

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Be Faithful

(Jerry Fite)

Being faithful may not be a spectacular trait, crying out for headlines. In fact, it may appear to be rather mundane, because at its core is constancy. But it is a trait that God looks for beneath the glittering surface of man’s self-aggrandizement. “*Most men will proclaim every one his own kindness; but a faithful man who can find?*” (Proverbs 20:6). Faithfulness is a characteristic that many overlook in their quest for greatness, but which brings blessings to the one who diligently possesses her: “*A faithful man shall abound with blessings; but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be unpunished*” (Proverbs 20:28).

“Being faithful” is one of those phrases that we often limit in scope narrower than God would view it. We sometimes say a person is a faithful Christian when we are limiting its parameter to just attending services regularly. While this is surely one aspect of faithfulness (Hebrews 10:22-25), constancy in attendance is surely not the only area of our lives in which God demands faithfulness.

Often in Scripture, telling the truth is a manifestation of being faithful. “*A faithful witness*

will not lie; but a false witness uttereth lies” (Proverbs 14:5). Keeping our tongue from gossiping is empowered by a faithful spirit: “*He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter* (Proverbs 11:13). You will be a great friend to others when they observe you telling the truth when you must speak, while refusing to tell of matters that should remain secret.

We must be faithful by teaching God’s word to others. Paul exhorts Timothy by writing, “*And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also*” (2 Timothy 2:2). God’s way of spreading His word is for men and women to have a faithful spirit that will move them to take the confirmed gospel message and teach it to others. Paul was thankful that God considered him to be faithful in this service (1 Timothy 1:12). Such faithfulness in teaching God’s word brings hardship and even death, but in the end, God rewards the faithful with heaven and eternal protection from the second death (Revelation 2:13,

10). Are you manifesting faithfulness unto God in this needed area of Christian living?

We must be faithful to God in the wise use of money. Jesus asks the penetrating question: “*If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust true riches* (Luke 16:11)? Such a question demands that we look at the money we have not as our god, but as what the true God has given us. It demands that we always treat riches upon earth as secondary to the “true riches” of heaven. With this proper approach, we will be faithful to God by using our money wisely to His glory.

Being faithful is not a trait that we segregate to just one area of life. It is to permeate throughout all personal responses to God’s demands upon us. As the women, probably wives of the deacons, were to manifest, we too must be “*faithful in all things*” (1 Timothy 3:12). Let us be trustworthy to God in our words, teaching, and money, as well as being constant in our attendance for worship. Being faithful is the character of the true Christian (Ephesians 1:1).