

BEING FAITHFUL!
1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-5

INTRODUCTION

We have **ALL** been **BLESSED** in many different ways! Understand that each one of us is a **STEWARDS** of all that **GOD** has **BLESSED** us with!

The Blessing Of Life

Romans 14:12– “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

1 Corinthians 10:31– “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

The Blessing Of Our Salvation and the Gospel

John 3:16– “For God so loved the world that **he gave...**”

Romans 6:23 – “...**the gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 2:4– “But as we were allowed of God to **be put in trust with the gospel**, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

The Blessing Of Our Family

Grandparents, Parents, Spouse, Children, Grandchildren.

Psalms 127:3– “Lo, children are **an heritage of the LORD**: And **the fruit of the womb is his reward.**”

The Blessing Of Our Church

1 Timothy 3:15– “... the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

Our Spiritual Gifts And Places Of Service Within The Church

1 Peter 4:10–11– “10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

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Ephesians 4:11–13– “11 And **he gave some**, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”

And inasmuch as we are **STEWARDS** in each of these areas the Scripture mentioned and more, **GOD desires and requires FAITHFULNESS!**

Unfortunately, the problem with preaching a sermon on **FAITHFULNESS** is that those who really need to hear it most are usually not present. However, we all can use a tune-up on our **FAITHFULNESS!**

Don’t tune me out this evening. You may say, “Well, I’ve heard this **faithfulness** stuff before, and know what’s going to be said, so I don’t need to listen.”

You might be surprised! **GOD** may have something **HE** wants to say to **YOU** (or even say to you again) this evening! He may want to point out an area of your life in which you think you are **FAITHFUL**, but you are not!

FAITHFULNESS has fallen on hard times in these days in which we live. But, even in David’s day, he prayed in *Psalms 12:1*– “Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the **faithful** fail from among the children of men.”

Sadly, I know of both men and women who I thought would never stop serving **GOD**, but sadly they fell by the wayside and no longer serve **HIM**.

FAITHFUL people are a rare commodity these days.

Proverbs 20:6– “Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?” That verse speaks to the reality that there is a shortage of **FAITHFULNESS** in this world!

- All around us marriages are failing because of **unfaithfulness**.
- Ministries are failing because of **unfaithfulness**.
- Many friendships end in bitterness because of **unfaithfulness**.

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What does it mean to be FAITHFUL? English is a strange language. You would think that **FULL OF FAITH** and **FAITHFUL** would be the same. They are related, but they are not the same. To be **FULL OF FAITH** is to have **FAITH**. To be **FAITHFUL**, though, is to **KEEP THE FAITH**.

To be FAITHFUL means to be DEPENDABLE—One of the greatest **ABILITIES** to have in our lives is **DEPENDABILITY!** (i.e. Being such that people can count on you!) *Proverbs 25:19*—“*Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*”

To be FAITHFUL means to be RELIABLE, TRUSTWORTHY, HONEST, LOYAL, UNFAILING! (i.e. To be **FAITHFUL** means to be positively **CONSISTENT** in our lives! Sadly, the only area of **FAITHFULNESS** in some folks lives is that they are **FAITHFULLY UNFAITHFUL!**)

Listen, a husband or wife that is **FAITHFUL** to their mate 364 days a year is not really **FAITHFUL!**

An employee that is absent from work one day a week is not **FAITHFUL!**

I. THE REQUIREMENT OF FAITHFULNESS. (1 Corinthians 4:2)

When looking for someone to handle our money, we look for someone who is **FAITHFUL**, someone we can **TRUST**.

(Example: Bernie Madoff's victims)

A. FAITHFULNESS Is A Quality That God Looks For In Us!

B. GOD Has Made A Tremendous Investment In Us!

1. The Blood of His Son.

The ultimate price of redemption.

Providing **The Gospel of Salvation**.

The free gift of eternal life.

2. The HOLY SPIRIT Of GOD.

The earnest of our inheritance.

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3. The GIFTS of HIS HOLY SPIRIT.

How are we using the **GIFTS GOD** has given?

C. GOD Requires Us To Be FAITHFUL In What We Do With HIS Investment In Us!

THE REQUIREMENT OF FAITHFULNESS.

II. THE RECKONING OF FAITHFULNESS. (1 Corinthians 4:1-5)

A. One Basis Of Our Judgment Will Be Our FAITHFULNESS! (Matthew 25:14-29—e.g. Talents)

B. STEWARDSHIP Is Not Measured In Days Or Years—It Is Measured In A Lifetime!

You may say, “*I’m serving GOD today.*” That’s good, but will you be serving **GOD** at the end of your life.

(In *Revelation 2:10*, **GOD** told the **CHURCH** at **SMYRNA**, “*...be thou faithful UNTO DEATH*”)

The **LORD** wants us to be **FAITHFUL** unto death, too!

- **RELIABLE** unto death!
- **LOYAL** unto death!
- **TRUE-BLUE** unto death!
- **STEADFAST** unto death!
- **UNFAILING** unto death!

UNFAILING in the **LORD’S CHURCH!**

UNFAILING in our **PRAYER LIFE!**

UNFAILING in our **BIBLE STUDY!**

UNFAILING in our **TITHING OR GIVING!**

UNFAILING in our **WITNESSING!**

C. True Success Is Not To Measured In Terms Of What Man Can See, But In Terms Of What GOD Sees!

(1 Corinthians 4:4—“...but he that judgeth me is the Lord.”)

1. The world measures success by numbers, but **GOD** measures success by **FAITHFULNESS!**
Not by the amount of money we give to the **LORD!**

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Not by our popularity!
Not by our charisma!
But, by our **FAITHFULNESS!**

2. **Hebrews 11:36-39** describes what happened to some of **GOD’S** people over the ages “...others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith...”

The world would call all of these losers or failures!
Yet **GOD** says they “**obtained a good report.**” They were **FAITHFUL** unto death!

THE REQUIREMENT...THE RECKONING...

III. THE REWARD OF FAITHFULNESS. (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

A. Blessings.

Proverbs 28:20—“*A faithful man shall abound with blessings...*”

B. Promotion.

1 Timothy 1:12—“*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry*”

In **1 Samuel 30**— *David and his 600 men were pursuing the Amalekites who kidnapped their families. When they came to the brook Besor, 200 of David’s men were so faint they could not keep up.*

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David permitted them to remain there and guard the baggage while he and the others continued the pursuit.

*They went on, made a great recovery, and returned with the spoil. When they returned to the brook Besor a protest arose on the part of those who went to battle. They did not want to share the spoil with the 200 men who remained behind to guard. Then David made a great statement about **faithfulness**: “As his part is that goeth down to the battle so shall his part be that tarried by the stuff. They shall part alike.”*

*What David meant was **not everyone is equally strong yet everyone can be equally faithful.** The 200 who were **faithful** to guard the baggage were just as worthy of the reward as were those 400 who fought the battle.*

Conclusion

Listen, **GOD** doesn’t require you or me to do what **HE** is calling others to do, but **HE** is calling all of us to be **FAITHFUL** in what **HE** has called us to do!

Are you **FAITHFUL** in your **CHRISTIAN** walk? When **GOD** looks at you, does **HE** see your **FAITHFULNESS** or your slackness? If you were called to stand before **HIM** today, would **HE** be able to say, “**Well done thou good and faithful servant**”?

Are there some areas of your life where you’d have to admit you haven’t been **FAITHFUL** like you should be?

FAITHFULNESS is **NOT** a natural virtue, otherwise why would **GOD** admonish us to be **FAITHFUL**.

Let’s make a renewed vow to be **FAITHFUL**:

- **FAITHFUL** to **GOD’S HOUSE, GOD’S WORD, GOD’S PEOPLE!**
- **FAITHFUL** to our mate; our children; our friends; our employer!
- **FAITHFUL** in tithing; witnessing and praying; serving!

How much do you depend on the **LORD**? Aren’t you glad **HE** is **FAITHFUL**? How much can the **LORD** depend on us? He wants us to be **FAITHFUL!**

Faithfulness is Required. . .it will be Reckoned. . .it will be Rewarded!