

HOW TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD

1. God is not looking for perfection or people who seem to have it all together.
 2. He is simply searching for those who will be committed to being faithful.
- SB – Difference between perfect and faithful
3. Faithfulness is being loyal, steadfast, and dependable.
 4. God is very faithful to all of us, and it is by His faithfulness that we can continue living as His sons and daughters in this world.
 5. For our part, we should strive to be as faithful as we can be to Him who loves us.
 6. It is admittedly hard to do, with our weaknesses and limitations not to mention our hard-headedness and stubbornness at times, we can still be faithful to Him.
 7. There are many in the body of Christ who truly are not bound to anything on this earth.
 8. You could take away their house, bank account, job or business and yet still they would love God with all their heart.
 9. But faithfulness to God does not just mean a willingness to lose everything for His sake.
 10. In fact, Scripture says
 - a. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:3 NASB).
 11. Some think of faithfulness as simply living without lust and getting victory over sinful habits.
 12. Others think it means being constant in Bible reading, prayer, giving and church attendance.
 13. Still others think of it as going about doing good, or keeping pure by avoiding all that is evil and wicked.
- SB – What is still missing
14. These things start us in the direction of being faithful to God.
 15. All these things indeed are commanded by the Word — and we will do them if we are faithful.
 16. But they in themselves are not the essence of faithfulness.
 17. You see, faithfulness to God is impossible unless it springs from a trusting, believing heart!
 18. I want to make a very simple statement — yet it is one we cannot overlook if we are to be faithful to God:
 - a. You cannot be faithful to God if you allow any unbelief to take root in your heart.
 19. Unbelief damages the soul and it hinders God's work in us.
 - a. It is the sin behind all departures from God.
 - b. You can be totally weaned from all worldly possessions and long in your heart for Jesus' coming.
 - c. You can sit under strong preaching and sing God's praises in His house.
 - d. You can devour the Word of God every day.
 - e. But unless you are allowing access to your soul where it is impacting your life, then it has no effect whatsoever.
 20. Let these words sink in:
 - a. ² For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. (Hebrews 4:2 NASB).
 - b. Unless what you read and hear preached affects your faith, it is of no value to you!
 - c. Scripture says, "(Jesus) ² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. (Hebrews 3:1-2 NASB)

- d. Israel is spoken of under the figure of a building.
- e. It is declared that Moses was faithful in his house
- f. In what way was Moses' faithfulness measured? How was Moses faithful in all things?
 - i. Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the men of old gained approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. (Heb. 11:2-3, 24-26 NASB)
 - ii. Moses was counted faithful because he never doubted the heavenly Father's word to them.
 - iii. Moses knew that what God said He would do, He would indeed fulfill.
 - iv. In this sense, Jesus and Moses didn't have an up-and-down, hot-and-cold, here-today-and-gone-tomorrow kind of faith.
 - v. Their faith never wavered to the end!
 - vi. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, (Hebrews 3:14 NASB).

SB – Why was Moses faithful?

- 21. Just as Jesus was faithful in His confidence in the Father, our faithfulness will be measured by the same standard:
 - a. ⁶ but Christ *was faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end. (Hebrews 3:6 NASB).
- 22. As our trials increase and the battle grows more intense, our flesh can become weary.
 - a. And over time, many Christians allow fear and doubt to creep in.
 - b. They lose their mature faith in Him and allow fear, caution and questioning.

Let's share how to become faithful to God and to hold fast in your confidence. If you want to be strong all of your life, then take three things to heart:

A. Don't Listen to the Lies of the Devil

- 1. We must remind ourselves daily,
 - a. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 NASB)
- 2. Jesus has exposed to us the "father of all lies" — the instigator of every deceptive falsehood.
 - a. All lies are birthed by Satan!
 - b. God clearly warned His church that the devil would spend all his time tempting us to sin

3. Satan doesn't waste his time lying to sinners; they're already captive, held prisoner by his deception.
4. Satan lies to those believers whose hearts are set on the Lord. He plants lies in the minds of the true seekers, God's holy ones.
5. In fact, we can narrow this down even further:
6. **Satan uses his most subtle, convincing lies against those who are determined to have a relationship with Christ!**
7. ⁹ So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. ¹¹ Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:9-11 NASB).
8. Enter His rest – Jesus has completed the task of saving mankind and is at rest
 - a. We need to ensure we can enter His rest by being faithful to what he has for us to complete
 - b. The wording about disobedience is reflecting on what the Israelites did. We do not want to be like them.
 - c. "Rest in God" requires a total trust in His Word.
 - d. It is a place of faith where there is no struggle, fear or doubt.
 - e. It is a settled rest, a continuous confidence that God is with us, that He cannot fail — and that He who called us will see us through to the end.
 - f. The rest end in heaven
 - g. Yet just when you think you are about to enter a new life of total rest and trust in the Lord and along comes the satan with a pack of newly concocted lies and accusations. He gets the ear of your conscience — and using horrible lies out of hell, he excuses or accuses everything you do!
9. Satan's direct target is your faith in God.

SB- How does satan attack your faith?

10. He knows that your faith, if allowed to grow, will make all his lies ineffective.
11. And when you stand before God and say, "I don't want anything in this world but Jesus" the devil knows it.
12. He knows it not just by your words but by your actions, because it is no longer merely a statement for you but a way of living.
13. If you really meant what you've said, then beware — all of satan deception is going to come at you!
14. The devil will come to you in your prayer closet, follow you to church, hover over you on your job
15. The lives of many dynamic people of God, acknowledge that Satan came to them in their most productive, holy times, trying to destroy them with lies.

Here are some of the devil's biggest lies:

Lie No. 1: "You are making no spiritual progress."

1. A voice whispers, "In spite of all your hunger for God, your self-denial, and all the ministry and preaching you have taken in, you have made no progress in your walk with Jesus.
2. You are still sinful, hard-headed and full of self.

3. Others are growing and passing you by.
4. What a phony you are, what a hypocrite.
5. SB-How many times has the devil come to you with these lies?
 - i. First of all, we don't compare our growth by others'.
 - ii. Second, the devil isn't the one to tell you whether you're growing.
 - iii. In fact, he wouldn't come to you with lies unless you were growing!

Lie No. 2: "You are too weary and weak for spiritual warfare/living."

1. The devil tells you, "This spiritual warfare is too much for you.
2. You are worn out, weary and tired.
3. You don't have the strength to go on fighting."
4. In every waking hour he whispers,
 - a. "Weary...worn out...at the end of your rope...give up...slow down...go easy...tired...tired...tired..."
5. Daniel warned that the devil would be successful in wearing down the saints:
 - a. ²⁵ He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (Daniel 7:25 NASB).
 - b. The Hebrew word used here is to "mentally tire, make the mind weary." Maybe you've heard that voice in your head recently: "I'm mentally drained — wiped out!"
6. Yes, there are times when we become physically weary or tired.
7. But the devil wants to use that to make us spiritually weary, and to rob us of the victory and the joy that is in the Holy Spirit.
8. Much of our spiritual weariness is caused by this implanted lie from hell! Satan tells you, "Don't get so intense about the things of God, about the lost and hurting, the poor and needy.
9. You shouldn't work so hard. Just ease off.
10. "Something is wrong — you're wearing down. You're supposed to be at rest. You must have sin in your heart. What terrible, hidden thing is in you?"
11. Where does all this come from?
12. Satan wants to question our faith and lies about our faith!

Lie No. 3: "God is not with you— you have grieved Him away."

1. Satan whispers, "He still loves you.
2. But He is not with you now.

SB – What really has happened when he leaves us?

3. There is something in you, something unseen, unknown to you.
4. His blessing and favor are not with you at present."
5. The devil will pound you with God's Word out of context.
6. He'll say, "Didn't God leave Israel when they sinned?"
7. He cut them off and forsook them!
8. Our present dry spell, your daily struggle with trials and troubles, are all proof that God is not with you.
9. The Holy Spirit has left you!"
10. This was the lie the devil planted in Gideon's mind.

11. Israel had been delivered into the hands of the Midianites and suffered great cruelty at their hands.
12. I'm sure the devil tried to sell Moses on the lie that God would forsake Israel and no longer walk with them.
 - a. But Moses knew God's heart and refuted that lie.
 - b. He warned the people that they would backslide and turn to idols in the latter days, provoking God to anger.
 - c. Sin would threaten their very existence.
 - d. ²⁹ But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find *Him* if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. ³¹ For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them (Deuteronomy 4:29-31 NASB).
13. We have an even more sure word from the Lord today:
 - a. ⁵ *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," ⁶ so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" (Matthew 28:20 NASB).
14. Right now, no matter what you're going through, Jesus has said: "I'll never leave you — I'll never forsake you."
15. God is with you always!
16. If you've been seeking the Lord,
17. He is with you no matter what lies you hear, no matter what you feel or what your circumstances.
18. And you need to stand face to face with the devil and say, "I don't care what you say about how I feel — God is with me!"
 - a. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? (Romans 8:31 NASB).

B. Examine Yourself — See If You Have Been Guilty of the Sin of Unbelief.

1. This passage is addressed not to the sinner — but to believers.
 - a. ¹² Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. (Hebrews 3:12).

SB – How do we have an unbelieving heart?

2. Take heed, beware, watch out.
3. Make sure you don't have an evil heart of unbelief!
4. This passage says the thing that will cause you to turn away from God is unbelief in your heart.
5. The author of Hebrew ties it all together:
 - a. 1) an evil heart of unbelief,
 - b. 2) hardening of the heart,
 - c. 3) departing from God.
6. Here is how the process of hardening occurs:

- a. First, you allow Satan to lie to you.
 - b. Second, a seed of unbelief is planted.
 - c. Third your unbelief causes hardness.
 - d. Finally, hardness causes all kinds of disruptions: dryness, emptiness, a reliance on feelings and emotions.
7. Eventually, you end up departing from God in your heart.
8. Because of unbelief, Israel refused to go into Canaan and possess the land.
9. The ten Israelite spies destroyed the people's faith and confidence in God with their bad report.
10. So, the Lord cast them all out into the wilderness to wander for forty years.
11. They decided to go up to Egypt without God, and the Amorites defeated them.
 - a. ⁴⁵ Then you returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD did not listen to your voice nor give ear to you. (Deuteronomy 1:45 NASB).
12. After the Resurrection, unbelief hardened the hearts of the eleven disciples. They knew Jesus said He would be resurrected, but their hearts were full of unbelief:
 - a. ⁹ Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹ When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it. ¹² After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. ¹³ They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.” ¹⁴ Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. (Mark 16:9-14 NASB).
13. Jesus ties together unbelief and hardness of heart.
14. Unbelief was the one thing He could not stand to see in His disciples.
15. When He appeared to them, He reprove them sharply.
16. We examine our heart before the Lord, we have to say, "God, I count on You to tell me when I'm dry and empty and even though I love You with everything that's in me, I sometimes feel this way.
17. Hebrews 3:12 given us the answer: ¹² Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.
18. Because if you really believe what God says, He has everything you need if you just will come to Him.
19. Are you living under condemnation or are you dry, lonely or discouraged?
20. Check your heart for unbelief.
 - a. ⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, (James 1:6-7 NASB).
21. Inner turmoil is caused by our doubting God in some way.
22. Yet how sharp and strong are His words to us on this matter: ⁷ For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord

C. Be Fully Persuaded That Your High Priest Is Touched by All Your Hurts — and That You Have Full Access to His Throne!

1. God cares for you
 - a. ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16 NASB).
2. He knows what you have been through, what you are going through now and what you face ahead.
3. He is waiting for you to come boldly to Him!
4. He Himself has experienced all that we are going through.
5. He is sympathetic, loving, full of mercy and anxious to help in our time of need.
6. You don't have to explain anything to Him.
7. You can just kneel before Him and say boldly, "Jesus, You know what I'm going through.
8. I can't put it into words.
9. But You've been here, too — so please help me!"
10. Do you know He is available at any time?
11. We have been invited into the throne room of the God
 - a. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16 NASB).
 - b. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, (Jude 20 NASB).

SB – What does the reference to the throne mean in this verse?

12. The throne is available to you anytime and anywhere.
13. And God invites you to come boldly and without reservation, with full confidence that He will answer — that He will always keep His Word!
14. Yet we are not to bring unbelief into His presence.
15. Instead, we are to "convince ourselves" and be "fully persuaded."
16. We live by promises, not by what we see.
17. And if we are to be faithful to God, we cannot sit around in doubt.
18. Instead, encourage yourself daily in the Lord, dealing with all unbelief.
19. Reject the devil's lies, and build up your faith upon God's Word.
20. Then you will be able to say in all your trials, "I will rejoice, because I have a place to go in my time of need."

Ten Scriptures on Being Faithful to God

1. There are several verses in the Bible that refer to being faithful to God. God is not looking for perfect people, He is simply searching for those who will be devoted to Him.
2. Below are ten passages that describe Christian faithfulness.
3. Each verse is quoted then followed by brief comments.

1). 1 Samuel 26:23 NASB – ²³ The LORD will repay each man *for* his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into *my* hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD’S anointed.

1. Saul, the King of Israel, had been trying to kill David.
2. When David had the opportunity to kill Saul, he chose not to because Saul was God’s anointed.
3. David said God would “repay every man for his faithfulness.”
4. Are we faithful like David?

2). 2 Chronicles 16:9 NASB – ⁹ For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars.”

1. God is looking for people whose heart is fully His.
2. If we are faithful to God, He will show Himself strong toward us in all we do.
3. Let’s search our hearts and make sure it is faithful to God.

3). Psalms 12:1 NASB – Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases to be, For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

1. What an indictment against our day.
2. God is looking for faithful men and women.
3. The body of Christ is in desperate need of faithful men and women.
4. Will you commit to being one of them?

4). Proverbs 20:6 NASB – Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy (faithful) man?

1. Lots of people proclaim their own faithfulness.
2. Faithfulness is hard to find.
- 3.

5). Proverbs 28:20 NASB – A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who makes haste to be rich will not go unpunished.

1. Abound is defined as, “To occur or exist in great quantities or numbers; to be rich or well supplied; to be filled.”
2. When we are faithful, we are be rich, well supplied, and filled with God’s blessings in more ways than we can imagine.
3. What an incentive to be faithful!

6). Matthew 25:21 NASB – ²¹ 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.’

1. This is an excellent verse about our reward in heaven.
2. Contrary to what many believe, not everyone will have the same position in heaven.
3. We will be rewarded according to our faithfulness here on earth.
4. We are saved by grace and grace alone, apart from anything we do but position and reward is earned. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

7). Luke 16:10 NASB – “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

1. If we are faithful in the little things (business, ministry, possessions, etc.), we prove to God we can be trusted with greater things.
2. When we are faithful with what has already been given to us, we are given more (time, talent, treasure, responsibility), because we have shown we can be trusted with it.
3. If we are untrustworthy with that which is least, we show we cannot be trusted with more. In fact, we are in danger of losing what we have.
 - a. ²⁹ “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (Matthew 25:29 NASB).

8). 1 Corinthians 4:2 – ² In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

1. We are required to be found trustworthy – faithful.

9). Ephesians 1:1 NASB – Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

1. Paul, writing to the Ephesians the saints who are faithful.
2. These two groups are also in the church today.
3. In most churches, twenty percent of the membership carries the burden of the ministry
4. The other eighty percent sit back and enjoy the fruit of their labor.

10). Revelation 2:10 NASB – ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

1. This was written to the church in Smyrna, which was about to experience difficulties.
2. They had been faithful and Jesus promised if they would remain faithful He would reward them with “the crown of life.”
3. James gave a similar promise,
 - a. ¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12).
4. “Be faithful until death.”
5. This requires the ultimate commitment.
6. Do we have that kind of commitment to faithfulness?

- a. Jesus said, These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. ² They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. ³ These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.(John 16:1-3).
- 7. This kind of commitment and faithfulness brings with it the promise of victory over the evil one.
 - a. ¹¹ And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.(Revelation 12:11).