

FRUIT OF THE WEEK: FAITHFULNESS

Psalm 33:4 *“For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”*

As we sing and celebrate in the popular hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, our God is faithful in all his ways toward his people. Scripture continually reminds us of this truth [Deut. 7:9; Lam. 3:23; Ps. 25:10; Ps. 36:5; 1 Cor. 1:9; 1 Thess. 5:23-24]. If faithful is an adjective often used to describe the Lord, it is no surprise that Paul would include faithfulness in the Fruit of the Spirit. Having a fruitful life is having the completeness of God’s character shine through us.

The meaning of faithfulness has several different layers. The dictionary defines faithfulness primarily in three ways: 1) to be loyal; 2) to be reliable; 3) to be true to one’s words. God undeniably exemplifies faithfulness in these three ways as he is trustworthy and dependable, consistently providing for his people and fulfilling his promises.

Take time to dwell on God’s faithfulness, never forgetting that every good and perfect gift comes from above as God is quick to tend to our needs, both physical and spiritual [James 1:17; Mt. 6:31-33; Phil. 4:19]. Take time to dwell on God’s faithfulness, remembering his promise to free us from the curse of sin and bringing that promise to fruition through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ [Rom. 8:1-2]. Take time to dwell on God’s faithfulness, praising him for his continual intercession in our lives as he helps guard us against the present schemes of the enemy [Rom. 8:34; 2 Thess. 3:3].

The more we see and understand God’s faithfulness in our lives, the more we will be able to participate in his great faithfulness and take on this aspect of his character. Jesus shows us even more of what it means to be faithful as he too was a faithful servant to God. Jesus was faithful to the task he came to accomplish [Mt. 20:28]. Jesus did the will of the Father in spite of all the obstacles and temptations he faced [Mk. 14:36]. Jesus was obedient even to the point of death [Phil. 2:8].

Jesus calls for this same faithfulness in his disciples. Being a faithful follower requires commitment and perseverance. Being a faithful follower requires clear, kingdom-centered vision to remain on the narrow path, not allowing yourself to get easily distracted or entangled by fleeting worldly pleasures. Being a faithful follower requires obedience to the Word and will of the Father. Being a faithful follower is a long-term, whole-hearted devotion to the Lord.

Christopher Wright sums up the faithfulness of a Christian in this simple and inspiring way: “Faithfulness means you know what you really believe, whom you really love, and what you are ultimately committed to. Faithfulness means being sure of what you want to live for and what you’re willing to die for.”¹

Be sure to reflect on what you really believe, who you really love, and what you are ultimately committed to. Let us learn from the example placed before us in Jesus Christ, growing in our devotion, obedience, and faithfulness to God. May we be a people who are eager to one day hear the words: “Well done, good and faithful servant” [Mt. 25:23].

¹ Christopher J.H. Wright, *Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness*, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017) 124.