



FRUIT(FULL) Faithfulness

#npfruitfull

Week 8

8 of 10

May 30, 2021

Bottom Line: To be faithful is to be “full of faith.” It is a commitment to continually act in faith.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite job you have had so far (volunteer or hired) and how long did you have this job? What made it so enjoyable?

Key Verse: *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.* James 2:14 NKJV

Faith is the belief in something you hope for, but there is no evidence for it. This is the fuel; the great motivator for all of us who follow Jesus. We believe in a God we’ve never seen, an eternal home we cannot touch, and a confidence in His promises that can’t always be proven in “the here and now.” That’s faith. We can’t see it, but we stake our entire life upon it. We cannot follow Jesus any other way. To be “faithful” is to be completely devoted and loyally committed to that belief. It is faith put into action. Being faithful in our culture is difficult because we are emotion-driven. If we don’t feel it, we don’t want to do it. Acts of faithfulness demonstrate that we have true faith in God, and such acts are the threads holding our belief and behavior system together. Faith without works is dead. Faithfulness is a quality that all of us admire, but it is also a quality that God requires. It doesn’t matter how much talent or intelligence you have, you are not effective unless you are dependable. **Where should we be focusing and strengthening our faithfulness? Jesus.** Remaining faithful to Jesus must be the foundation and highest priority in your life, lived out by humble trust and obedience. **Relationships.** If you aren’t faithful to **spouse and family**, you won’t be anywhere else. They long remember kept and broken promises. Who would be able to list you as one of their faithful **friends**? They are the strength of life. **Finances.** If God cannot trust you to be faithful with money, He won’t trust you with spiritual power. If we get it right materially, He will bless us spiritually with true riches. **The Church.** This is the entire body of believers, not just one church. The Bible teaches that we are to be faithful to the fellowship. We are to be in the house of God on a regular basis, bringing our prayers, tithes, love, and influence. We all need each other, and the world needs us to be the *hope* of the world. There are **three things we can do to ensure our faithfulness: PRIZE THE SMALL THINGS.** If you’ll be faithful in the small things, the big things will take care of themselves. **PROTECT THE SECRET THINGS.** Be faithful in the secret things. Who you are in secret is who you are. **PRESERVE THE SACRED THINGS.** Be faithful to meet with God, not by determination, not by gritting your teeth, but by abiding in Him. Come to Him; surrender to Him; yield to Him; and God will help you be faithful. Hold on to loyal love and don’t let go.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday’s message to you?

No one wants to get married with the belief that it’s going to be awful. Faith is believing that it is going to be a great life together. Being faithful, on the other hand, is to be relentlessly committed to that belief. It is faith put to action. Anything you want to be is shown by what you do. Reflect and discuss. How does this apply to all faithfulness?

Emotion can make a commitment, but emotion won’t keep it. How do we move an emotional commitment to consistent faithfulness?

Acts of faithfulness are the threads that hold our behavior and belief together. Discuss. How are you finding this to be true in your life?

God doesn’t simply desire faithfulness; He requires it. How does that speak to you at this point in your life?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Faithfulness to Jesus is foundational to every other area: family, friends, finances, and the Church. All of these areas require trust, obedience, and humility. Which area of faithfulness currently challenges you most? Why? How are you addressing it?

Loyal, faithful friends can be very hard to find. There are **FAKE** friends: those who use others. **FOUL** friends: those who are quick to criticize, are very needy and receivers only, hypercritical, and careless with their words. The faithful friend sees your life is messy and says, “I’m coming over.” Faithful friends know how to handle conflict and don’t hold grudges or seek revenge. They are eager to forgive. They make each other better. What kind of friend would your friends consider you to be? Who is a faithful friend to you?

Of the three things listed that we could do to ensure faithfulness, which is your greatest area of growth needed? What will you do?

NEXT STEPS

1. Evaluate your level of faithfulness in each area.
2. Make a plan to work with the Spirit of God to grow this fruit of the Spirit.
3. Thank someone in your family, your circle of friends, and your church for their faithfulness.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: To be faithful is to be “full of faith.” It is a commitment to continually act in faith.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: 1 Samuel 12:24

Tuesday: Proverbs 20:6

Wednesday: Philippians 1:6

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 4:2

Friday: 2 Chronicles 16:9

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)