**Help Me Be Faithful Like Jesus**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 28, 2021**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

**Faithfulness is one of the most important qualities in a Person’s Life**

We need to be able to believe what others say or promise to do, and they must be able to trust us as well. Unfaithfulness is a form of deception or hypocrisy, and it leads to feelings of disappointment and betrayal when we discover that our trust in someone has been misplaced.

As Christians, we should always strive to be faithful to God and to others.

When Jacob considered all that the Lord had done for him, he prayed, “God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, Lord, who said to me,

**Genesis 32:9-10**

9 Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you': 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant…

God is always faithful, but we must pay attention to Him. We should consider the many ways He has proven Himself faithful in our life and then respond in gratitude.

**Scripture affirms God’s Faithfulness**

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

“Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness to a thousand generations for those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

**Psalm 33:4**

”For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in faithfulness.”

**Psalm 36:5**

“Your mercy, Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.”

**Psalm 119:90**

“Your faithfulness continues throughout generations.”

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

“The Lord’s acts of mercy indeed do not end, for His compassions do not fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

**2 Timothy 2:13**

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

Saints, although our faithfulness wavers, these scriptures affirm that God is faithful all the time. Even the sin of His children will not nullify it. Because the Lord is immutable (never changing), none of His attributes change.

That’s why we can be confident that He will keep all His promises. His faithfulness is a certainty we can rest upon. When He says,

**Hebrews 13:5**

“I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you,”

Saints, that’s when we can have confidence that we are secure in Christ!

Saints, the Holy Spirit works to express within us the qualities consistent with God’s nature, and this includes faithfulness. We should be who we claim to be and do what we commit to do. To give any other impression is deception.

But none of us have the strength, fortitude, and faithfulness to live the Christian life apart from the enablement of the Holy Spirit who indwells us. Even Christ’s disciples couldn’t do it. That’s why Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were

**Luke 24:49**

“clothed with power from on high”

Saints, if we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit who empowers us to be faithful in every circumstance.

**Ephesians 1:12-14**

12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Saints, but if we fail and grieve the Spirit, He convicts us of sin so we can repent and receive forgiveness. He truly is our divine Enabler and Helper.

**Ephesians 4:30-32**

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

**God has promised to be Faithful to Us**

**1. He will always forgive us!**

**1 John 1:9**

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”

Saints, forgiveness is only possible because Jesus paid our sin debt in full with His death on the cross.

Now God can forgive us because Christ’s sacrifice satisfied His justice. Those of us who have accepted Jesus can now come to God and receive forgiveness because He is faithful to keep this promise.

**2. God’s Faithfulness limits the Power of our Temptation!**

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

“No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it”

Saints, if we will rely on this promise, we won’t have to yield to temptation. God has established a limit and provided an escape so we can endure the enticement without falling.

**3. We can have the Peace of God!**

**Philippians 4:7**

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”

Saints, if we bring our anxieties to the Lord in prayer, we can receive His peace even in the midst of trying situations. It will guard our hearts and minds and keep us from giving up hope or blaming and accusing God.

**4. The Holy Spirit limits the power of Satan in our lives!**

**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one”

Saints, Satan is under God’s control and does not have freedom to do whatever he desires in our lives. These four promises can enable us to face whatever challenges come our way because we can count on the faithfulness of our God.

**1 Corinthians 1:7-9**

7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Saints, we may not understand our situation, but we can trust in the One who forgives our sins, limits our temptations, gives us peace in troubled times, and controls Satan’s access to us.

Our confidence in the faithfulness of the Scripture is tested when we go through trials because they challenge our belief in who God is and what He has said. These tests reveal our areas of weakness so that God can strengthen us to overcome them. His goal is that the fruit of the Spirit spoken of in Galatians 5:22-23 becomes a part of our character and is worked out in our lifestyles.

**Galatians 5:22-24**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**When we walk in the Spirit, we’ll have the following characteristics:**

**Devoted to God**

He will be the only One we follow.

**Loyal to God**

We will be someone others can count on to do what we say we will.

**Unwavering**

Our reliability won’t vary from day to day.

**Steadfast**

We’ll be steady in our commitments and unshaken by changing circumstances.

**Trustworthy**

Others can believe us because we will always speak truth.

**Dependable**

People can rely on us to show up on time and accomplish what we undertake.

**Obedient**

Although we won’t do it perfectly, our desire and aim will be to obey God.

**Fruitful**

Our lives will have a positive influence on others.

**Faithful**

We will be faithful to God and to others.

**In Closing:**

**1. How confident are you that you can trust the Lord in every circumstance?**

**2. In what ways has He demonstrated His faithfulness in your life?**

**3. How faithful are you to other people in your life?**

**4. How faithful are you to the Lord?**

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

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**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**