

Faithfulness

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[0:00] Psalm 12.1 Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

! Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from among the children of men. The faithful fail. They're uncommon.

They're a rare breed. And they face extinction. The faithful fail from among the children of men.

Faithful men, faithful women, they're uncommon.

In Proverbs 20 verse 6 it says, Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness, but a faithful man, who can find? A faithful man, who can find?

God commands faithfulness. Faithfulness. It's a characteristic of our Lord. It's the nature of God. He's faithful, isn't it?

[1:15] His faithfulness is new every day. And Psalm 31.23, it tells us that God preserves the faithful. God will preserve the faithful.

There's much to command faithfulness, and our Lord commends it for us. Faithfulness. It's especially something that we direct towards God. Faithfulness is something that he looks to us to give unto him.

Faithfulness. Faithfulness. It means an excellent attitude. It means a faithfulness at work, in our everyday. A consistency in our walk with God.

Faithfulness. It means full of faith. Faithfulness. It means loyalty. Dependability. Being true. Being true.

I want to sound a call to faithfulness tonight. Faithfulness. We're living in a world where faithfulness is an uncommon thing, isn't it? In the home front, in the world scene, unfaithfulness is all too common.

[2:20] But the greatest example of faithfulness that we can find is our Lord himself. The Lord Jesus Christ. He is the example. The ultimate model. An example of faithfulness to us.

God is faithful. God is faithful. Every time you see a rainbow, you can be reminded of his faithfulness. It's a reminder of his promise. And he keeps his promises.

The word faithfulness in the Old Testament is allied to the word amen. So be it. It's a sure thing. It's a for sure kind of thing.

Faithfulness. Amen. It means, as our Lord, it's one of his names, isn't it? He's the amen. Amen. The alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is the faithful one.

And consider, if you would, how we, as God's people, should have that nature of faithfulness. It's one of the fruits of the Spirit. Faithfulness. Consider the walk of the faithful.

[3:21] It's something that should be evident in the day by day. In the walk that we walk. In our walk with the Lord. For example, we see that in the character of the man Daniel.

We see Daniel. He was found faithful. You might like to turn to Daniel 6. Daniel. Note his walk. Note the walk of this man. The man Daniel. His excellent spirit was something that marked him.

That showed true. That was evident in his life and his character. Faithfulness was something that you could see applied in every dimension of his life.

His faith filled every dimension of his life. As we read in Daniel 6 from verse 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. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel.

[4:23] Concerning the kingdom. But they could find no occasion nor fault. For as much as he was faithful. For as much as he was faithful.

Neither was there any error or fault found in him. Daniel was faithful. Daniel. This man of God. He was faithful in the place of service.

He was faithful in his work of a secular nature. Why? Because of his faith in God. Because of his faithfulness to God. And faithfulness should mark us.

Faithfulness should be something that we are showing in the everyday. In the day by day. When others can bludge or take sickies.

We can be faithful. We can be faithful in the workplace. We can be faithful in the home front. Daniel was so committed to God. That the only way his enemies could find a fault with him.

[5:23] Was to catch him. By using the very faithfulness. That he had. They wanted to catch him. By using his faithfulness against him.

And so they conned the king. Into making a law. That no one could make a petition. No one could ask for things. No one could effectively pray. Other than to the king.

And what did Daniel do? In verse 10. Daniel just kept on praying. Daniel faithfully prayed. And he kept on praying. As he normally had.

And his steadfastness. In his relationship with the Lord. Was more important to him. Than anything else. Even at the threat. Of his very life. And we know the story.

As Daniel was cast into the den of lions. And he was there. In the den of lions. In those. Amongst those. Hungry beasts. And God closed the mouth.

[6:21] Of the lions. And kept Daniel. Safe. Daniel was a. Man. Of faithfulness. And. We likewise. Need to have that same.

Spirit. That Daniel had. And when I'm talking. Faithfulness. In. Thinking through this. And preparing. This message. I was thinking. Well.

Faithfulness. To coming to church. Is one. Example. But then I read. Something else. Saying. Sometimes we can. Over emphasize. The coming to meetings. That sometimes. We can be so. Flat out. Going to meetings. That we actually. Fail to worship God. You know. Sometimes. Coming to meetings. And I'm not. Not knocking you. Coming to meetings. Or discouraging you. From coming to meetings.

But sometimes. Coming to meetings. Can be a substitute. For our relationship. With God. And we don't want to make that mistake. Do we? When it's a substitute. For true devotion. To true ministry.

[7:17] That can go unfulfilled. Just because we think. Oh. I've marked off. My number of meetings. For the week. Now I can just. Have a slacking off. In my spiritual walk.

But the walk of the faithful. Is 24 by 7. It's not. Hinged around. Meetings per se. Now. Coming to meetings. Is something that's good. And helpful. For our spiritual life.

I trust. But it's being faithful. In our relationship. With the Lord. That's what matters. You can come. To church 24 by 7. And miss heaven. You know. You can come. Morning. Noon and night.

And midweek. And miss heaven. And friends. It's not about meetings. But it's about. That close walk. That relationship. With the Lord Jesus Christ. That's where. The rubber hits the road. That's what counts.

And being faithful. In your everyday relationship. With the Lord. So you can grow. So you can mature. In your faith. And your life in God. And the walk of the faithful. Is a walking in truth.

[8:12] As you read in 3 John. Verse 3. It talks about walking in truth. That's the faithful walk. So learn to develop your faithfulness. In living for Christ.

In prayer. For example. Romans 12. 12. It says. Rejoicing in hope. Patient in tribulation. Continuing instant. In prayer. Instant. Or constant.

In prayer. A faithfulness in prayer. A faithfulness in your relationship. With the Lord. Persistent prayer. Faithful prayer. What about faithfulness in marriage?

That's something that's lacking. In these days. That we live. Faithfulness in marriage. Faithfulness in the home. In Joshua 24. 15.

It says. And if it seem evil unto you. To serve the Lord. Choose you this day. Whom you will serve. Whether the gods which your father served. That were on the other side of the flood.

[9:06] Or the gods of the Amorites. In his land you dwell. But as for me. And my house. We will serve the Lord. Now of course we know. At times.

As much as a faithful man or woman. May face. A marriage breakdown. And that's not. Necessarily the fault. Of the faithful. But we can stand faithful.

As best as we can. God helping us. God strengthening us. We can exercise faithfulness. Whatever our circumstance. So. Faithfulness. Is something we want to develop.

It's something we want to have. As a walk. In the Lord. A walk with God. Another feature of faithfulness. Of being faithful. Is the word. The word of the faithful. You know the Bible is spoken of. As the faithful word. The faithful word. We see that. In Titus 1 verse 9. It talks about holding fast. The faithful word. As he hath been taught. That he may be able to by sound doctrine.

[10:05] Both to exhort. And to convince the gainsayers. By the faithful word. We can convince people. We can exhort people. By sound doctrine. The faithful word.

And the word of the faithful. Is the faithful word. It's the word of God. And there's a spreading unfaithfulness today. A spreading unfaithfulness to. The word of God. You know there's a watering down of its message.

There's some paraphrasing of it. Beyond belief today. Of a disregarding. Of the message. Of the word of God. A disobedience to the word of God. A neglect of the word of God.

And truly there is a famine. In the land. As we read in Amos 8 verse 11. Our Lord says. Behold the days come. Saith the Lord God. That I will send a famine. In the land.

Not a famine of bread. Nor a thirst of water. But of hearing. The words of the Lord. There's going to be a time come. Our Lord tells us. In Amos 8 verse 11.

[11:02] When it will be a famine. There will be a drought. There will be a scarcity. Of the word of God. On planet earth. And I believe. These are those days today. Where we see much of that.

A lack of faithfulness. To the Bible. A biblical illiteracy. Where people don't know. The very basics. Of what the Bible teaches. And certainly.

In a faithfulness. To its message. It's very lacking. I've read lately. It's been said. That only 2% of Christians. Talk to non-Christians. About Christ.

That's a horrific figure. Isn't it? 2% of Christians. Talk to non-Christians. About Christ. So. I guess from. This number tonight. Maybe there might be one.

One person here. Might be going out. Talking to people. About Christ. That's a damning statistic. Isn't it? That's a. A reproach. On the church of God.

[11:56] On Christians. As a whole. And friends. We need to be stirred. To consider that. Statistic. Are we. In the. In that 2%. Or are we in the 98%.

You know. I talked. This morning. And I offered some drinks. And we scarcely got anybody. Take some. I hope that that box of drinks. Will be empty tonight. As you leave this place. You'll take some drinks.

At least to pass out some drinks. Put some drinks. In some letter boxes. It's not that hard. And it's a very easy way. To witness. And I want to urge. Urge you. To be faithful men.

To be faithful women. Men of courage. Men of boldness. Of bravery. Men who will stand. Who will be bold. In their witness for Christ. Who will be true. To the word of God.

To declare it. To deliver it. And not to be those. Who will be in biblical. Ignorance. Or caught up in some side trunks. You know. A friend of mine.

[12:51] Ran a Christian bookshop. Just in the neighbouring building. For a time. And he used to have a sign. On the door. Of this Christian bookshop. He said. Please tie. Your hobby horses.

Up outside. You know. Leave the hobby horses outside. Now sometimes. We can ride hobby horses. We can ride things. That really are not the essentials. They're not really the critical.

Vital message of the Bible. And we can get all caught up. In such side issues. And get sidetracked. And neglect the faithful word. Now that's not to say. There's some meaty doctrines.

We need to get our teeth into. And come to grips with. But sometimes we can. Get on hobby horses. But we need to have faithful men. Faithful women. Who will teach.

Who will learn. The historical doctrines of the church. That we can be a church. Where there's faithful men. Teaching and training. Other faithful men. For ministry.

[13:47] Men who will be faithful. Who will study the word. Who will hold it forth. Who will hold it fast. Holding fast. The faithful word. So we see. The walk.

Of the faithful. It's something that's day by day. It's the walk. Of the man in Psalm 1. Who was walking daily. Who was planted. By the river.

Not following the way of sinners. But following the way. Of the saviour. The walk of the faithful. We see. The word. Of the faithful. It's the faithful word. This is what. We need to take here to.

Take every opportunity. We can. To take its message. And use it. And there's. Lastly. The work. Of the faithful. There's a work. To be done. There's a work.

For the faithful. There's a work. For the faithful man. A work. For the faithful women. The one. Those who will be faithful. In service. Who will be stable. Who will be trustworthy. Who will be those you can depend upon.

[14:44] In their work. And in their service. The faithful. Will be training the faithful. As it says in Timothy. That. That we should. Pass on.

This truth. To the faithful. So that they can teach others also. There's opportunity. I was encouraged this morning. When a young man. Kangamo. Came to me. And said he wanted some study material.

So that he could use it. To train others. That's a good sign. Isn't it? For a young man. Who's got a heart. Who wants to be used. Of God. To train other men. Other women.

Maybe. There's opportunity. For some. Discipleship. For some. Opportunity. For such men. Such women. To be used of God.

Faithful men. And women. To be used. In the work. Of the ministry. And that can be. In the children's work. For example. There's much opportunity. To. Reach young lives.

[15:39] And that's such a precious thing. As dear to my heart. To see young lives. Touched. With the message. Of the gospel. It's a serious business. The work. Of the faithful. Can God trust you with it?

There's the work. Of the faithful. That can be driving a bus. That's a faithful ministry. That's a ministry. That matters. It's a ministry. That helps people. Get here. To fellowship. That would otherwise.

Not be so able to. Will you be faithful? Will you be one of the faithful? Or will you be one? It's like a message. I heard. Of late. A video message. That I heard.

Around the. Word. Almost. Almost. Of course. We know. There's a man. Who was. Almost persuaded. To become a Christian. He was almost. Saved. And this preacher talked about.

Some who are almost. Surrendered. They just get. So close. But not close enough. To surrender. In. In their. Relationship. With God. Or almost.

[16:36] Serving. They feel God's working on their heart. Prompting them. Urging them. They want to serve God. But they just don't get there. There's something blocking. And stopping.

An obstacle. That's in their way. From stopping them. Serving the Lord. Are you almost. Serving God. And this preacher talked about. Trying to catch a plane. And he told. This exciting story.

Of racing to the airport. And getting there. And phoning ahead. And trying every means he could. But he was just too late. The doors had shut. He missed the plane. And sometimes we can miss.

God's. Call. We can miss God's. Opportunity. And friends. We don't want to make that mistake. We don't want to be almost. Serving God. We want to find. Those places to serve.

And we've got these. Flyers that explain. And ministries. And opportunities to serve God. In this fellowship. In this gathering. Please take one. And fill one out. It helps me. To see how you'd like to serve God.

[17:32] And faithfulness is. A key aspect. That we need to find. And develop. There's a story about. An explorer one day. Heading out into the wilds of Alaska.

A very remote. And desolate. A bitterly cold place. And he came. In this wild place of Alaska. To a little church.

Where there was a school. A mission school. And there was a lone missionary there. Laboring. In this out of the way place. And the explorer said.

What are you doing here? In this cold. Dreary. Out of the way place. How can you waste your life. In a place like this? The missionary smiled and answered.

God sent me here. Here I shall remain. Until I die. Until God gives me further orders. The explorer said. But the task here is hopeless.

[18:29] You have made so few converts. In all these years. The results have been so small. The missionary said. Results are not my business. I leave the results with God.

I must be faithful. And do my best for God. Someday results will come. You know. We can find that too. Can't we? Where we might labour on. And not see much.

Tangible fruit at times. Yet we must labour on. We must labour on. I was encouraged by a brother. Who said. For example. About street preaching.

That it's not about the results. Some would question that. And say. Oh. No one's getting saved from street preaching. It's a waste of time. But it's about being faithful. Isn't it? It's about being faithful.

It says. Go. Stand. And speak. To the people. All the words of this life. If God says to do it. Then we ought to be about it. If God puts it on your heart. To do something.

[19:24] It doesn't matter. What the results are. What the signs. That are seen. It matters. Your faithfulness to God. That's what counts. That's what counts. People tonight. And 1 Corinthians 4 verse 2.

It says. Moreover it is required in stewards. That a man be found faithful. Stewards. Your servants of God. Every one of you. You are a servant of God. Man of God.

Woman of God. You are a steward. He's given some things into your stewardship. Into your care. Be a faithful steward. Be a cheerful giver. Be a diligent.

Active. Committed worker. Be courageous. Learn to find those things that you can do. You might be like many in the word of God. Even Moses was saying. Oh I can't speak.

I can't do this. I can't do that. There's other examples that slip my mind. But there's numbers of men of God. Who said. I'm not up to it. You know. There's too much for me to handle.

[20:21] But God is faithful. And he'll help you to be faithful. He'll help you to find even those few things that you can do. And even though there may be few or small. Those are the things you can do.

And he'll help you to do them well. For his glory. We see in Matthew 25 verse 21. Of the parable of talents. And where our Lord says.

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.

Here he comes. The master. Picturing our Lord. Coming back. And the serving one. One is commended. For his faithfulness. You have been faithful over a few things.

Maybe he's going to say that to you one day. You've been faithful over a few things. You might think. It's pretty insignificant. The few things. That I endeavor to do. For God.

[21:18] Maybe it's sharing a word of weakness. To a neighbor. Maybe it's. It's a word of cheer. As you might visit people in need. You might be an example. In your workplace.

Of what Christ can do. In a life. As you don't laugh. At the dirty jokes. You don't use the foul language of the world. There's been a transformation. On the inside of you. That you're saved. And it shows. You can be faithful in those few things. And the Lord will bless you. With more to do. And that said. We can claim no merit for our works.

I heard a preacher put it like this. If people walk away from my sermons. Thinking more about what they need to do. Than what Jesus has already done. I've failed to preach the gospel.

I don't want to make a message here today. That says you must do. Do. Do. It's about what he has done. Period. What he has done.

[22:14] Full stop. It's about what he has done. And because he has done. So much for us. How often we want. To respond in love. In repentance.

In faith. In service. But it's not about what we do. It's about what Christ. Has already done. And our trust must be in Christ. Which leads us to devoted service.

And love. Unto him. The faithful. Will be with Christ. The faithful. Will be spirit filled. They will be yielded to God. The faithful.

The faithful. Will die to self. The faithful. Will live. Love God. With all their heart. The faithful. Will be heavenly minded. The faithful. Will be holy. In manner.

And honest before men. Be counted faithful. Even in the small things. Now think of it. Back through history. Just some examples. Of faithfulness. That we can take heart in.

[23:08] And again. It's of the results. Sometimes we focus on the results. It's all about the numbers. It's all about getting the place packed. It's all about getting decisions.

And getting people baptised. Or whatever it be. As if it's some kind of numbers game. But think back to some of these great men and women of God through history.

Some of these great missionaries. For example. William Carey. William Carey. Called the father. Of modern missions. He laboured. For seven years. In India.

Before baptising his first convert. In his biography. It says. The number of actual conversions. Directly attributable to. Carey. Is pathetically small.

The number indirectly. Attributable to him. Must be legion. He didn't see much. But God used that seed that he planted. And Adoniram Judson.

[24:06] He laboured for seven years in Burma. Before his first convert. Robert Morrison. The founder of Protestant missions in China. Laboured for seven years. Before his first convert.

Was once a Christ. A missionary. A missionary's Mr. and Mrs. Not. Laboured in Tahiti. It took 22 years.

Of tears and toil. Before their first convert. In Tahiti. Missionary Alan Gardner. In South America. He tried to evangelise the islands of Patagonia.

And Tierra del Fuego. Right down the bottom. Of South America. He eventually died of starvation. Without seeing. A single soul saved. But the South American Missionary Society.

That he founded. Has been sending missionaries. And saving souls. For over 150 years. Another man. Jimmy Aldridge. Worked for nine years.

[25:04] In Bonduku. In the Ivory Coast. Before seeing their first converts. And the Sudan. Interior Mission. There was numbers here. They worked amongst the people.

Who had never heard of Christ. Years passed. And three of these missionaries. Were buried. In Sudan. More than 50 worked there diligently. From 1939 to 1964.

When they had to leave. Because of civil war. When they were left. There was less than a handful. Of baptised believers. In good standing. When they were able to return. They were amazed to see.

Nearly 300. Waiting to be baptised. You know. Sometimes we just got to be faithful. We got to be faithful. We got to labour on. Even though we may not see the results. Whether it be. In street preaching.

Whether it be. In witnessing. You know. Some have given out. Thousands of tracts. And not seen. Much. That they could point the finger at. And yet. That could be the word.

[26:01] That a soul. Needs to hear. And we must be faithful. He that is faithful. In that which is least. Is faithful also. In much. Find that little thing. That you can do for God.

That small thing. It might be small in your eyes. It might be one of those things. That is least. And yet. Our Lord says. He that is faithful. In that which is least.

Is faithful also. In much. You know. There's many that are unfaithful. I see that. You know. In the workplace. For example. People who. They try to steal time. Or try to steal things.

From their employer. You know. That's a reproach. As a Christian. We should be ashamed. And return. Such things. That we've taken. Friends. There's need for faithfulness.

In the day by day. In the everyday. Where the rubber hits the road. If you. If you've taken from someone. The Bible talks about restitution. Repaying it. So if you've borrowed some money from someone.

[26:57] And you've not paid it back. You need to go to them and pay it back. The Bible says to be faithful in that which is least. God sees those things. It's not to put anyone under a yoke of bondage.

But because the Bible says that we should. Be faithful in that which is least. In those little things that might seem insignificant. If you've hurt someone. And you've failed to apologise.

Be faithful. And go to them. Go to your friend. Or your enemy. And apologise. For that which you've said. Be faithful in that which is least. Be faithful no matter what.

You know. There's a story about Hudson Taylor. One day he was appointed to go to a place to speak. And it was wild weather. It was a stormy night. It was just a school room.

Where people were gathering. And his hostess assured him. Nobody would even turn up. It was just too bad. The weather was just too bad. For him to go. And he said. There's no one going to be there.

[27:53] He said. Taylor said. I must go. Even if. There is no one but the doorkeeper. Less than a dozen people showed up that night. But the meeting was marked with unusual spiritual power.

Half of those present. Either became missionaries. Or gave their children as missionaries. And the rest were faithful supporters. Of the China inland mission.

For years to come. Faithfulness. Faithfulness. We need to be faithful. No matter what. No matter how we might feel. No matter what the circumstance. Be faithful. As those who will give account. Moreover it is required in stewards. That a man be found faithful. No matter what the cost. We read of the church at Smyrna. In Revelation 2 verse 10. Our Lord says.

Behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison. That you may be tried. And you shall have tribulation. 10 days. Be thou faithful unto death. That's a challenge isn't it?

[28:50] That's a challenge for you isn't it? Friends and I. Be faithful thou unto death. That's no easy believism. That's something that is very challenging isn't it?

And some believers I know. In other places. In other lands. They do face death. They look death in the face. And they. Encounter death. For the gospel's sake.

Because they love Christ. And friends. We ought to be challenged by their example. Where are the faithful men? Where are the faithful men?

Help Lord. For the godly man sees it. For the faithful fail. From among the children of men. Where are God's men? Where are God's men?

God's faithful men. Where are they? May God give us more faithful men. And that's not to exclude the women here tonight too. God's looking for faithful women.

[29:48] There's many examples of biblical women. Who were faithful. Who laboured as soldiers. On the battle front. Who took a weapon.

And was used of God. To pin a man to death. In God's. God used the woman. To win a victory. For the army of God. And there's women. Who are used of God. In places of authority. In the land. In times of need.

Women who were judges. Of Israel. Deborah for example. There's opportunity for women. To be used of God. It's not to discount that. But we're looking for people.

Who will be faithful. Who will commit. To a faithful church. A faithful man. Who can find. Let us be the faithful. Faithful ones. Who will commit.

[30:43] To a faithful church. A church. A church where there are sound words. Where's the unvarnished truth. The old fashioned. Gospel. Men and women. Who will commit.

To a faithful church. Where there's faithful preaching. Where we can be a faithful body. Of gathered believers. Assembled together. To faithfully. Adhere to Bible doctrine.

Where you can be faithful. Communing with one another. Of like faith. And love for Christ. Where you can be taught. And where you can teach. Where you can impart. And be imparted to you.

Where you can train. And be trained. Are you being faithful? Are you trustworthy? Ask the Lord to help you. Make it your prayer. Lord help me. To be faithful.

Help me. When I am unfaithful. Help me. To be. A faithful one. To aspire to God's standard. In your walk. In the 24 by 7.

[31:39] By 365. In your walk. Be faithful. In the word. Let it be the word. The faithful word. That guides your steps. That guides your way. And let it be.

That you're faithful. In the work. That God has given you. To be a steward. Of those least things. Of those few things perhaps. You can be faithful. Faithful in your homes.

Faithful at your jobs. And faithful in your church. To be a steward.

Thank you.