

# Being Faithful

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“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a *faithful man who can find?*”  
(Proverbs 20:6)

In the generation we live many of the Biblical principles that make up a Christian character are no longer of high value. People do not want to be committed to anything. It is a day of constant change of opinions, values, people’s outlook on things and their behavior. There seems to be no real value given to being faithful to anything.

The word faithful or loyal is not used much in a daily language. Young generation does not know how to be loyal to the work place. A research done by US Bureau of Labor Statistics on the “baby boomers” (born from 1946 to 1964) from their work years of 18 to 42 revealed that on average those people changed their work place about 10 times during their work life. The common length of stay with this or that company is for about two and a half to three years.

But in spite of the world’s outlook on things and the trends that are out there the Word of God remains unchanged. We are commanded by the Word of the Lord not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). It is still true that being faithful is of a great value in the eyes of God. Bible is full of examples of the faithful men and women who were steadfast in their relationship with God. They were trustworthy, committed and loyal to God and to His word. God could depend on those men.

Bible speaks about Moses:

## Numbers 12:6-8

**6** And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, *I* the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, *and* will speak unto him in a dream.

**7** My servant Moses *is* not so, who *is* faithful in all mine house.

**8** With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold...

## Hebrews 3:5

**5** And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

In the Old Testament (Numbers 12) faithful means:  
*aw-man'*

A primitive root; properly to build up or support; to foster as a parent or nurse; figuratively to render (or be) firm or faithful, to trust or believe, to be permanent or quiet; morally to be true or certain; once (in Isa\_30:21; by interchange for H541) to go to the right hand: - hence assurance, believe, bring up, establish, + fail, be faithful (of long continuance, steadfast, sure, surely, trusty, verified), nurse, (-ing father), (put), trust, turn to the right. (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

And in the New Testament (in Hebrews 3) – the Greek word faithful means:

*pistos* (*pis-tos'*)

objectively trustworthy; subjectively trustful: - believe (-ing, -r), faithful (-ly), sure, true. (Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries)

Faithful (synonyms) - loyal, devoted, trusty, trustworthy, dependable, reliable, dedicated, committed

Abraham was called faithful and he also was called a friend of God.

### Galatians 3:9

**9** So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

He was faithful in his commitment to the Lord. Abraham was dependable. After hearing the voice of God to come out of the land of his father He obeyed:

### Hebrews 11:8-10

**8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

**9** By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

**10** For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Abraham was faithful in his relationship with God. Nothing seemed to be too hard for him. He was loyal to His Lord. When Abraham was asked to offer his only son he obeyed without asking: “why”.

### Hebrews 11:17-19

**17** By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

**18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

**19** Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

And because of Abraham's commitment to His Lord God pronounced a blessing upon him that has been enduring from generation to generation:

### Genesis 22:16-18

*Being faithful: “... but a faithful man who can find?”* (Proverbs 20:6)

**16** And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*:

**17** That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

**18** And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Bible says in **Proverbs 28:20**

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

*and*

**Psalms 31:23**

**23** O love the LORD, all ye his saints: *for* the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Because of Abraham's faithfulness he also was called the friend of God:

**James 2:23**

**23** And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

God knew He could depend on Abraham. Even before Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed God came by Abraham and talked with him:

**Genesis 18:17-19**

**17** And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

**18** Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

**19** For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Because of Abraham's faithfulness his nephew Lot was spared from the destruction when the judgment fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah for their sin ("...**Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous**;" Genesis 18:20). God revealed what He was about to do to His friend – Abraham before He did it.

Oh, it means so much to be faithful to God. It's worth it all.

It is in our relationship with God where things are established. When we become faithful in our commitment to the Lord and to His word if we would ever need help there will be an answer from God. We have to be loyal and trustworthy to receive things from God. It is almost like putting aside some extra provision for a time of famine. If we are putting that provision away faithfully piece by piece, daily then in the time of need we can confidently go and get our needs supplied. Bible says that: "... **there is no respect of**

persons with God.” Romans 2:11) and that God “...will render to every man according to his deeds” Romans 2:6.

Daniel and his friends, three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego) were faithful to God. There was no one telling them what to do to keep their faith in the midst of Babylonian nation. Oh, no! Bible says that in the midst of other Hebrew people that were brought to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon Daniel purposed in their heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of king’s meat:

#### Daniel 1:6-8, 16

**6** Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

**7** Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel *the name* of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego.

**8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

...

**16** Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

Because they were faithful in their commitment to the word of the Lord, God gave them favor in the eyes of the king:

#### Daniel 1:20

**20** And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm.

Bible proves the faithfulness of Daniel and those three Hebrew boys in other matters.

When the king Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image and commended all to bow down to that image at the sound of the musical instruments those three Hebrew boys (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego) refused to obey the commandment of the king because they knew from the beginning that the law of the Lord says:

#### Exodus 20:3-5

**3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

**4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth:

**5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

They faced a trial of a burning fiery furnace for their disobedience to the commandment of the heathen king but God spared their lives:

**Daniel 3:16-18, 20, 23-30**

**16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.

**17** If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

**18** But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

**20** And he commanded the most mighty men that *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, *and* to cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace.

**23** And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

**24** Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, *and* spoke, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

**25** He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

**26** Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, *and* spoke, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

**27** And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counselors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

**28** *Then* Nebuchadnezzar spoke, and said, Blessed *be* the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

**29** Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

**30** Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon.

Their faithfulness to God and the commitment to His word caused even the king to believe in God whom they served.

Daniel's faithfulness in his relationship to God caused him to be faced with a den of lions but the Lord delivered him alive from that trial. In spite of the king Darius' commandment not to ask petition of anyone except him for thirty days Daniel remained faithful to his relationship to his God:

### Daniel 6:10

10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did formerly.

Nothing could move him. His commitment to His God was more important than anything in this world.

### Daniel 6:11-12, 16-17, 19-22

11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spoke before the king concerning the king's decree...

...

16 Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast *him* into the den of lions. *Now* the king spoke and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

...

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: *and* the king spoke and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Praise the Lord! The word of the Lord remains true: "...the LORD preserveth the faithful..." (Psalms 31:23)

We might be facing some trials when we stay faithful to the commandments of God but Bible says that: "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*." (I Corinthians 10:13)

There was a lady of the country of Moab whose name was Ruth. She got married to one of the sons of Naomi (they were Ephrathites of Bethlehem-judah). After Naomi's husband and her children died while being in the country of Moab she said to both of her daughters-in-law: "...Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me." (Ruth 1:8)

### Ruth 1:11, 14-18

- 11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *are* there yet *any more* sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?
- 14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth cleaved unto her.
- 15 And she said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law.
- 16 And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:
- 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if aught* but death part thee and me.
- 18 When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

Somehow Ruth made up her mind that no matter how bad it looked she was not about leaving her mother in law. She was faithful in her commitment to Naomi and because of that later when they both came back to Bethlehem Ruth got married to Boaz who was a Naomi husband's kinsman, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech:

**Ruth 4:13** So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

...

**Ruth 4:16** And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

**Ruth 4:17** And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he *is* the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Because Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law God blessed Ruth and made her part of the bloodline from which came king David and later the Lord Jesus:

"...Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;" (Romans 1:3)

It's worth it all to be faithful to God.

We are commanded by the Word of the Lord to be faithful in our deeds and in a place where God puts us.

### Matthew 24:44-47

**44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

**45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?**

**46 Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.**

**47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.**

## 1 Corinthians 4:2

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

We truly do not want to be unfaithful because Bible says that:

### Proverbs 25:19

19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble *is like* a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

There is no confidence in the unfaithful people. It is like a foot out of joint. Your foot becomes useless if it is out of joint. In stead of being a help to you to move around this foot becomes an obstacle or a burden.

Bible also speaks on:

- those of a faithful spirit:

### Proverbs 11:13

13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.

### Proverbs 27:6

6 Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

- blessing of a faithful messenger

### Proverbs 13:17

17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador *is* health.

### Proverbs 25:13

13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, *so is* a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

### Proverbs 14:5

5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Jesus told about the faithful servants who remained committed to their calling and the punishment of the one who was slothful in his labor:

### Matthew 25:14-30

14 **For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling 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 a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed:

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 strewed:

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 everyone 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.

Jesus also said that:

**Luke 16:10-13**

10 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.

Bible records in the Book of Revelation that at the end of it all:

**Revelation 17:14**

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

Can we be one of those who were not only called and were chosen but also were faithful?