

# THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## FAITHFULNESS

**Galatians Chapter 5:22-23.** – *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

*Pistis* the Greek word for “faithfulness” is the quality which renders a person trustworthy or reliable. Biblically, the meaning of faithfulness is the fact or quality of being true to one’s word or commitments, as to what one has pledged to do and/or professes to believe. Fidelity which is another word for faithfulness, comes from the Latin root *fides*, which means faith, therefore fidelity is the state of being faithful. God’s faithfulness in Hebrew is **Emunah** pronounced “eh-moo-nah” and is understood in English to mean “faith” or “belief”. It is often also translated as “faithfulness.” It describes much more than just believing in a statement about God, it reveals a life of full reliance upon Him. The Apostle Paul in 2 Timothy Chapter 2:13 reminded young Timothy that even if we are faithless, God will remain faithful.

Our faithfulness is the result of the Holy Spirit's influence in our lives. Faithfulness is a blending of trust, love, and obedience in a God who has proven Himself trustworthy and deserving of our devotion. Scriptures relating to God’s faithfulness to His people can be found in Psalm 25:10; 33:4; 145:13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 10:23; 1 John 1:9.

In Hebrews Chapter 10:38-39 we read: *“But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back.”* But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. Those who remained faithful in the past during all the trials they encountered, have reason to hope for the same grace to help them live by faith, until they died in faith, so their souls are safe forever.

In Hebrews Chapter 11:1-3, we get a description of what faith is: *“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible”.* The Bible Commentator, Matthew Henry expresses faith in this way: “Faith proves to the mind, the reality of things that cannot be seen by the bodily eye. It is a full approval of all God has revealed, as holy, just and good.” The remaining text of Hebrews Chapter 11 gives us examples of people from the Old Testament who were faithful. To be faithful, we must seek God with our whole heart and believe that God only wants the best for us when we continue to have faith in what he has promised.

The Old Testament Patriarch Abraham was called God’s friend (Isaiah 41:8) and had great faithfulness to God and trusted Him even when he was called to leave his own land and travel to a Promised Land, not knowing it’s whereabouts (James 2:23). God had confidence in Abraham to be faithful in everything he asked him to do, and as a result, a great nation came into being as his ancestors fulfilled the prophetic word given in Genesis Chapter 12:2-3. Abraham also showed his faithfulness when he offered up his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God in Genesis Chapter 22:2.

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In Job Chapter 9:22-24 we read that just because you are considered righteous and good, you do not automatically prosper, but we must remain faithful despite our circumstances. God doesn't afflict us; however, He may allow us to go through seasons of trials and tribulations for a reason that we don't understand. We do not see the full picture, so we must humble ourselves before God and continuously seek the renewing of the Holy Spirit. In Job Chapter 42, Job repents and prays for his friends. After this, Job is restored and God doubled Job's possessions.

**Matthew Chapter 24:45-47** talks about the faithful servant who the master put in charge of everything while he was away. The faithful servant will be trustworthy of what he has been put in charge of until his master's return. The faithful servant will then be put in charge of all the master's possessions because he was found to be trustworthy. It is the faithful servant who will be ready when Jesus returns.

**Matthew Chapter 25:21** is the parable of the three servants who were entrusted with wealth by their master. Two were faithful with their portion and invested what they were given and doubled its value. The unfaithful servant was idle and just buried what he had been given. Christ wants us to be faithful in the gifts we are given to promote his glory and the good of his people. The unfaithful servant will not acquire the true riches of heaven.

**Luke Chapter 12:42** is about the faithful and wise Manager who was put in charge of all the servants. He needs to remain faithful in all his dealings because he does not know when the master will return. As the faithful Manager, we are to be zealous in making the truth be known to sinners, so they will be converted, and God will be glorified.

**Luke Chapter 16:1-15** is the Parable of the Shrewd Manager. The master who was of the world commended the shrewd manager because the people of this world deal shrewdly with each other. All that we have is the Lord's; we only have the use of it. We are all liable of wasting what God has given us. We should not be dishonest in our dealings, but we are to work as diligently as the men of this world to further the Kingdom with the spiritual blessings we were given. This account describes how God expects us to be trustworthy in what we have been given, but not sit back idle and expect others to do everything. We need to faithfully use what spiritual blessings we were given to pursue Christ and lead others to him.

**Colossians Chapter 3:23-24**, the Apostle Paul instructed the Colossian believers. *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus you are serving"* (Colossians 3:23-24).