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Faithfulness

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In our growing and developing our spiritual lives, obedience and faithfulness become an integral part of our lives. Faithfulness and obedience are closely related. Faithfulness is different than the faith of the believer and believing God. Faithfulness refers to the things of God.

The nine fruit of the spirit are listed in the following scriptures. Faith mentioned here is faithfulness.

Gal 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." KJV

The faithful mentioned in this scripture is referring to the faithfulness to the things of God. Jesus is teaching that if we are faithful in what we are committed to do, though it is little, God sees it as much. Jesus is also mentioning money here or true riches being the blessings of God and what belongs to another person, the responsibility we show toward something belonging to another. In order for the Lord's blessings to come to us, we must prove ourselves in being faithful in all areas.

Luke 16:10-12 "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" KJV

Pro 28:20 " A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." KJV

True riches are the blessings of God, health, a measure of prosperity, peace, joy, the discerning the will of God in our lives, a deliverance from evil and calamity.

The fruit of the spirit is something that is grown and developed, does not come automatically, it does not come overnight. The fruit of the spirit is like a seed that is planted, watered, developed and grown, it takes time for fruit. Faithful takes time for it to be developed in our lives, takes mentoring and encouragement.

1 Cor 4:2 "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" KJV

A steward is one who is in charge, an overseer, a teacher or preacher in different levels of our lives.

In order for us to be flowing in the gifts that God has given each of us, regardless of what that gifting is, we must be developing faithfulness in our lives.

Faithfulness means trustworthy, to be loyal, keeping your word.

Paul tells us that God has judged us faithful because He sees Jesus in us. Regardless of where we are in our walk with the Lord, new believers or more mature in the Lord, He sees us faithful. In order to fully understand faithfulness, we need to understand how faithful God really is. One of the names of the Lord is faithful. This scripture shows the faithfulness of God.

Phil 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" KJV

The following scriptures are an example of faithfulness, to the rewards and benefits that go with being faithful and how the kingdom of God works.

Matt 25:14-30 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 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. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, 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. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." KJV

Part of proving ourselves faithful is the ability of being able to take care of another's possessions not ours. He gave this responsibility to all the men according to their ability; he gave nothing that was beyond their ability or talents.

The talents mentioned here are in response to money. The first two men invested theirs and received double their investment, but the last man was motivated by fear, fear of the master who he perceived to be a hard man, doing nothing with what had been given to him. Fear and faith can never work together, the other two men did not allow fear to grip them, they moved in faith. Fear of man, that causes a snare, cannot be the thing that causes us to not do anything.

Jesus puts a high premium on faithfulness. If we are faithful in where we are, we can have an increase. Unfaithfulness is unprofitable to the kingdom of God. As believers we will face a life of regrets, if we have been unfaithful, wishing that we would have lived differently, using what had been given to us. Wishing that we would not have had so many excuses as to why we didn't act differently.

Unfaithfulness or not using what God has given us, if we are born again, will not keep a believer out of heaven. It will affect our reward in heaven and will affect those we come in contact with on earth negatively; we will not be ministering life to them.

There is an accountability of our actions and there will be a time when we as believers will stand before the Lord and give an account as to what we have done with what the Lord has given us. What did we do with it, did we increase or did we do nothing? When the Lord gifts us, He does so in order that we can be a blessing to Body of Christ, in whatever area we are gifted. We are not called in order to have a gift that someone else might have, we all have our own gifts, and we cannot compare ourselves to others. If we are faithful, we will have the same rewards as the others.

What causes people to start becoming unfaithful, what causes them to quit? These are the attributes of an unfaithful man. 1) they become luke warm, start departing from the things of God, 2) lose their sense of priorities, what is important in life, 3) easily drawn away from church and the things of God and let their gift lie dormant that God has given them to bless the church, 4) unfaithful people never come to spiritual maturity and they become easily offended.

Daniel had an excellent spirit, he served through 4 natural kings, and he went into captivity as a young teenage boy and lived over 90 years. Daniel was the head over their entire kingdom and an accounting was given to him. Daniel was faithful, loyal, dependable and trustworthy. He was all these things to the kings under which he served, even though he was a foreigner, he was wiser and had a greater ability than regular citizens, they became jealous, but no error or fault could be found in him. They could not find fault with him in anything, so they used another means, his faithfulness to God.

He was faithful in everything he did; he did not do things his way, but the way that those over him wanted. This is how we as believers must be; we cannot be doing our own thing.

Daniel 6:1-4 "It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; 2 And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. 3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. 4 Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him." KJV

The attributes of a faithful man are: 1) excellent spirit, has a great spirit about him, not murmuring or complaining, 2) able to handle responsibility, because they are faithful, 3) they are loyal to the one who gives them the responsibility, this can be challenging if we are not first loyal to God, understanding His principles, then we become loyal to the one we are serving under. We have integrity, are trustworthy, have the ability to handle others possession without having "sticky fingers" and will carry out the other persons will and be able to handle a measure of criticism. If we have an excellent spirit, we will have the fruit of faithfulness working in us.

2 Tim 2:2 "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." KJV

Paul was writing to Timothy regarding some of the things that he was going through and

because of what he had learned and taught others, he needed to give some of his responsibility to others, faithful men who would be able to teach.

We as believers are going to encounter some challenges and difficulties as we go through life. God is judging us faithful, but remember that faithful is grown like a fruit, it is developed.

An example given of a leader in the body of Christ today, encountering some difficult and challenging times, setting in his chair, his wife stood behind him, began to pray in the spirit and in understanding and then spoke these words to him. "I find no fault in you". These words turned the course in his life, when he began to see from God's prospective.

God is saying to us today, "I find no fault" in you, because of Jesus. Jesus is our intercessor and because of His finished work, He can say to the Father, "I find no fault" in them.