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Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Faith and Faithfulness**

**Faithfulness (n)**: 1. Fidelity; loyalty; firm adherence to allegiance and duty; as the faithfulness of a subject. 2. Truth; veracity; as the faithfulness of God. 3. Strict adherence to injunctions, and to the duties of a station; as the faithfulness of servants or ministers. 4. Strict performance of promises, vows or covenants; constancy in affection; as the faithfulness of a husband or wife.

A person is faithful when they are true to what they are supposed to do, whether by duty, design, or by personal promise.

* **The Analogy of Faith**

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which are not many, but one), it must be searched by other places that speak more clearly.”

**Romans 12:6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith

**1 Corinthians 2:10-12** these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

**2 Peter 3:15b-16** Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

* **God Alone Is Faithful**

**Exodus 34:5-7a** The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty”

**Numbers 23:19** “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”

**Romans 1:18-20** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

**2 Timothy 2:11-13** The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

In 1 Corinthians 13:7, when it says that love “believes all things,” that word for “believes” is from the same Greek word for faith. It’s not saying that love is gullible and believes everything including lies; it’s saying that love is faithful. It believes all that pertains to faith—to the truths of God. It is consistent with the truth.

* **God Guarantees His Faithfulness to Us**

**Hebrews 6:17-18** So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

* **What Does Faithfulness in Action Look Like?**

If faithfulness is lacking, our FIRST question should be, “What am I failing to believe?” How am I being faithless?

**Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

We practice faithfulness by constantly repenting of our unfaithfulness and acknowledging our desperate dependence upon God and His faithfulness.

**Matthew 25:14-30**

* **Application**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

**John 8:31-32** So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**John 8:54b-55** “It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word.”

**James 1:22-25** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

**2 Timothy 2:3-4**Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

**Philippians 3:12-16** Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained.