

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS FAITHFULNESS
GALATIANS 5:22

HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE FRUIT OF FAITHFULNESS IN YOUR LIFE?

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I. GOD IS FAITHFUL

A. God is faithful in His being

1. Deuteronomy 7:9
2. Isaiah 49:7
3. Psalm 89:5
4. Hebrews 11:11
5. Lamentations 3:23
6. 1 Corinthians 1:9

B. God is faithful to His word

1. Psalm 119:86

C. God is faithful in His calling

1. 1 Cor. 1:9

D. God is faithful when believers are tempted

1. 1 Cor. 10:13

E. God is faithful to His creation

1. Psalm 119:90; Psalm 145:15-17
2. 1 Peter 4:19

F. God is faithful in times of trouble

1. Psalm 119:75

G. God is faithful to our prayers

1. Psalm 143:1

H. God is faithful with His promises

1. Numbers 23:19

I. God is faithful with His provision

1. Romans 8:32

J. God is faithful to forgive us

1. 1 John 1:9

K. God is faithful as our High Priest

1. Hebrews 7:23-25

L. God is faithful even when we are not

1. 2 Timothy 2:13

M. God is faithful in fulfilling His will and plan for our lives

1. Philippians 1:6

N. *"Upon God's faithfulness rests our whole hope of future blessedness. The tempted, the anxious, the fearful, the discouraged may all find new hope and good cheer in the knowledge that our Heavenly Father is faithful."*

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II. CHRIST DEMONSTRATED FAITHFULNESS

A. In His temptation

1. Hebrews 4:15

B. In His suffering

1. Hebrews 5:7,8

C. In His accomplished salvation

1. Hebrews 5:9

D. In fulfilling the Father's will

1. John 17:4

III. THE RESULT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DOMINATING OUR LIVES IS THE FRUIT OF FAITHFULNESS

A. GALATIANS 5:16-22

B. Does that mean that we sit back and do nothing?

C. We are commanded to be faithful

1. 1 Cor. 4:2

2. Rev. 2:10

D. We are to model God and He is faithful

1. Eph. 5:2

E. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, we cannot be faithful

1. Gal. 5:22

F. If we are faithful in little areas, God will reward us with larger opportunities

1. Matt. 5:19

G. The measure of our spiritual lives is our faithfulness

H. One day we will stand before God and He will focus on our faithfulness

1. 1 Cor. 4:2

I. But Proverbs 20:6 is a challenge

J. How many individuals in the bible do you think are declared faithful?

K. Why would that be?

L. Any lessons for us in that?

M. God keeps track not of our successes or accomplishments but our faithfulness

V. THE WORD FOR FAITHFULNESS

A. In the Old Testament the word is "aman"

1. To support, to be true or certain
2. Long continuance, trusty, verified

B. In the New Testament the word is "pistis"

1. To be dependable
2. Honest, integrity, keep their word, do not cheat

C. What do you learn about faithfulness from the words?

1. Deals with character
2. Deals with practice

D. Can be used as faith or faithfulness

1. In Galatians 5:22 is not so much a theological belief
2. Instead, it is a daily life virtue

C. Faithfulness over the long-haul

1. They have proven themselves over a period of time
2. They have proven themselves in a variety of ways and circumstances
3. They have proven themselves before people

VI. HOW ARE WE TO DEMONSTRATE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT FAITHFULNESS?

A. With our material possessions

1. 2 Cor. 8:20,21 He wanted it demonstrated before others
2. Paul demanded full accountability for the gifts given and his handling of it
3. Luke 16:12

B. In our hope

1. Hebrews 10:21

C. With our word

1. Let your yes be yes and your no be no
2. Eph. 4:25

D. Faithful in our work

1. Eccl. 9:10
2. Col. 3:23

E. Faithful to our doctrine

1. 3 John 3,4

F. Faithful in our character

1. Daniel 6:4

2. Proverbs 12:17-21

G. Faithful in our dealings with people

1. Lev. 19:11

H. Faithful in every aspect of our lives

1. Proverbs 20:6

VII. AN EXAMINATION OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT FAITHFULNESS IN OUR LIVES

A. Am I completely honest with people? Even in the little things?

B. Am I dependable to others? Can they count on me to fulfill my responsibilities and to keep my word?

C. Does God view me as faithful in all areas of my life?

D. What limits do I put on being faithful?

E. Am I faithful even if it costs me?

F. Would people who know me consider me faithful? How about those I pass daily?

G. What areas of my life am I not faithful in?