful in _____ His love and compassion _____ His own.**
- 3. God is faithful in times of _____ or _____.**
- 4. God is faithful to _____ you from the evil one.**
- 5. God is faithful to _____ your sins.**

B. Be a _____ (faithful) steward of God's gifts to you (1 Corinthians 4:2)

C. Be faithful in the _____ things (Matthew 25:21)

D. Keep your word even when it _____ (Psalm 15:4)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this **morning**? We live in a culture that is comfortable with unkept promises. Our society is quite happy with broken vows, tolerates—we might even say at points promotes—unfaithfulness. We live in a culture in which if it doesn't suit to stay faithful, then just don't stay faithful. If it doesn't suit to be faithful to your promises, then break your promises. If it doesn't work to tell the truth, then tell lies. That's the environment in which we live.

If faithfulness marks our Lord, then it should also mark His people since we are being renewed in the image of Christ. In a world marked by divisions, dissensions, and jealousy, God's children should be marked by loyalty and dependability. All too often, however, God's people are marked by faithlessness. Husbands and wives vow to be faithful to one another and then break those vows. Husbands, for example, may not go out and engage a prostitute, but the scores of pornographic images on their computers betray their infidelity. Wives carry on unhealthy relationships with male co-workers. At many times, Christians are faithless in their work-ethic and no different than the unbelieving world. They are late to work, leave work early, pilfer company property, or use company resources for personal gain. To say the least, this type of conduct should never mark God's people. We should be a people faithful to the Lord and faithful to our word. Our loyalties must begin and end with Christ.

God rewards, not success, but _____.

What we need to ask is, not how successful we are, but how _____ we are?