

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

FAITHFULNESS

16

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on the growth and development of new converts in the faithfulness to God.

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City of ^{the} Living God



“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)” (Hebrews. 10:22-23).

The writer of the book of Hebrews admonishes the new believer in their growth and development in their walk with God. The use of faith in these two verses is not for the purpose of filling space within his writing. The author encourages forward progress in growth of the new believer. He knows the challenges and temptations that come with anyone that makes a commitment to live for God. While the Christian walk is for all, not all will be willing to give their all. We are admonished to “Hold Fast” to the faith and without wavering. Why did he say this? In his day, not all of the new Christians made it. It takes tenacity, resolve, and commitment to stay the course and not to give in or give up.

Some think that faithfulness is no longer evident in our society, however, that is not true. Faithfulness exists in all generations and eras. Everyone is faithful to something; Faithfulness is not dead; it has just been misplaced. The problem with our faithfulness is the object of our faithfulness. Are you faithful more to God than others? Are you more faithful to the world and its cares? Are you more faithful to sports? Do you give God your Sundays and mid-week services?

HE IS FAITHFUL

One of God's attributes is that He is faithful. His center focus on this earth is his desire to have communion with man and woman. What is it that draws him to us?

Psalms 8:4

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

It is his other attribute of love. He alone has true pure unconditional love. That love is directly connected to his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (ESV).

2 Timothy 2:12-13

“If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself” (NKJV).

Psalms 36:5

“Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.”

Psalms 119:90

“Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides” (NKJV).

HE SEARCHES FOR THE FAITHFUL ONES

While the Lord is always faithful, he admonishes us to be faithful to him in all things. He was faithful unto death and gave his all to us on the cross. He bought us with his blood and we owe him all for what he did for us. It's his desire to see that we grow in grace and faithfulness.

Proverbs 20:6

“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”

Matthew 25:21

“His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

Proverbs 28:20

“A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.”

Psalms 31:23

“Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.”

FAITHFUL IN CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Our faithfulness is evident in our actions and behavior. One of the ways you can tell if someone is faithful is in their church attendance. Some people think that they do not need to attend a church or worship with God's people. They feel that they can do it alone in their own home. While they can worship in their home, it does not replace the importance of being faithful to the House of God and worshipping with his people.

Hebrews 10:23-26

*“Let us hold fast the profession of **our faith without wavering**; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

Notice that Paul connects our “faith without wavering” to “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves” (attending church). Our church attendance tells us a lot about our priorities and whether God is at the center of our lives. He also reminds us that it is so important to attend the church service that it can even affect us when that “day” (rapture) approaches. Church attendance is where we gain strength, wisdom, direction, and so much more.

1 Timothy 3:15

*“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, which is **the church** of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”*

Paul refers to the church as the house of God. The early church definitely met together in worship and it was very important that they saw the meeting taking place in the “house of God.” The house of God is wherever the people gather in worship. Jesus Himself had great respect for the house of the living God.

Matthew 21:13

“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

At age 12, found by His parents in the Temple, Jesus said, “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49) Even as a preteen, Jesus Himself was dedicated to being in God’s house.

King David spoke of the reasons why he wanted to be in the House of God.

Psalms 27:4-6

*“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life**, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.” (NIV).*

Notice that King David gave many reasons for wanting to enter the House of God:

1. To Behold the beauty of the Lord – to encounter the Glory of God.
2. To Enquire - To find direction in his life.
3. To Hide Me in His Pavilion – To find safety and protection.
4. To Set me Upon a Rock – To give him stability and strength.
5. To Lift Up his Head above His Enemies – To give him victory of his adversaries.

Obviously, King David understood the importance of putting God first in his life. That is why God called him a “man after mine own heart.”

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