

What's in YOUR Garden? (Part 8)
The Fruit of the Spirit: FAITHFULNESS

Pastor Bill Bowers
September 11, 2016

Galatians 5:22-23

FAITHFULNESS: The essence of Christian obedience, reflecting a lifestyle that has accepted God's grace.

1. **Be Faithful in the** _____.
Genesis 39:4-6a

Jesus: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." Luke 16:10

2. **Be Faithful in times** _____.
Genesis 39:6b-9

CMD= _____

There is no fear of God before their eyes. Romans 3:18

See Hebrews 12:5-6

See 1 Corinthians 6:18

See 2 Timothy 2:22

3. **Be Faithful when** _____.
Genesis 39:11-23

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is **FAITHFUL**.* Hebrews 10:23

*God who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is **FAITHFUL**.* 1 Corinthians 1:9

*If we confess our sins, He is **FAITHFUL** and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9

Wrap Up Thought: An even better example of faithfulness than Joseph is Jesus. He was taken out of a perfect life in Paradise to become the Savior of the World, crucified as a sacrifice for sin. As a result, there is something inside each Christ follower which helps him or her to be faithful—the power of the person of the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of God living inside which allows and enables us to conquer sin. If you are a Christ follower, it is not a matter of getting more and more of the Holy Spirit; it's allowing the Holy Spirit to get more and more of you.

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**For Personal Reflection or LifeGroup Questions
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1. We get our word *faithfulness* from the Fruit of the Spirit, as described in the Old Testament scriptures from the Hebrew word *emuwnah* which means firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness. In the New Testament scriptures, the Greek word *pistis* which means belief, trust, confidence, fidelity. Do these definitions from the Bible use of the word faithfulness align with your understanding of the word?
2. What does faithfulness mean to you? Can you provide an example of absolute faithfulness from your life? Someone, something, and experience of faithfulness—try to give an illustration other than God.
3. How would you describe yourself? Do you think you are faithful? Consider making a list: Are you faithful to your friends? Your coworkers? Your children? Your hobbies? Your God? Yourself? How would you qualify or describe your faithfulness? What makes you faithful or unfaithful to each category above?
4. When you consider God (consider each person of the Trinity: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit), is faithful or faithfulness one of the top three attributes that come to mind in your description? Why or why not? What is the top three attributes (in your description) for each person of the Trinity? (*Example: loving, faithful, eternal, etc.*)
5. Do you think faithfulness is conditional?
6. Pastor Bill mentioned a reference from Genesis 39 that we should remain faithful even when treated unfairly. How does this make you feel? Do you think this idea is something to be considered or applied toward unbelievers, and/or people hostile to Christianity?
7. Are there areas that cause you temptation that lead to compromising your faithfulness?
8. What specific issues do you encounter that cause you to struggle with your practice of faithfulness? How might you grow as a more faithful person (toward God, toward your neighbor, toward the world systems, to yourself)?

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