

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: WEEK 8

## FAITHFULNESS

### MEANING



**FAITH IS TRANSLATED AS “FAITHFULNESS”;  
THE ACT OF BEING FAITHFUL.**

**FAITH IN THE GREEK IS “PÍSTIS” (PEACE-TEES): (“PERSUADE, BE  
PERSUADED”; PROPERLY, PERSUASION (BE PERSUADED, COME TO TRUST);  
FAITH IS ALWAYS A GIFT FROM GOD, AND NEVER SOMETHING THAT CAN BE  
PRODUCED**

### SCRIPTURE



**JOSHUA 21:45   NUMBERS 23:19   LAMENTATION 3:22-23   1 JOHN 4:14-16  
JEREMIAH 31:3   PSALM 119:88-92   1 JOHN 1:8-10   MALACHI 3:6  
PSALM 18:30   MARK 9:14-27   2 TIMOTHY 2:13   1 CORINTHIANS 10:13  
2 THESSALONIANS 3:3   JOHN 17:4   HEBREWS 3:5-6   REVELATION 1:5  
1 CORINTHIANS 4:2   ECCLESIASTES 5:4-5   MALACHI 2:14   MATTHEW 25  
LUKE 16:10   PSALM 15   HEBREWS 11:6   JOHN 15:4-7**

### GOING DEEPER



#### **FAITH/FAITHFULNESS:**

- FAITH, the seventh of nine characteristics in the fruit of the Spirit.
- Faith is translated as “faithfulness”; the act of being faithful.
- FAITH in the Greek is “pístis” (peace-tees): (“persuade, be persuaded”; properly, persuasion (be persuaded, come to trust); faith.
- Faith is always a gift from God, and never something that can be produced by people.
- PISTIS (“faith”) for the believer is “God's divine persuasion” – and therefore distinct from human belief (confidence), yet involving it.
- The Lord continuously births faith in the yielded believer so they can know what He prefers



- FAITHFUL in the Hebrew: Emun, Masculine noun (Strong's 529); Emunah, Feminine noun (Strong's 530).
- The word 'e-mu-na' (ay-moon-a) appears only 25 times in the Old Testament, whereas it is mentioned 158 times in the New Testament.
- The dictionary tells us that faith is the complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Faith in the Bible is having complete trust in YHWH God.
- The Root of EMUN or EMMUNAH is אמן -aman often translated amen
- The word "Amen" comes out of the Hebrew root word for faith– aman– meaning "to believe", "to confirm" or "to support".
- Saying "Amen" is saying, "I believe it!"
- God is faithful to His children, and He calls us to act out our faith by being faithful to Him.

### **THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD:**

#### **1. GOD'S IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES:**

- We read in Joshua 21:45: ***"Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; everyone was fulfilled."***
- God cannot lie, so He can be trusted, always, because His character does not change.
- God's perfected act of being faithful ensures that all of His actions are constant, consistent, and unchanging.
- God's Word and promises are true and must come to pass because when God speaks, His Word endures forever.
- We will face "disappointment" around every corner when our "will" is not aligned with His.
- He keeps HIS promises and answers our prayers according to HIS WILL & WORD and NOT according to our OWN fleshly desires & wants!
- We must, like David, hide His words in our hearts that we might not sin against God.
- If we keep His commandments and pray according to His will, we assured that we will see the goodness of God in the land of the living!

#### **2. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE & COMPASSION FOR YOU:**

- He is faithful in his love and compassion for you.
- Lamentation 3:22-23 says: ***"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."***



### **3. GOD IS FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS:**

- When saved, believers have the Holy Spirit living within them, but that doesn't make them sinless.
- It is a struggle against the spirit of the flesh and the Spirit living within.
- But God, in His continued faithfulness, is gracious and faithful to forgive us of our sins if we confess and ask for forgiveness.

### **4. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE:**

- God does not change, and as His character is perfect:
- He cannot change, or He would no longer be perfect!

### **5. GOD'S ABILITY TO BE FAITHFUL DOES NOT DEPEND ON OUR ABILITY TO BELIEVE:**

- 2 Timothy 2:13: ***"If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself."***

### **6. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN TIME OF TRIAL & TEMPTATION:**

- God is faithful in times of trial or temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says that: ***"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."***
- He will never leave you forsake you; ***YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!***
- God is faithful to protect you from the evil one.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:3 says: ***"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one."***

### **7. JESUS IS THE FAITHFUL & TRUE WITNESS**

- When we think about God and faithfulness, we also want to look at Jesus and his life.
- Jesus as God's Son also displayed this fruit of faithfulness in his life.
- At the end of his life here on earth, Jesus was able to say to the Father in John 17:4: "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."
- Hebrews 3 tells us: ***"Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house."***
- The word "witness" in this verse is the same as our English word "martyr" meaning someone who is faithful to death in their witness to the truth.
- Jesus certainly displayed the fruit of faithfulness in his life.
- He was faithful to finish the work the Father gave him to do.
- He was faithful as a Son over all God's house.
- He is the faithful witness who was faithful to the truth even unto death.
- When you look at faithfulness and God, you can see that faithfulness is at the very root of God's character and fully displayed in the life of Jesus as God's Son.



### **GROWING IN FAITHFULNESS AS A BELIEVER:**

- As God demonstrates these traits to us, we are to demonstrate faithfulness as people of faith.
- This is possible through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we
- grow the fruit of the Spirit to become more in the image of Jesus.

### **WE ARE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD BY:**

#### **1. Remember God's faithfulness to you.**

- Call to memory when things don't look like they should or when you feel doubt creeping.
- HE IS FAITHFUL!

#### **2. Be a good steward of God's gifts to you**

- The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 4:2: "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."
- Everything you have comes from God and belongs to God.
- We are only stewards of the things that God has entrusted to us. You have been given a trust from God, and it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

#### **3. Examine your commitments in light of God's word.**

- Ecclesiastes 5 says: ***"When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. 5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it."***
- Never make vows lightly.
- As Christians we need to keep the commitments and vows we make to the Lord and each other. This especially applies to your marriage vows.
- In the book of Malachi in the Old Testament the people were wondering why God was no longer paying attention to their offerings or prayers.
- Malachi told them: ***"The Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant."***
- As Christians we need to be faithful to our spouses and the vows we have made to each other.



#### **4. Be faithful in the small things:**

- Matthew 25, the servant who was given five talents put his money to work and gained five more. When the master returned, he told the servant: ***“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”***
- Jesus said in Luke 16:10: ***“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”***
- We must be faithful in the small things, and God will trust us with more.

#### **5. Keep your word even when it hurts:**

- Did you make a promise that is no longer easy or convenient for you to keep?
- God says keep it anyways, yes, even when it hurts!

#### **OBEDIENCE & GROWTH ARE CRUCIAL TO THE BELIEVER:**

- There is no shortage of blessings and benefits that God provides His faithful children as He makes us more into the image of Jesus.
- Faithfulness comes with being obedient to God’s Word, and eternal blessings follow.
- Hebrews 11:6 says ***“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”***
- The fruit of the Spirit knits our spirits with the Holy Spirit, so we are grafted into the Vine to become more like Christ and His characteristics.
- These traits **CANNOT** be separated or grown apart from each other.
- They intertwine in our spirit so we can be Jesus to the world around us and to those who are in the household of faith.

## SCRIPTURE OF REFLECTION



### **JOHN 15:4-7:**

4. *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*
5. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
6. *If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.*
7. *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*
8. *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so, you will be My disciples.*



## REFLECTION/NOTES

