

INTRODUCTION

1. All of us know that great hymn that speaks of the faithfulness of God that was written in 1923 by Thomas Obediah Chisholm and William Marion Runyan called “Great is Thy Faithfulness.”
2. Verse 1 reads, “Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father there is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not. As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
3. Then the chorus: Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have

needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me.

4. Those words reflect the next piece in the multi flavored fruit that believers get when they “walk by [the means of] the Spirit.”
5. It’s found in Galatians 5:22-23.
6. Let me invite you to take God’s Word and turn with me to Galatians chapter 5.
7. “Faithfulness” is the 7th in the list that reads: Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

8. As we have already noted with the previous 6, God is all of this.
9. He is love, He is joy, He is peace, He is patience, He is kindness, He is goodness and He is faithfulness.
10. In the song of Moses that is recorded in Deuteronomy 32:1-4 (NASB), Moses says, “1 “Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. 2 “Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb. 3 “For I proclaim the name of the Lord; Ascribe greatness to our God! 4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”

11. In Psalms 89:1-8 (NASB) Ethan the Ezrahite records the Lord's Covenant with David, and Israel's Afflictions and says, "1 I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever; to all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth. 2 For I have said, "Lovingkindness will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness." 3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, 4 I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne to all generations." Selah. 5 The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. 6 For who in the skies is comparable to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty is like the Lord, 7 A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all

those who are around Him? 8 O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.”

LESSON

I. God is Faithful

God’s faithfulness is “God’s perfect loyalty and consistency in being true to his name, his character and his word.”¹

A. God’s Faithfulness is An Integral Part of His Nature

1. Through the false prophet Balaam God said to Balak in Numbers 23:19 (NASB) “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He

¹ Manser, Martin H. Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. London: Martin Manser, 2009. Print.

should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

God’s limitless power and steadfast love imply complete faithfulness which contrasts with human nature.

2. As Jeremiah shares in the infliction of Israel he remembers in Lamentations 3:21-23 (NASB) when he saysm “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. 22 The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

3. In Deuteronomy 7:7-11 (NASB) Moses warns the new generation

that will go into the promised land by saying, “The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the Lord brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with

him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. 11 Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them.”

B. God is Faithful to His Name and Character

1. Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:11-13 (NASB) It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

2. The Psalmist says in Psalms 106:8 (NASB) that even though Israel rebelled against the Lord, “Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, that He might make His power known.”

3. In the closing remarks in his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NASB) Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”

Why? Because that is who He is!
God’s Faithfulness is Known
Through Fulfilled Promises

4. Peter said in 2 Peter 3:9 (NASB) “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness,

but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

Those who discount the longsuffering of the Lord forget how patient He was in the days of Noah. They also think that God will forget about His judgment and will therefore relent from bringing it to pass. But “the Lord is not slow about His promise.”

5. As Moses is preparing to die, he tells Israel in Joshua 23:14-16 (NASB) “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God

spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. 15 It shall come about that just as all the good words which the Lord your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you. 16 When you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and you will perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you.”

II. What is Faithfulness in Galatians 5:22?

A. It is the word (pistis) that is commonly used for saving faith but here it is common in secular Greek for trustworthiness. It is the characteristic of the man who is reliable.² Another word would be “Loyalty”³

The German Reformer Martin Luther said, “When Paul here reckoneth faith amongst the fruits of the Spirit, it is manifest that he speaketh not of faith in Christ, but of the fidelity or sincerity [of one man towards another].”⁴

B. When you walk by the means of the Spirit you will be faithful, trustworthy,

² Barclay, William, ed. The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1976. Print. The Daily Study Bible Series.

³ MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. The MacArthur Study Bible. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

⁴ Luther, Martin. [Commentary on Galatians](#). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.

and loyal. You will be loyal to God and man.

1. Paul identified certain believers at Ephesus as “faithful” in Ephesians 1:1 (NASB) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus.”
2. He did the same thing in Colossians 1:1-2 (NASB) Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

III. Believers Are to Be Faithful

- A. In All Things - Paul calls the older women to be faithful in 1 Timothy 3:2 (NASB) Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things.
- B. In Pastoring - Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 (NASB) Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.
- C. In Marriage - Hebrews 13:4 (NASB95) — 4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- D. In Family Relationships - 1 Timothy 5:8
(NASB95) — 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- E. In Telling the Truth - Proverbs 14:5
(NASB95) — 5 A trustworthy witness will not lie, But a false witness utters lies.
- F. In Serving Others - Galatians 6:10
(NASB95) — 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
- G. In Praying for Others - Romans 1:9–10
(NASB95) — 9 For God, whom I serve

in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you, 10 always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

H. In Giving - 2 Corinthians 8:7 (NASB95)
— 7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

CONCLUSION

1. Are you faithful?

2. Faithfulness is becoming a rare commodity.
3. The Psalmist said in Psalm 12:1–2 (NASB95) — 1 Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men. 2 They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.
4. When we are walking by the means of the Spirit we will be faithful, trustworthy, and loyal to one another.
5. If we find ourselves struggling in this, this should be a quick reminder that we're not walking by the means of the Spirit but by the flesh.

6. As always we need to evaluate ourselves.
7. Are you a Christian?
8. You can become born again right now by denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Christ.
9. Let's pray.