

Mom2Mom
The Fruit of the Spirit
Faithfulness & Gentleness TEACHING
STUDENT Notes

I. Faithfulness

A. The _____ of Faithfulness –

Faithfulness means “that which is firm and can be counted on.” Some of the words that are closely related to faithfulness are dependable, reliable, trustworthy, and loyal. The word faithfulness often means absolute honesty and integrity. “The faithful person is one who is dependable, trustworthy, and loyal; who can be depended upon in all of his relationships; and who is absolutely honest and ethical in all of his affairs.”¹

Webster’s Dictionary defines faithfulness:

- as “having or showing true or constant support or loyalty;
- deserving trust;
- keeping your promises or
- doing what you are supposed to do.”²

Often the words “corrupt” and “negligent” are contrasted with “faithfulness.”³

B. Faithfulness – How It is _____ in Our Lives

- 1. Absolute _____** – (Prov. 12:22, Lev. 19:11, Luke 16:10)
- 2. Utter _____** – (Prov. 10:26, Psalm 15:1-4)
- 3. Unswerving _____** – (Prov. 17:17, Prov. 20:6, Prov. 27:6, Eph. 4:15)

II. Biblical Faithfulness

A. _____ Faithfulness

1. We are utterly dependent on God’s faithfulness: (Psalm 36:5)

- For our salvation (I Cor. 1:8-9)
- For deliverance from temptation (I Cor. 10:13)
- For ultimate sanctification (I Thess. 5:23)
- For the forgiveness of sins (I John 1:9)
- For deliverance through time of suffering (I Peter 4:19)
- For the fulfillment of our ultimate hope of eternal life (Heb. 10:23)

¹ The Fruitful Life, by Jerry Bridges, page 130

² <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/faithfulness>

³ The Fruitful Life, by Jerry Bridges, page 131

2. _____ entire life is a testimony of perfect faithfulness.
(John 8:46)

B. Examples of Faithfulness in Bible _____

1. _____ –
2. _____ –

III. Gentleness

A. _____ of Gentleness –

George Bethune, famous theologian from the 1800's said "Perhaps no grace is less prayed for, or less cultivated than gentleness. Indeed, it is considered rather as belonging to natural disposition or external manners, than as a Christian virtue; and seldom do we reflect that not to be gentle is sin."

Gentleness is an attribute of power, not timidity or cowardliness. Gentleness is an active trait where we seek to:

- deal sensitively and mildly with others,
- especially considering *their* feelings and reactions to our actions.

The dictionary defines gentleness as:

- "having a mild or kindly nature or character;
- soft or temperate;
- moderate."⁴

B. _____ Gentleness

1. **Treating** _____ **Gently** – (Col. 3:12, Gal. 6:1-2, Matt. 18:15-17, Heb. 12:11-14)
2. **Thoughtful** _____ (Phil. 2:3-4, Phil. 4:5, Titus 3:2, James 3:17)

IV. Examples of Gentleness:

A. _____ – (Isaiah 40, Psalm 18:35)

1. **God's Power** (Isaiah 40:10, 15, 25-26)
2. **God's Gentleness** (Isaiah 40:11, Psalm 18:35)

B. _____ – the incarnate God (in human form) (2 Cor. 10:1, Matt. 11:28-30, Matt. 12:20)

C. _____ – (I Thess. 2:7)

⁴ <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/gentleness?s=t>

Optional Memory Verse

James 3:17 *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

Homework

Assign [Worksheet #6](#). This should be read and completed this week and discussed next week. [A helpful resource](#) including the passage discussed in this worksheet as well as some commentary was published on www.faithlafayette.org/mom2mommember.

Table Discussion Questions (** is also a Large Group Discussion Question)

Application Questions for Faithfulness content

1. **In what ways does God's faithfulness prompt you to trust him?
2. Faithfulness is lived out with honesty, dependability, and loyalty. Which of these has been the hardest for you to exemplify?
3. Are you someone people should depend on?

Application Questions for Gentleness content

4. In what ways do you see the need to deal sensitively and mildly with others?
5. How have you grown in thoughtful consideration of others as an evidence of Jesus' character being lived out in you?
6. **How should power and authority rightly lived out produce gentleness?

Table Time Prayer Request Question

In what specific ways can we ask Jesus to help you grow in Faithfulness and Gentleness this week?

Large Group Discussion Question

Table time discussion questions 1 and 6 will be used for large group discussion.