
The Fruit of Faithfulness (The Power to Change Not)

The Fruit of the Holiness

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Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Faithfulness (The Power to Change Not)

New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit II (Producers)”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- **What’s the purpose of each element, and how do we produce and use them?**
- Sermon: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength of Life)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Peace (Keeping Your Heart)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Goodness (Overcoming Evil)
 - Definition: Being ruled by what is good, to not just do good, but be good
 - Purpose: Overcome the evil within us to do Good to evil people
 - Produce: Goodness is produced when our minds are transformed by to will of God

Lesson Text

Psalm 15:1–4 (AV)¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³ *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not.

Malachi 3:6 (AV)⁶ For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (AV)¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Introduction

Today we look at the third cluster of the Fruit of the Spirit (Faith, Meekness, and Temperance):

1. Love, Joy, and Peace (Deals with our Relationship with God)
2. Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness (Deals with our Relationship with Each other)
3. Faith, Meekness, and Temperance (Deals with our Relationship with Ourselves)

This last cluster of fruit is about who we are as a person, or better, who God wants us to become; and the first element in this cluster is Faith or better translated Faithfulness.

How many of you have ever had a person give you their word, only to break it? They promised to have your money by this Friday, and that was three months ago and they aint said nothing! They got new clothes, new shoes, testifying about how God blessed them with a new job.

Faithfulness comes from the Greek Word “Pistos” and is translated worthy of trust or fidelity; the character of one who can be relied upon no matter what.

But we live in a world where “These People Ain’t Loyal!” They are with you today and gone tomorrow. They are your friend this week, and your enemy the next.

The truth is that although people may give you their word, their promise, or their loyalty; they can change on you. And the reason why they change is because their life changes. And when these life changes begin to hurt, it causes them to go back on their word, promise, or loyalty.

It is our human nature to change course or path when we hurt; to seek the path of least resistance. And therein lies the problem!

Malachi 3: 6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Regardless of how much we fail God He will not change his Word or Promises concerning us; God is Faithful to us.

The Holy Spirit is here to produce that same Spirit of Faithfulness in us so that when life begins to hurt, we will Change Not!

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Faithfulness (The Power to Change Not)

“The Definition, Purpose, and Production of Faithfulness”

I. The Definition of Faithfulness

How do we define Faithfulness?

Let’s look at the first and last clauses of our lesson text!

1. Psalm 15: 1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
2. Psalm 15: 4 ... *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

I don’t believe that most people who break promises, set out to do so. It’s just that life changes on them and things begin to hurt. And as we stated earlier, we seek the path of least resistance when faced with pain. We pull our hands from off a hot stove; we run from a burning house.

So, when things begin to hurt us, we change. When the marriage and relationships hurt, we change. When loved ones and friendships hurt, we change. When ministry and church hurt, we change. When trials and tribulation hurt, we change.

It’s nothing personal; it’s just that we’re running from the fire, from the pain, from the hurt.

But to abide in the tabernacle, to dwell in the holy hills, God needs us to change not!

The Definition of Faithfulness is the fidelity to swear to our own hurt and change not

John 15:16 (AV)¹⁶ **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.**

We have been chosen to abide in the tabernacle, so that we can produce fruit. And when the tabernacle gets hot, when the holy hills start burning, God needs us to have Faithfulness.

“To Swear To our Own Hurt and Change Not!”

II. The Purpose of Faithfulness

What is the purpose of Faithfulness?

Malachi 3:6 (AV)⁶ For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

The purpose of Faithfulness can be revealed in this passage of scripture; because God is faithful and does not go back on his covenant; we are not consumed.

To be consumed here means to be destroyed, demolished, ruined, or shattered.

Since we constantly break our promises and fail God, He has every right to consume us.

Romans 6:23 (AV)²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

But Because of His Faithfulness, He does not consume but, but instead gives us eternal life.

The purpose of Faithfulness is to Empower us so that we do Not Consume Each Other

When the marriage begins to hurt, God needs us to Not Consume it. When the family or friends, in-laws and outlaws begin to hurt, God needs us to Not Consume them. When the ministry or church hurts us to the core, God needs us to Not Consume (Destroy, Ruin, or Shatter) them.

If we allow the hurt to cause us to change, we will consume the relationships. And if we consume them, we will destroy the purpose in which God called us to them.

You may not know what it is, but there is purpose for the family, purpose for the marriage, purpose for the ministry, purpose for the calling; and we must be faithful and change not, even when it hurts!

Romans 8:28 (AV)²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

III. The Production of Faithfulness

Faithfulness is the fidelity to swear to our own hurt and change not. Its purpose is to keep us from consuming and destroying the relationships we have been called to.

But how do we produce it?

1 Corinthians 10:13 (AV)¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but ***God is faithful***, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

Most people when faced with temptations, trials, and tribulations look at them as either something they should avoid, or attack and fight back. It's called ***Flight or Fight Response!***

But God has another response! ***To Wait***; That is To Wait on the Lord through the Hurt!

The Holy Spirit produces Faithfulness in us when we Wait on the Lord regardless of the Hurt!

We Wait on the Lord because God is Faithful to us and won't put more on us that we can bear

- Isaiah 40:31 (AV)³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

We Wait on the Lord because God is Faithful and has already provided a way of escape.

- Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.
- As the choir use to sing:
 - *Jesus will work it out, Jesus will work it out, Jesus will work it out!*
 - *That problem that I had, just couldn't seem to solve. I cried and I cried, I cried all night long.*
 - *I turned it over to Jesus, and I stopped worrying about. I turned it over to the lord and he worked it out.*
 - *While you're trying to figure it out, he's already worked it out!*

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fruit of Faithfulness (The Power to Change Not))

Lesson Text

- Psalm 15:1–4, Malachi 3:6, 1 Corinthians 10:13

Sermon Outline

I. *The Definition of Faithfulness*

II. *The Purpose of Faithfulness*

III. *The Production of Faithfulness*

Questions

I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What is the thing you’d never say to another person: 1) comment on their distasteful choice in clothing, 2) comment on their bad behavior, 3) comment on their career decision, or 4) swear at them?
2. What is your greatest achievement: 1) having great friends, 2) traveling a lot, 3) advancing your career, or 4) starting a family?

II. **Into the Bible**

1. Case Study: Abraham. Study Romans 4:16-22. What did God promise Abraham? What circumstances might have caused Abraham to give up on that promise? What can we learn about faithfulness from Abraham’s experience?
2. Read Galatians 5:13-18. What warnings do you find in these verses? What instruction is given?

III. **Life Application**

1. How would you counsel a church member who has “changed” towards another church member because of the hurt and pain from their relationship? Use the sermon points of definition, purpose and production of faithfulness in your advice.
2. In our own personal relationships with God, we can recall his faithfulness to us. Can that encourage us to remain faithful in relationships He has called us to? How?