

**Faithful**  
**July 6, 2014**  
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

**Hebrews 10:21-25**

- 21 And *having* a high priest over the house of God;
- 22 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.
- 23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)
- 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- 25 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.

I Timothy tells what the house of God is:

**1Timothy 3:14-15**

- 14 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:
- 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.

Hebrews chapter 4 tells more about the great High Priest that is over our Church:

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

- 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.
- 15 For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.
- 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

There is going to come a time in your life when you realize that much of what you have strived for and have worked for and have desired is of far less value than you thought.

This realization may come as you get older and you realize that your days left here are somewhat few.

You may even realize this early on through the wisdom that comes from God's Word.

But, once you do come to this place in life, your heart will begin to turn toward the things of the Lord; things that have eternal value.

There is an old poem out there by C.T. Studd: each of its eight verses ends with this famous line that once you hear it, seems to stay with you forever: it goes, “Only one life will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

The beauty of things of eternal value is that they also produce some pretty wonderful rewards here as well.

The problem for most of us is, “How can a sinful mess like me ever really be of value to the Lord?”

The one thing I know about saved people is that inside, every one of us desires to love and serve the Lord. From the day that we trusted Jesus to save us, we want our lives to please to the Lord whether we think we can make it happen or not.

Desire is not the problem; how to perform it is the problem!

If it is any consolation, even the great Apostle Paul had the same trouble.

**Romans 7:18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

What if I could give you just one thing that you actually CAN do; something you CAN be that

would keep you headed onward and upward for Christ all the time?

This super character trait that I am speaking about today is one that God demonstrates to us every day; He is our example in this awesome trait. He shows it to us every day and constantly teaches us how to be for Him what He is to us.

**1Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for **he is faithful** that promised;)

**1Corinthians 1:9** **God is faithful**, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**1Corinthians 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

**1John 1:9** If we confess our sins, **he is faithful** and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That tremendous trait of God that He wants established in us is 'faithful.'

**1Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Last week we saw clearly in the Word that we who are saved are indeed called of God and chosen of God as well; look at what God wants to add to that list that describes you:

**Revelation 17:14** ...for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, **and faithful**.

I understand that many of you may not believe that you can be faithful to the Lord.

You may be thinking, “Preacher, you just don’t know how my flesh runs my life; you just don’t know the secret sins and the bad habits and how many times a day I lose the battle to my flesh!”

Well first of all, I do know about all of that. I am a sinner, too. Furthermore, Jesus knows all about it too, and He understands what you go through.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.

“But you don’t know what I’ve done; God would never want to use me.”

Wrong again; you are forgiven!

**Colossians 2:13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, **having forgiven you all trespasses;**

For some, many of the things that your flesh uses to hold you in bondage, others here today have been set free from.

There are besetting sins that used to be like bars of iron that I am totally free from today; God will do the same thing for you.

You say, "But preacher, I've prayed and prayed and prayed and my besetting sins still rule my life."

I understand; prayer alone does not solve this problem.

Today, God is sending us what I believe is the absolute key to being set free from the bondage of our besetting sins. **That key is faithfulness.**

Now, before you tune me out and turn me off because you just don't believe you can be faithful; just listen to what God has to show you today.

When Jesus saved you, He forgave you all for all eternity. He commanded you to be baptized and become a part of a real Bible preaching Church.

He didn't say, "Get rid of all your sins and then be a part;" He said, "get baptized and be a part right now;" something that anyone can do!

And then He commanded:

## I. **Be faithful to be here in your place.**

*A. This is something that **every** believer can do!*

1. Jesus is absolutely and completely faithful in all things. It does not work like that for us; we must become faithful in one area at a time...and the beauty of it is that we CAN!

2. **Hebrews 10:25** 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.

3. You can do this; as a matter of fact, you do it all the time.

4. You are faithful to go buy groceries and to eat.

5. You smokers are faithful to go buy cigarettes.

5. You are faithful to pay rent and car payments and any number of other commitments.

6. All God asks is that you do for Him, who you love, at least what you've done for the bank and your body.

7. Simply make a commitment to be here in your place every Sunday unless, because of health or other real circumstances, you simply cannot be.

*B. Why is it so important to be faithful in this one thing?*

1. For one reason, this is where our God speaks His Word directly to us every week based on what He knows our immediate needs are.

2. For another, it is here we are challenged and strengthened by the Word to go on to other areas of faithfulness.

3. It is here that, by God's Word, we are empowered to replace and overcome those besetting sins.

4. "But, Preacher, I have to be out of town a lot, what do I do?"

5. You find a Church that preaches the Word and you attend there until you can get back.

6. Every one of us here knows that we can do this; we can be faithful to be here under the



preaching and teaching of God's Word no matter what baggage in our lives.

## **II. Next, be faithful to give God what you can.**

*A. God gives you everything and He asks very little in return.*

1. Give Him worship.
2. As you are able and learn more about it, you can sing and clap your hands along with the rest of the Church as we worship.
3. Genuinely pray with us when we go to prayer.
4. Listen attentively as God's Word is preached and learn to participate with 'amen' and other appropriate positive comments; you CAN do this; it's worship!

*B. When you genuinely give God worship, you will soon be able to give to the Lord in other ways.*

1. As God teaches you and strengthens your faith; bring God His tithe and an offering above that to honor Him; these are things all of us CAN do.
2. The tithe belongs to God, but you must choose what you will give.

3. When you step out by faith and begin giving, God will supply the resources after that; that's where some of the really fun part begins as we get to see God move and provide in our individual lives.

### **III. Next, be faithful to do what you can.**

*A. As you are faithful to be here in your place and to give God what you are able, other opportunities will emerge.*

1. There are needs in God's house you will hear about.
2. There is work to be done that you will hear about.
3. There are things that need to be done that you will notice.

*B. When those needs fit your ability, you will want to step up and say, "Pastor, I could do that."*

1. Friday, we had a wonderful picnic right out here on our front lawn.
2. A whole lot of people; just ordinary people and all sinners, set it up, cooked the food, provided the supplies, organized the games and the water fun and the snow cones and much more.

3. Then they took it all apart, cleaned it up and put it all away; and that was just one day serving the Lord.

4. Many were blessed and some now want to come to Church here because we loved them and because ordinary people were faithful to simply do what they could.

5. Not everyone could help or attend that day, but many could.

6. God was honored and souls were blessed because you were faithful to do what you could.

### **In Conclusion:**

**I said last week that no matter what the failures of the past - that because of what we have in Christ - everyone of us can be somebody to the glory of God; our lives CAN count for eternity.**

**Can you be faithful? Yes, you can!**

**Three simple commitments will change your life and keep changing it until Jesus comes:**

**Lord, I will be here in my place.**

**Lord, I will give you what I am able to give.**

**Lord, I will do what I can.**

**There is one final area in which you absolutely CAN be faithful.**

**1John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**God gave us believers a way to walk in fellowship with Him, who is a Holy God.**

**Since God is faithful to forgive us when we sin; we can certainly be faithful to confess them to Him.**

**You CAN hear the Savior say one day, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”**

**Just get started with these simple commitments that are not difficult at all:**

**Lord, I will be here in my place.**

**Lord, I will give you what I am able to give.**

**Lord, I will do what I can.**