

Faithfulness

Introduction

Faithfulness is to keep on pressing on. When we get knocked down, get up and keep reaching for the ultimate goal of heaven no matter what we must endure along life's road.

During a Monday night football game between the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants, one of the announcers observed that Walter Payton, the Bears' running back, had accumulated over nine miles in career rushing yardage. The other announcer remarked, "Yeah, and that's with somebody knocking him down every 4.6 yards!" Walter Payton, one of the most successful running back ever, knew that everyone gets knocked down. The key to success is to get up and run again just as hard.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- 1. 1 Corinthians 15 is the Bible's great chapter on the resurrection.**
- 2. Some in Corinth were teaching that there was no resurrection of the dead.**
- 3. Paul shows that if there is no resurrection, then there is no hope.**
- 4. Paul convincingly shows that there is going to be a resurrection from the dead and that their work in the Lord is not empty.**
- 5. Based upon this great event, he exhorts the brethren to be faithful until that day comes.**
- 6. In this sermon on faithfulness we should see that we need to go back to the Bible Pattern and remain in the Bible Pattern in various areas of faithfulness:**

Committing to Faithfulness

1. We must count the cost of faithfulness.

Luke 14:27-33

2. We must not look back.

A. Many are like the seed sown among the rocks.

Luke 8:13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and **in time of temptation fall away.**

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Hebrews 10:38-39 NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; **BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK**, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

3. We must understand the results of failure.

2 Peter 2:20-22

Hebrews 10:26-27 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Hebrews 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

Continuing in Faithfulness – ABC's of Christianity

1. **One way that God knows and others know about our faithfulness is our active engagement in worship to Him. We will not forsake this time devoted to Him.**

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

2. **Studying the Bible.**

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily **to find out whether these things were so.**

3. **Imitating Christ in all things**
Philippians 2:5-8

Concern for Faithfulness

1. **Encourage the Weak.**

Jude 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

Romans 15:1-2 We then who are strong ought to **bear with the scruples of the weak**, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, **uphold the weak**, be patient with all.

2. Exhort the Strong

A. Because temptation can still lead us away regardless of what we have.

1) Remember the Israelites.

1 Corinthians 10:1-12

Hebrews 3:12-13 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

B. Also because it is good to put us in remembrance.

2 Peter 1:12-13 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

3. Retrieve the Wayward.

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Jude 20-23

The Company of Faithfulness — Fellowship

1. The Basis of Fellowship – Remaining True to the Word.

1 John 1:3-7

A. The Word of God is also the apostles' doctrine:

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2. The Benefits of Fellowship – Exhortation and Encouragement.

A. We exhort and encourage one another – We do that by being together as often as we can.

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, **but exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

B. We encourage evangelism.

Galatians 2:9 and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, **that we should go** to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

3. The Barriers of Fellowship – Discouraging sinfulness.

A. Discouraging immorality.

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

B. Discouraging Disorderly Behavior.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

C. Discouraging Division.

Romans 16:17

Conclusion

In this sermon on faithfulness we have seen that.....

- 1. We must go back to the Bible Pattern of Faithfulness in order to be pleasing to the one who really matters - GOD!**
 - A. In our Commitment to Faithfulness.**
 - B. In our Continuance in Faithfulness.**
 - C. In our Concern for Faithfulness.**
 - D. In the Company of Faithfulness.**

