

What Does It Mean To Be Faithful?

Presented by Pastor Jack Cunningham

"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?" (Prov. 20:6)

A "faithful man" is both trustworthy and reliable. Many people make faithfulness a hallmark of their human relationships, but the faithfulness that matters most is the faithfulness we show towards God.

God is faithful. He does what He promises to do. Moreover, because God is faithful, we dare have courage to trust Him and His promises. "He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23). "Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens: and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds" (Psa. 36:5). "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations..." (Psa. 119:90)

As men after "the heart of God," one of the attributes that distinguish us from other men is our effectiveness at emulating the character of God in our life. So, since God is faithful—I must strive to be faithful. Since God does what He promises to do—I must strive to do what I promise to do. It is God's faithfulness that causes His people to trust Him—it will be through our faithfulness that people will learn to trust and follow our leadership.

In truth, all of God's creation depends on His faithfulness. Animals begin their annual migrations and periodic breeding cycles at certain times because nature's laws are firm. Plants send forth seed and sapling according to His faithfulness. Only humankind has a hard time knowing whether or not to exercise faith in God.

Likewise, the precious people of God who have so graciously agreed to follow us depend on our faithfulness. There is nothing more damaging to the body of Christ than an unfaithful leader. Leaders who live a double standard and/or live a life of inconsistencies do much damage to the Kingdom of God.

If we are full of faith we will believe God's word and expect Him to fulfill His promises. That means we will actually live according to what we think. We judge that God, who delivered His word, is faithful (Heb. 11:11). Therefore, we commit ourselves to our

heavenly Father in spite of unfair or evil circumstances. We do God's will the best we can because we trust our faithful Creator to set all things right in His time and way. "Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right."--1 Pet. 4:19 NASB

We find strength to be faithful to God because God is faithful in dealing with us.

The people of God obviously gain strength from the faithfulness of God. Not too be taken lightly, they also garner a measure of strength from the faithfulness of the men and women who lead them. The knowledge that people are watching our life, and to a degree formulate their walk with God based on the leadership we provide, should cause all of us to reevaluate our life and our commitment to faithfulness.