

The Fruit of the Spirit

The Nine Biblical Attributes

Sanctification (10 Lessons)

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

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A.THE TEXT

Theme Verse: (Galatians 5:22-25) But the fruit of the Spirit is 1. love, 2. joy, 3. peace, 4. patience, 5. kindness, 6. goodness, 7. faithfulness, 8. gentleness, 9. self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT – 7. FAITHFULNESS

(Genesis 24:27) "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his **faithfulness** toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen."

(Exodus 34:6-8) 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**, (7) keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (8) And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

(Deuteronomy 32:4) "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of **faithfulness** and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

(Joshua 24:14-15) "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in **faithfulness**. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. (15) And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

(1 Samuel 26:23) The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his **faithfulness**, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.

(2 Samuel 2:6) Now may the Lord show steadfast love and **faithfulness** to you. And I will do good to you because you have done this thing.

(1 Kings 2:4) that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in **faithfulness** with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

(2 Kings 20:3) "Now, O Lord, please remember how I have walked before you in **faithfulness** and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

(Psalm 25:10) All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and **faithfulness**, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

(Psalm 26:3) For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your **faithfulness**.

(Psalm 37:3-5) Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend **faithfulness**. (4) Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. (5) Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

(Psalm 117:1-2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! (2) For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the **faithfulness** of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

(Psalm 138:2) I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your **faithfulness**, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

(Proverbs 3:3) Let not steadfast love and **faithfulness** forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

(Proverbs 16:6) By steadfast love and **faithfulness** iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the Lord one turns away from evil.

(Isaiah 11:5) Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and **faithfulness** the belt of his loins.

(Jeremiah 32:41) I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in **faithfulness**, with all my heart and all my soul.

(Lamentations 3:22-26) The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; (23) they are new every morning; great is your **faithfulness**. (24) "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." (25) The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. (26) It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

(Zechariah 8:8) I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in **faithfulness** and in righteousness."

(Matthew 23:23-27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and **faithfulness**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. (24) You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!

(Romans 3:1-5) Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? (2) Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. (3) What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the **faithfulness** of God? (4) By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." (5) But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say?

B. THE STUDY NOTES

Faithfulness = pistis = πίστις

Definition: Conviction of the truth of anything, belief - in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it - the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things - God is the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ, a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God - fidelity, the character of one who can be relied on.

Note: In Greek mythology, **Pistis** (Πίστις) was the personification of good faith, trust and reliability. She is mentioned together with such other personifications as Elpis (Hope), Sophrosyne (Prudence), and the Charites, who were all associated with honesty and harmony among people.

Illustration: "Mark Hatfield tells of touring Calcutta with Mother Teresa and visiting the so-called "House of Dying," where sick children are cared for in their last days, and the dispensary, where the poor line up by the hundreds to receive medical attention. Watching Mother Teresa minister to these people, feeding and nursing those left by others to die, Hatfield was overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the suffering she and her co-workers face daily. "How can you bear the load without being crushed by it?" he asked. Mother Teresa replied, "My dear Senator, I am not called to be successful, I am called to be faithful." **Beyond Hunger, Beals**

C. THE LIFE APPLICATION

1. How has God shown his faithfulness to you in our Lord Jesus Christ?
2. What are the ways in which you can live in faithfulness both towards God and towards others?