

## Living in Hope with the One Leader Study Series

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### Title: *Living Above the Chaos, Part 3 – “Faithful”*

**Instructions:** This Bible study is provided for personal or group use. Please copy, print, or share with anyone.

(Please note: this study has four parts based on the scripture in Matthew 25:21, 23 – “Well Done,” “Good,” “Faithful,” “Servant.”)

Trying to live above the chaos while still in the middle of it is a challenge. But being *faithful* while doing so is even more daunting. The word translated as “faithful” means “trustful,” “obedient,” “loyal,” and “deserving belief,” “consistent character.” It has both the sense of trusting someone else and being trustworthy. So, as we journey in the midst of this morass, we are to be trustworthy, counted on, and consistent. Faithful implies a relationship with the one you report to as well as one with a world who is watching. We are to be faithful to the Lord and a world looking on.

**Matthew 25:21-22** says, *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’”* The slave could be trusted as he was given responsibility, resources, and then instructions on what to do. Faithful was then repeated as a key and critical determination of passing the test and receiving a reward: eternal responsibility and intimacy with the master.

**Faithful and Faithfulness are central to the Christian life. It is a chief component for our eternal life.**

### Observations

#### 1. *Source and example of faithfulness is the Lord.*

1 Corinthians 1:9 says, *“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship...”* (KJV).

2 Corinthians 1:18 says, *“But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:24 says, *“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it”* (KJV).

2 Thessalonians 3:3 says, *“But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen...”*

2 Timothy 2:13 says, *“If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”*

To say that God is faithful means that His character is unchangingly consistent. The unalterable structure of the universe consists of both justice and forgiveness. God never acts in contradiction of Himself, and in every experience, we may depend on Him to be unalterably just and forgiving toward us. ***Because He is faithful, He can be the central and most important object of our faith.*** Without faithfulness to God there can be no Christian life. We can count on His being there for us. He is our foundation.

2. **Many saints are described as faithful.** It is a character quality that is noticed and helps build relationships. Examples of faithfulness include Silas (1 Peter 5:8), Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21), Epaphras (Colossians 1:7), Onesimus (Colossians 4:9), Timothy (1 Corinthians 4:17), Abraham (Galatians 3:9), and Moses (Hebrews 3:2).
3. **Faithfulness is associated with fearing God.** The better we truly know God, the more we will want to allow Him to live through us. (See Philippians 1:2.)
4. **It is a heart condition.** Our attitudes will be reflected in our actions (trustworthy, consistent, dependable, your word is your honor). As seen in the saints above, so it should be in our lives. “Trustworthy” (heart term) translates into “being trusted” (action term).
5. **Faithfulness is an action on display, reflected in stewards.** 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 says, “*Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy [faithful].*” We are stewards and servants; we are to be faithful. It is a requirement.
6. **It is one of the “fruits of the Spirit.”** Faithfulness comes from the Lord working in us. The Holy Spirit indwells us and brings the blessings of love, joy, peace, and faithfulness (see Galatians 5:22). We are conduits of God’s fruit.
7. **It is highly regarded and central to all relationships.** Faithfulness affects every relationship we have. The Bible says it is a gift from God. God’s faithfulness towards us gives us an example to follow in our own relationships. Faithfulness is something we should absolutely reflect in marriage, friendships, and in our relationship with God.

## Implications

**Luke 16:10-13** says, “*He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*”

1. **Faithfulness will determine what the Lord will give us in this life.** Nothing is too small for the Lord to see. This includes actions as well as motives. The Lord is always watching, and He will reward us. That reward is the true riches (not money and possessions), such as intimacy with the Lord, relationships, people, and fruit in this life. Faithfulness is also reflected in who and what we serve—the Lord or things.
2. **Faithfulness will determine our eternal rewards in heaven, which includes intimacy, responsibility, and crowns.** Our life on earth will impact our eternity. Just because we can’t see eternity does not mean that it does not exist and thus carries a consequence of behavior now. Jesus, in Matthew 6:19-21, tells us that where our treasure is our heart will be also.

Matthew 24:45-47 says, *“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”*

Luke 19:16-17 says, *“The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’”*

**3. Faithfulness follows through on truth and love.** Prov 27:6 says, *“Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.”*

**4. There is a promise associated with God’s faithfulness.** God’s faithfulness promises great assurance: It guarantees that all our trials will be in proportion to our strength. God pledges through Paul. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, *“such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted beyond what you can bear.”*

## Application

Mother Teresa said, *“I do not pray for success. I ask for faithfulness.”*

- 1. To cultivate faithfulness, increase your faith.** Step out into the unknown as the Lord leads you. Be full of faith. Increase your prayer life, your sharing of the gospel, and giving. All of these will require faith.
- 2. Let your yes be yes and your no be no.** Say what you mean and mean what you say. Follow through. Don’t just talk—when you commit to something, DO IT!
- 3. We are encouraged to give what we have been given to faithful people.** 2 Timothy 2:2 says, *“Entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* Invest in FAT people (faithful, available, teachable). This is evangelism and discipleship, which will be ways of multiplying your effectiveness.
- 4. Appropriate and possess the gifts Christ has given you, live them out, and give them away in an environment where the Lord has place you with courage and perseverance.** Those gifts include the fruit of the spirit, the riches of Christ, a new identity, love and hope.

## What are the benefits of faithfulness to God?

To some, perhaps the most beneficial aspect of faithfulness to God would include the fact that the faithful person will not suffer God’s judgment. Until our judgment day, there are many other benefits while we are here on earth mentioned in the Bible.

- *“For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones” (Psalm 37:28 NIV).*
- *“My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity” (Proverbs 3:1-2 NIV).*
- *“Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided. When the LORD takes pleasure in anyone’s way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them” (Proverbs 16:6-7 NIV).*
- *“A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 28:20 NIV).*

- ***“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested and will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10 NKJV)***

## **Conclusion**

One of the most significant elements in our Christian life is faithfulness to God. In the days we now live in, we are unsure of what will happen next across the globe. There are wars, famines, economic collapses, and many natural disasters. Being faithful to God gives us great peace and assurance that we will be brought through by His promises of blessings and the reward of eternal life in heaven.

Our faithful allegiance to Almighty God is the only thing that we can really count on; He is our hope in a fallen world. His provision of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is the greatest benefit of all if we are faithful believers.

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