

In the first two messages of our faith series, we discussed the word faith as a noun and a verb:

Noun

Definition of “Faith” (*Pistis*): the conviction that something is true

Verb

BDAG – New Testament Greek to English Lexicon

Definition of “Believe” (*pisteúō*):

- a. to consider something to be true and therefore worthy of one’s trust
- b. to entrust oneself to an entity in complete confidence

Faith as a characteristic is called _____.

Characteristic

Definition of “Faithful” (*pistos*):

In general:

- a. of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of _____, or the discharge of official duties
- b. one who kept his faith _____, worthy of trust
- c. one that can be _____ on

In reference to New Testament believers:

- a. one who is *convinced* that Jesus has been raised from the dead, is the Messiah, and _____ of salvation

Faithful people keep their faith in Jesus, earn trust, and can be relied on to follow the direction/commands of Christ.

Matthew 22:35-40 NLT

One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Our command: Love _____ and Love _____.

1. Faithful in _____

Hebrews 10:32-39 NLT

“Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. “For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away.” But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.”

“Relying on God has to start all over every day, as if nothing has yet been done.” — *C. S. Lewis*

2. Faithful in _____

1 Corinthians 1:4-7 NLT

“I always thank my God for you and for the gracious gifts he has given you, now that you belong to Christ Jesus. Through him, God has enriched your church in every way—with all of your eloquent words and all of your knowledge. This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true. Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

3. Faithful Like _____

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 NLT

“He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Our God keeps His _____.

ECCLESIASTES 5:3-7 NLT

“Too much activity gives you restless dreams; too many words make you a fool. When you make a promise to God, don’t delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it. Don’t let your mouth make you sin. And don’t defend yourself by telling the Temple messenger that the promise you made was a mistake. That would make God angry, and he might wipe out everything you have achieved. Talk is cheap, like daydreams and other useless activities. Fear God instead.”

4. Faithful in _____

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 NLT

“Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:14-24 NLT

“Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil. Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.”

We must be faithful in controlling ourselves, crucifying our flesh, and pursuing holiness.

Celebrating Faithfulness

The world tends to celebrate people with _____ but Scripture celebrates those who are _____.

“Well done my good and _____ servant.” – *Matthew 25*