

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit pt. 6
Welcome to Harvest Community Church
Series: The Holy Spirit
Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Faithfulness

The primary **manifestation** of faith in a believer's life is faithfulness. A believer's faith is proven by his or her faithfulness to God. Our life of faith is demonstrated by our trustworthiness and consistent Christian life.

Faith is our unshakable belief in God and His gospel and is the **trunk** rather than the fruit. The Fruit of the Spirit is given as qualities or attributes. Faithfulness is the attribute of one who has faith. **Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV & NLT)**
Faith includes faithfulness and true faithfulness is impossible without faith.

The word faithfulness means – loyal, constant, trustworthy, reliable, honest, dependable, firm, steady, conscientious, true, firmness and that which is permanent, unchanging

“Old Faithful” is a famous geyser in Wyoming’s Yellowstone National Park. It was so named in 1870 because it reliably erupts at somewhat consistent and predictable intervals.

A famous Latin motto, *Semper Fidelis*, means ‘ **Always Faithful** ’.

God is always faithful, and we should learn to take Him at His word.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 (AMP), 2 Timothy 2:13 (AMP)

The primary idea expressed in faithfulness is **dependence**. Faith is learning to depend on God in any situation. Faithfulness has to do with **us** being dependable; the kind of person that people can trust, and God can count on. **Luke 16:10**

All good relationships are built on the **foundation** of faith and faithfulness—of mutual trust born out of trustworthiness. A good marriage is largely defined as a faithful wife and faithful husband. A good friend is a true friend or a faithful friend—not a “fair-weather friend,” but one who “loves at all times”. **Proverbs 17:17** A good employee is a trusted and dependable employee.

We can always count on God, this is what **enables** us to have complete faith and trust in Him. It's vital that we respond to the faithfulness of God the Father and Jesus Christ with deep and abiding faith, so that we will then give Them our very best—our utmost allegiance, fidelity, obedience and devotion. God's standard of faith and faithfulness is far greater than what we can achieve with our own human effort. To reach the level of faith to truly become faithful like God we must wholeheartedly **rely** on the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit imparts the nature of God, which develops in us gradually, like fruit ripening on a tree.

In our main text (Gal. 5:22-23) rather than “faithfulness,” the earlier King James Version uses the word “faith”. This is consistent with the way the Greek word ‘Pistis’ in this passage is usually translated elsewhere in the New Testament - including numerous occurrences in the book of Galatians. Most modern Bible translations have “faithfulness” or a similar term here. One reason for this is that faith, our belief and trust in God, is normally seen to come from within ourselves—and not a product of God’s Spirit within us.

1 Corinthians 12:9, Romans 10:17

There are deeper expressions of faith; just as fruit grows, so will the way we live by faith. Our initial faith toward God does come prior to receiving His Holy Spirit, this is in response to what God shows us in life and the help He gives us to believe. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit, He comes to dwell within a believer, changing our character from the inside. This includes deepening and increasing our faith. With this much deeper faith, we will be led to totally trust God in regard to the blessings concerning His promises for obeying His law and the consequences for disobeying.

Our faithfulness and faith in God speaks of a loyalty that is built on trust and the absolute belief that God is completely loyal to us and always does what He says. **1 John 4:19** As believers we show our faithfulness to God in the form of commitment to Him and His ways.

The Deeper Expressions of Faith

- 1) Natural Faith – this deals with human reasoning. When we fly, we trust the pilot knows what he is doing and that the plane has been kept mechanically sound. When we sit down most of the time, we do not test the reliability of the chair we just sit. When we go out to eat, we trust that the cook and wait staff are not serving us rotten food and that they have not poisoned it. There are some people who have no natural faith and they live in a constant state of anxiety and fear. A lack of natural faith results in a lack of true peace. One result of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is a life of consistent peace.
- 2) Saving Faith – accepts the work that Jesus did on the cross is true. **Ephesians 2:8-9** We believe that He rose from the dead and that if we confess our sins, He will forgive us of our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Saving faith understands that apart from Christ we have no ability in ourselves to have favor with God.
- 3) Living Faith – this is when we walk by faith and not by sight. Faith is a daily and important part of our life that is seen in our obedience to God, dependence on His Word and complete trust that He will lead us and provide for us. **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- 4) The Gift of Faith – this is trusting God for the impossible. It is knowing that with God all things are possible. The Gift of Faith is trust that is born of the Holy Spirit and sustained by hope that is built on the foundation of love. **1 Corinthians 13:13, Romans 5:5**

- 5) The **Fruit** of Faith – this faith is the evidence that we have the gift of faith as seen in our constant faithfulness to God. When you have the Fruit of Faith, our consistency in following God looks less like a roller coaster or a see-saw and more like a consistent life of faithful service. We are faithful no matter the situation or difficulty. We have a life of integrity and reliability. We can be counted on to be Christ-like in our marriage, with our children, as a friend, in the stewardship of our finances and in the effort and professionalism we bring to our work.
- 6) Faith as **Belief** - what we truly trust and believe about God is called one's faith. **Romans 8:38-39, 2 Peter 3:9-11**

The Fruit of the Spirit comes from the heart of God who is always faithful

- God is **clothed** with faithfulness. **Isaiah 11:5**
Faithfulness is a part of who God really is.
- God is faithful to **keep** His promises. **Hebrews 10:3, 2 Peter 1:4**
- God is faithful to **forgive**. **1 John 1:9**
- God is faithful in **calling** us. **1 Thessalonians 5:24**
He calls us to salvation; He calls us to serve Him and He calls us to walk in His power and provision as a consistent life of faith.

Lasting truths about Faithfulness

1. Faithfulness is a true **measure** of our character. If we are faithful in the small, we can be trusted with more. **Luke 16:10** God never overlooks or excuses our lack of responsibility. We are to prove our selves trustworthy in even the smallest of things.
Song of Solomon 2:15
2. How we handle worldly **wealth** matters to God. **Luke 16:11** Money does matter. God will test us to see if we can be trusted with wealth. Do we tithe and give to the cause of Christ and the poor? Are we good stewards of what we have been given or do we live a frivolous life? A great proverb says – ‘a foolish person spends money carelessly and will soon be penniless’. Someone said, ‘a fool and his money are soon parted’.
3. Faithfulness is expected by God regardless of the **position** we hold in life.
Colossians 3:22-25 (NKJV & AMP), Colossians 4:1, Ephesians 6:9

4. **Perseverance** is a main factor in being faithful. A spouse is only considered faithful if they have been so for the life of the marriage. The same is true for our life as a Christian.
2 Timothy 4:7, Revelation 2:10

5. The true measure of **success** is not found in accomplishment or accumulation but in faithfulness. **Matthew 25:14-30** God gives each of us different abilities and opportunities, and He expects us to thoroughly use them in His service. He will generously reward us according to how much we have spiritually grown and served in this life. An “**unprofitable** servant” who has wasted his time and opportunities instead of obeying God is called “wicked and lazy” and will be punished. And God does not accept excuses—not even fear of failure. To each of the profitable servants, the master said, “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.”

May we all live according to the faith that God’s Spirit develops within us—thereby exhibiting the faithfulness He desires. And in the end, may each of us hear Christ’s wonderful approval on the great day He returns to reward His faithful servants!