

What Does it Mean to be Faithful?

Concerning
First Principles

- Often when we present the “steps to salvation”, we mention 6 steps.
 - 5 of these are related to becoming a Christian
Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess and Be Baptized.
- The 6th step is about maintaining our salvation.
- In this lesson, we want to address this step.

What Does it Mean to be Faithful?

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- “Be faithful” is something one must understand BEFORE they obey the gospel.
- When one is baptized, he puts on Christ –
Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3-4
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – he is a new creation
- **Matthew 28:19-20** –
Disciple = Baptized + taught to “observe all things”

What is faithfulness?

- AHD, ¹. Adhering firmly and devotedly, as to a person, cause or idea; loyal; ³. Responsible, conscientious.
- Baker's Bible dictionary – Maintaining faith or allegiance; showing a strong sense of duty or conscientiousness.
- To be trustworthy, dependable, reliable, to have confidence in
- **1 Corinthians 7:25** – trustworthy

What is faithfulness?

- The root word is tied to the word **faith** in both Hebrew and Greek.
- **Faith** – Believing God (not merely believing IN God) AND trusting Him.
- **Faithful** – because of my faith, I loyally serve Him
- When it comes to the way we live our lives, they are inseparable (and at times interchangeable)

What is faithfulness?

- If we have genuine faith, we will be faithful
- Abraham – **Genesis 15:6**
Known for his faith because he was faithful!
Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6 – he trusted God's promises
James 2:21-23 – he offered Isaac. He acted, faithfully obeying God!
- **Hebrews 11:8, 17** – by faith he obeyed.

What is faithfulness?

- If we have genuine faith, we will be faithful
- Consider **James 2:17-20**
- Even **Ephesians 2:8-10** – we are created for good works (tied to our saving faith).
- It is this distinction that separates saving faith (belief that faithfully obeys) from “faith only”!
Hebrews 11:6 – without faith we cannot please Him. WHAT pleases Him? **Cf. 1 Samuel 15:22**

What is faithfulness?

- God is faithful
- He is our greatest example of what it means to be faithful
- **1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:13**
Hebrews 10:23 – He who promised is faithful
- The Lord is faithful - **2 Timothy 2:13,**
Hebrews 2:17, 2 Thessalonians 3:3

What is faithfulness?

- God is faithful – How?
- He keeps His word!
- He keeps His promises and covenants –
Deuteronomy 7:9
- He cares about us – **1 Peter 5:7**
- He hears our prayers – **1 John 5:14-15**
- He knows how to deliver us – **1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Peter 2:9**

What is faithfulness?

- God is faithful – How?
- His word is faithful – **Titus 1:9, 3:8,**
1 Timothy 3:1, 4:9, 2 Timothy 2:11,
etc.
- **Hebrews 10:23,** *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

Why do we need to remain faithful?

- Because it is commanded
- **1 Corinthians 4:2**, we are stewards;
Cf. Matthew 25:21, 23 (25:14-30)
- **Hebrews 10:38**, *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*” (**Hab. 2:3-4**)

Why do we need to remain faithful?

- Because our salvation depends upon it
- **Revelation 2:10**, faithful until death
- **Hebrews 5:9**, author of salvation to all who obey Him
- **Matthew 10:22, 24:13**, *He who endures to the end will be saved.*

Why do we need to remain faithful?

- Because unfaithfulness can cause us to be lost.
- Scripture clearly teaches that we can forfeit our salvation – **Hebrews 3:12, 2 Peter 2:20-22, Galatians 5:4, 1 Corinthians 10:12, James 5:19-20**
- **1 John 1:9, Acts 8:22** – obtaining forgiveness AS believers. Is this necessary?

How can I know I am faithful?

- **1 John 5:13**, that you may know that you have eternal life.
- Am I living a holy life? **1 Peter 1:13-16**,
Hebrews 12:14
- Am I striving to obey God in everything?
Acts 5:29, Cf. **1 Samuel 15:22** – to obey is better than sacrifice

How can I know I am faithful?

- Am I walking in light? **1 John 1:5-10**, the basis of our fellowship with Him
- Am I walking in love? **Ephesians 5:1-2**, **John 13:34-35**
- Am I growing in my faith? **Hebrews 5:12-6:3**, **2 Peter 3:17-18**

How can I know I am faithful?

- Is my life filled with good works? **Ephesians 2:10, Titus 2:14**
- Have I taken care of my sins? Am I working to avoid sin? **1 John 1:9, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11**
- Can God depend on me? **Cf. Job 1:8, 2:3**

When we obey the gospel, we have just begun our walk with him.

Will we remain faithful to Him?

He will accept nothing less!

When you stand before
Him in judgement,
what will he say to you?

Let us pray!