

Faithfulness: A Quality of True Believers

Scripture:

Exodus 19:5-6 “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Introduction:

We live in an age where people find it difficult to be faithful. We continually told to do our own thing, take care of number one, if it feels good, do it. As a result, we have a hard time coming to a place of faithfulness when it doesn't feel good to the flesh or it seems that someone might have an opportunity to take advantage of us if we remain faithful.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta once was asked, "How do you measure the success of your work?" She looked puzzled for a moment and then replied, "I don't remember that the Lord ever spoke of success. He spoke only of faithfulness in love. This is the only success that really counts."

Newsweek (11/19/90) ran an article titled "Letters in the Sand," a compilation of letters written by military personnel to family and friends in the States during the Gulf War. One was written by Marine Corporal Preston Coffey. He told a friend, "We are talking about Marines, not the Boy Scouts. We all joined the service knowing full well what might be expected of us." He signed off with the Marine motto, Semper Paratus, Latin for "always faithful."

The Bible says, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

God is calling us to faithfulness. He rewards us for our faithfulness.

I. Faithfulness brings us under the protective hand of God.

Psalm 31:23-24 “Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. ²⁴ Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”

- A. In the Hebrew, the word translated preserve here means to guard.
- B. Because of His guarding hand we are able to be of good courage or not be frightened, no matter what comes our way.
- C. God calls for us to be faithful in our attitude.

Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

1. If we're faithful to keep an attitude of praise and worship, God's peace will guard us.
2. We must also be faithful in prayer if we want to be kept in peace.

II. Faithfulness brings an increase in authority.

Matthew 24:45-47 “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. ⁴⁷Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”

- A. Some people want the authority of God in their lives without taking on any of the responsibilities of Kingdom life.
- B. If we will be faithful to give spiritual food to the hungry, our authority over powers that prevent people from being fed spiritually will be increased.

III. Faithfulness brings promotion.

Matthew 25:14-23 *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. ¹⁵And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. ¹⁸But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰“So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ ²¹His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ ²²He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ ²³His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”*

- A. God has already gifted each and every child of God and is watching to see how faithful we are in using that gift for Him.
- B. We can only be promoted in Kingdom work as we are faithful in what we are already called to do.
- C. No one ever starts at the top. This is true in the natural as well as the spiritual.
- D. As we faithfully use what God has given to us, it will be the means for doors of opportunity to be opened to us.

Luke 16:10 *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”*

IV. Faithfulness brings you into your ministry/calling.

Luke 16:12 *“And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?”*

- A. The way the Kingdom of God works is that we are first of all faithful in another man’s ministry before we are entrusted with our own.
- B. People with the ability to help us see our faithfulness and make room for us.

V. We can continue to be faithful because God is faithful to us.

Deuteronomy 7:9 *“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”*

- A. God is faithful to bring into our lives the same blessings we have bestowed to others in our faithful work or walk.

Galatians 6:7-9 *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. ⁹And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

- B. We need to be willing to wait for the timing of God. He will come through for us.