

NOT LIKE ME
"A Life of Faithfulness" (Dimension #7)
Galatians 5:22-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Galatians 5:22-23**

a) "**faithfulness**" - the fruit of faithfulness is trustworthiness, it is steadfastness of **character** in the life of a believer.

2. **Remember Character** is the only thing that goes in the casket with you to the hereafter, and believe it or not, it's the only thing that people will remember about you when you're gone.

3. Those who are faithful are **dependable** and because they are **dependable**, they can be **TRUSTED**.

4. **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

5. You can absolutely trust God and his Word. God not doing what He said He will do is **IMPOSSIBLE**.

a) Be imitators of God - **Ephesians 5:1-2**

6. **At the Judgment Seat of Christ** we will be judged according to our Faithfulness.

a) We will all be judged on how **FAITHFUL** we were to ALL that God asked us to do.

7. **Matthew 25:23**

I. THE FOUNDATION OF FAITHFULNESS

1. **Integrity** is the Biblical foundation for **Faithfulness**.

2. Faithfulness is a manifestation of the Spirit because it's an Attribute of God.

a) Faithfulness is one of God's **Communicable Attributes**.

b) **Incommunicable Attributes** would be: Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence

3. **Deuteronomy 32:4**

4. What Noah Webster of 1829 says about **INTEGRITY**:

a) The entire **unimpaired** state of anything, particularly **of the mind; moral soundness; honesty**; incorruptness; upright and honesty.

b) **Integrity has to do with your moral character**.

II. THE RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

1. **Example** of those who were faithful:

a) **Abraham**

1) **The story of Abraham demonstrates** the importance of faithfulness. Abraham and Sarah struggled to trust God, but learned the value of faithfulness when they submitted to Him.

b) **Joseph**

1) Joseph lived a life of tragedy and of triumph and throughout the good times as well as the tragic times he was faithful to God.

c) **David**

1) As a young boy David killed Goliath, the Philistine with just a sling and a stone. Throughout his life, David remained faithful to God and often recorded his thoughts in the Book of Psalms.

d) **Timothy**

1) **1 Timothy 1:2-5**

e) **Watchman Nee**

2. Integrity is not something we have but something we are.

a) Integrity shows itself in what we do and say.

III. THE WAY TO FAITHFULNESS

A. TELL YOURSELF THE TRUTH

1. **Example:** Ted Williams; was a great baseball player who played for the Boston Red Sox; who once cut his own salary by 25% because he had been playing @ what he considered a sub-par level.

2. **James 1:22-25**

3. **Psalm 139:23-24**

B. TELL OTHERS THE TRUTH

1. **Titus 1:2**

2. *If God cannot lie*, and we are under the influence of the HS, *we shouldn't be lying either*.

C. MEAN WHAT YOU SAY

1. *Matthew 5:34-37*

2. *Deuteronomy 7:9*

D. DEFINE WHO YOU ARE

1. *Philippians 1:8-11*

a) Cf. *Romans 12:9*

1) "Let love be genuine" - in the Roman world "*genuine*" in Latin meant "without wax"

2. People who are "*faithful*" (have integrity) **are the real thing**.

3. People who are "*sincere*" - don't have to pretend they are something they are not.

E. AVOID THE WRONG CROWD

1. *1 Corinthians 15:33*

a) Cf. *Proverbs 22:24-25*

2. You cannot expect change to happen when you still hang out with the wrong crowd.

F. BE FAITHFUL

1. *1 Corinthians 4:2*

a) "*found*" - is a discovery found after careful observation.

2. *2 Corinthians 5:17-21*

G. STAY STRONG IN BATTLE

1. The "**Fruit of the Spirit**" is only proven when the opportunity to do the opposite is present.

2. **VERY IMPORTANT**: The closer we get to the coming of the Lord the more intense these tests will be.

3. *2 Timothy 3:12*