

Faithful-2

Would it offend you if I were to say that God's faithfulness is conditional? Fortunately, I don't have to say that about him, because his own word has already said it.

In Psalm 18:25, David says: To the faithful you show yourself faithful.

This is the way God treats people: If you are good, you can count on his goodness. But if you're bad, don't expect anything good from him.

Do you want to experience the Lord's faithfulness? You be faithful to him.

Psalm 97:10 Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 73:27 Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

What do you think? Shouldn't God's faithfulness to us inspire us to be faithful to him? According to Galatians 5:22, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness!"

And we need to be faithful to God both in good and bad situations.

While talking about Christians suffering for Christ, in Revelation 14:12 Apostle John says, "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."

In Revelation 2:10 the Lord instructs the church in Smyrna: "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."

When you stand before Christ, he will say to you, "Well done," but only if you've done well. And he will call you a "good and faithful servant" only if you've been good and if you've been faithful.

The Lord highly values faithfulness. He says in Matthew 23:23 You give a tenth of your spices. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law-justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

According to 1 Corinthians 4:2, faithfulness is the trait required in a steward, a manager, and that means all of us.

But what should our faithfulness look like? How does it show itself in and through us?

- Faithfulness is constant, consistent fidelity to God.
- It's our faith, trust & belief in his faithfulness.
- It means obeying God's word.
- It means purity, holiness.
- It's devotion to prayer.
- It's dependability in responsibility.

- Loyalty in human relationships.
- Reliability in financial matters.
- And last but not least, it's a commitment to the Great Commission.

I find it significant that, in his letter to Colossae, Apostle Paul mentions faithful people by name:

Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ. (1:7)

Tychicus is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. (4:7)

Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother. (4:9)

If Apostle Paul knew you, would he mention you by name...because of your faithfulness? If you haven't been faithful in some area of your life, do you want to be faithful? You can be, but only with God's help, and he is eager to help you. And when that happens, both of you will be very pleased. ◇◇