

Finding the middle ground: Learning to Sacrifice Self Without Compromising Faith

Part 4: A season of Growth...Transition and Transformation

Lesson 4 (Faithfully Yours)

*Is Being Obedient the Same as Being Faithful? Why or why not?

(ESV) Deuteronomy 28:1 “And if you **faithfully obey** the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

Faithfully is Diligently (Read in KJV)

(NIV) Deuteronomy 11: 13-14 So if you **faithfully obey** the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil.

Defined:

Both scriptures are referenced in the concordance as Hearken Diligently...both words are defined as (H8085) to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc.; causatively, to tell,

*What we do know is there is repetition used- What is the relevance in this?

*Could we gather that the repetition is to emphasize the need for our obedience not once, because faithfulness is in consistently obeying?

What the Bible Says About Faithfulness:

Proverbs 28:20 A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Examine: Why would a faithful person and an eager person conflict?

Luke 16: 10-13 (Trusted/Trustworthy is Faithful in KJV) “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Faithful (Biblical Dictionary) A. of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties B. one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust C. in the NT one who trusts in God's promises

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Is Faithfulness Perfection?

Is Faithfulness Possible?

*Yes, because God is Faithful and Faithfulness is one attribute of the fruit of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

*No Law which means these can not be accomplished through plain obedience but only through the surrendering of the Holy Spirit.

A few keys to faithfulness?

(Confess our Sins) 1 John 1:9 If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness

(Surrender to the Holy Spirit) Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Faithfulness is Faith in the KJV (Defined 4102) persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself:—assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity

(Putting Trust in God) James 1: 2-8 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **Let perseverance finish** its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks **wisdom**, you should ask God, who gives generously to all **without finding fault**, and it will be given to you. **But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt**, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.**

*Faithfulness is the ability to go through a trial and be mature enough to TRUST GOD...to ask...even more so...depend on God for help. To not know all the answers but ask the Lord for wisdom and know he will not find fault for asking. It is believing that HE will do what he says without doubt. Faithfulness is staying positioned in the middle with Christ- it is not in never being wrong but admitting when we are and our need for his help.

How do we know this? Deuteronomy 28...Read the following scriptures after verse 1.

Conclusion:

Blessings come after we are faithful. How many times we do something once for God and call it even, then wonder why we are missing out on our blessings? Ask, Seek, Knock, blessings follow faithfulness and faithfulness is consistent obedience.

Challenge: Video- Do you trust God enough to embrace his justice?