

Fruit of the Spirit – Faithfulness

Introduction

This week we will look another attribute of the Fruit of The Spirit called Faithfulness. What does it mean by faithfulness? Or what does it mean by unfaithfulness?

Faithfulness in Greek comes from the same word of faith. Indeed our faithfulness towards God is based on our faith to Him. When we think about faithfulness, we think about characters of steadiness and dependability. When we have faith in God, we can be steady in life and our lives will be dependable to God and to others.

On contrary, unfaithfulness is un-dependability. Company does not like unfaithful employees. Couple certainly wouldn't last long with an unfaithful partner. In the same way, God cannot use unfaithful servant God. God is training His servants by entrusting them small things before giving them bigger responsibilities.

Faithfulness also means honesty and integrity. A faithful person does his work whether his boss is around or not. He would do the right things whether supervision is present or absent. Unfaithful person however does good only when he needs to. Otherwise, he will disobey the orders that he receives. By doing so, he is unfaithful to his master.

Are we faithful Christians? Are we steady in our faith in God? Are we faithful to His calling, dependable when He assigns us some duties and obedient when He commands us? Jesus is faithful until the end. God honors faithfulness and that's why He commands us to be faithful to death (Rev 2:10).

1. Learning from God's Faithfulness

- God's faithfulness is not temporary or occasional; the very being of God is to be faithful.
- God's faithfulness is set in the heavens and therefore it is not subject to situation and circumstance.
- God's faithfulness is not contradicted when He allows His people to wait
- God's faithfulness is not obscured when He disciplines His children
- God's faithfulness is not passive; it is actively reaching out and helping those who call upon Him

In the same manner, our faithfulness towards Gods and others should be steady. We should not allow circumstances and even other's unfaithfulness to change our characters. Pro 27:6 The wounds of a friend are given in good faith, but the kisses of a hater are false. In faithfulness we need to correct our brothers

2. Cultivating Faithfulness

a. Faithfulness correlates to Obedience

When we commit ourselves to obey the Word of God, we will lead to a faithful living. While many have left the truth, we will continue to be faithful because we have decided

to obey our Master's commandment. Psalm 119:30 I am determined to be faithful and to respect your laws [CEV].

b. Faithfulness correlates to Fear of the Lord

When we fear (sense of adoration, awe and dread) the Lord, we don't need to fear anything. Jehosaphat gave a good instruction to the Levites in 2Ch 19:9 – And he gave them their orders, saying, You are to do your work in the fear of the Lord, faithfully and with a perfect heart.

With fear of the Lord, when we serve the Lord, we give our best by preparing well and doing it with all of our hearts. It is different from 'just-anyhow' attitude in our service when we lack sense of respect to our King.

In the same manner, we will be faithful to our spouse – to whom we make covenant before the Lord – when we fear the Lord.

c. Faithfulness correlates to sense of Christ's Second Coming

A faithful servant is faithful and watchful for his Master whenever He comes. Christians who are anticipating Christ's second coming will be faithful in His calling and duty. They will be doing their works – working in the fields, working out their talents and getting ready to serve His Master whenever he is back home.

In Mat 24:44-51, Jesus described 2 types of servants. All of us want to become the faithful and wise servants whom the Master will put in charge of everything. These servants must be faithful in doing their works such that when their master comes, he will find them doing their job!

Jesus continued with parable of talents in Mat 25:14 onwards. The faithful servants work on their talents over the time until they double their talents when their Master is coming back. In the same way, let us be faithful in working out our talents, gifts and grace that has been deposited in our lives. Let us be faithful to His calling in our lives till the end.

Discussion

1. Share any examples of faithfulness in the bible (example : Jesus, Ruth, Job)
2. Discuss how we can encourage each other to be faithful to God and to our family

Conclusion

Faithfulness requires God working in us. We on our own cannot be faithful but as we abide in God and as we learn to cultivate faithfulness, we will be able to have lasting relationships.

May God be glorified as we bear the fruit of the Spirit! Hallelujah!