

Faithfulness

The seventh ***“fruit of the Spirit”*** (Galatians 5:22-26) that we want to look at in this NEWSLETTER article is faithfulness. There are many views of the word faithfulness---loyalty, true to one’s word, strong belief, all of which give us an idea of what it means to be filled with faith. Faithfulness is one of God’s attributes that we, according to Paul, should incorporate into our character.

Deuteronomy 7:9 says this:

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.”

In the Psalms, the word faithfulness is used as an attribute of God 31 times. In each, God is described as One who has made a covenant with mankind to love us enough to want to save us. He will remain loyal to us and is true to His word to fulfill His promises to us. Peter, in **1 Peter 1:3-5** tells us this about God’s nature:

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

We have been given all that we need in order to be like Him through the appearance of Jesus with His words and examples and through the preservation of His Holy Scripture. He is faithful, therefore we should be faithful.

We sing a song concerning His faithfulness. Verse 1 and the chorus say this:

**“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

**“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!**

Thomas Obediah Chisholm

Remaining faithful to Him, according to God’s word, involves:

Being *“faithful in prayer”* – (Romans 12:12)

Be “faithful stewards of God’s grace” – (1 Peter 4:10)

Remain “faithful to the truth” – (3 John 1:3)

Be a “faithful and true witness” – (Revelation 3:14)

To put it simply, remain “faithful to Christ” – (1 Corinthians 4:17, Ephesians 1:1, Colossians 1:2)

Remember the definition of faithfulness and apply it to our relationship with God. We must remain loyal to Him, remain true to His (and our own) word, and continue to hold the strong belief that if we live for Him, we will be rewarded. As Jesus said in **Revelation 2:10: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”**

---Johnny Stephens