

FAITHFULNESS

* **There is a big difference between FAITH & FAITHFULNESS**

Faith is believing:

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faithfulness is doing:

1Co 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

There are too many offices in the church filled with unfaithful people

2Ti 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Eph 6:21 But that ye also may know my affairs, *and* how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things:

Col 1:7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Col 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They shall make known unto you all things which *are done* here.

Would someone look at you and judge you to be faithful?

Act 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Act 16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

God will not use someone that is not faithful:

Luk 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Luk 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

QUESTION: Why is it that in today's society we see more and more people unfaithful to the things of the Lord?

1) People don't want to be persecuted

2Ti 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

2) They are ashamed of the Gospel

Rom 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

3) They don't truly love the Lord and appreciate what He did for them on Calvary

1Co 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

4) Never been saved

Mat 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*;

Phi 3:18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Phi 3:19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

1Jo 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1Jo 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

5) Love the world more than Jesus

2Ti 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

1Jo 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

6) Don't believe The Book

Act 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this *matter*.

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS NEED TO BE FAITHFUL TO?

1) Church

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

We are referred to as candles in Scripture:

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

The church is referred to as a candlestick:

Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

(Christians (candle) should be in church (candlestick))

Many Christians want to jump ship and join another church at the first sign of trouble:

Act 27:29 Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day.

Act 27:30 And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship,

Act 27:31 Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.

2) Pastor

Heb 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

Heb 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

God gives the Pastor, not man:

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

God will take care of the Pastor who is wrong, you don't have to:

Jer 23:1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Jer 23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

3) Soul Winning

Mar 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Eze 3:18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

1Co 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

4) Prayer & Fasting

1Co 7:5 Defraud ye not one the other, except *it be* with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Mar 9:29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

1Ti 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

1Th 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

5) Study (Sunday School & Wed. night Bible study)

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Mat 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Mar 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Most won't study because it takes effort:

Ecc 12:12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

6) Sound Doctrine

Tit 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

WHAT ARE MANY CHRISTIANS FAITHFUL TO?

1) Gossip

Psa 5:8 Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

Psa 5:9 For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part *is* very wickedness; their throat *is* an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.

Psa 34:13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Pro 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

We should let God control our tongues...

Psa 45:1 <To the chief Musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korah, Maschil, A Song of loves.> My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue *is* the pen of a ready writer.

If you talk about Jesus all the time, you won't have time to talk about others...

Psa 44:8 In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

2) Complacency

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

To many church members want to sit while everyone else works:

Num 32:6 And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?

3) Anger

Pro 14:17 *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.*

Pro 22:24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Pro 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Pro 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Being angry with sin is not a sin:

Eph 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

4) Talebearing

Pro 20:19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

Pro 11:13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

5) Busybodies

1Ti 5:13 And withal they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

2Th 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

6) Any even where sound preaching is absent

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

7) Themselves (No concept of ministry or ministering to others)

Pro 20:6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

Phi 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

Phi 2:4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

1Co 10:33 Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

8) Backbiting

Pro 25:23 The north wind driveth away rain: so *doth* an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

Psa 15:1 <A Psalm of David.> LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

Psa 15:2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

Psa 15:3 *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour

2Co 12:20 For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and *that* I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest *there be* debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

WHY SHOULD WE BE FAITHFUL?

Because He has been faithful to us....

2Th 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *you* from evil.

1Co 1:9 God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Th 5:24 Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

1Jo 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

WILL GOD FIND US FAITHFUL TO HIM WHEN HE RETURNS?

Mat 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Mat 24:46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Mat 24:47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

