

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - FAITHFULNESS

LESSON 7

I. FAITHFULNESS DEFINED:

A. Greek noun PISTIS means TRUST.

B. Used in the New Testament as:

1. trust in God and his word (Mark 11:22).
2. the gospel of Christ or the body of truth called "the faith" (Acts 6:7, 14:22, Galatians 1:23, Jude 3, etc.)
3. the trust or firm persuasion that is produced in one toward Christ by the gospel (Acts 20:21, Rom. 10:17).
4. the trustworthy, loyal or faithful life demanded of the Christian (Titus 2:13, Rev. 2:13).

II. FAITHFULNESS IS A CHARACTERISTIC OF GOD.

A. A basis for our trust in Him (Rom. 3:3)

1. Gives us confidence in his promises (I Thess. 5:24, Heb. 10:23, 11:11).
2. Gives us confidence in forgiveness (I Jn.1:9).
3. Helps us endure persecution (I Cor. 10:13, I Pet. 4:19).

B. We can depend upon Jesus.

1. Faithful to God (Heb. 3:2,5)
2. Faithful High Priest (Heb. 2:17)
3. Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:5, 19:11)

C. God in Christ offers a trustworthy message; - can bank on it!

1. Christ came to world to save sinners (I Tim. 1:15).
2. Desire work of bishop - desire a good work (I Tim. 3:1).
3. We should exercise our selves unto Godliness. (I Tim. 4:9)
4. Those claiming to believe in God must produce good works (Titus 3:8).

III. FAITHFULNESS MUST BE SEEN IN US AS WE LIVE BEFORE MEN.

A. Trustworthy to God in proclaiming the Gospel (2 Tim. 2:2).

1. An essential mark of God's steward (I Cor. 4:2).

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- a) Good and faithful servant (Matt. 25:14-30).
 - b) Faithful in another's goods (Lk. 16:10-12).
2. Examples:
 - a) Epaphras (Col. 1:7).
 - b) Timothy (I Cor. 4:17).
 - c) Tychicus (Eph.6:21).
 - d) Onesimus (Col. 4:9).

B. Trustworthy to one another

1. Faithful to our word and promises (James 5:12, Matt. 23:16-22).
2. Weightier matters of the law (Matt. 23:23).
3. Domestic responsibilities (I Tim. 3:11, Titus 2:10).

QUESTIONS:

1. The fruit of the spirit in our present study is: (Explain your answer)
 - (a) Faith in the gospel.
 - (b) Faithfulness in our dealings with man.
2. Why is it that a Christian must know that God is a faithful God?
3. In what two areas of service has Jesus shown himself to be faithful?
4. In what activity should we all be involved in as "faithful men" unto God ?
5. In Matthew 23:23, why is mercy, justice and "faith" called the weightier matters of the law?
6. Why is being "faithful in all things" an important qualification for the women in I Tim. 3: 11?

7. What is a Christian manifesting when he or she is being "faithful" in their daily dealings with the world?