

Dear Friends,

As you know, I've been focused on the fruit of the Spirit for a while and it recently occurred to me how important it is to remember this is His fruit.

Galatians 5:22,23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

We are to look to Him to produce this fruit. I have to admit that for a long time I've tried to produce this fruit by my own effort rather than be dependent on Him to supply His fruit in and through me. I can say from experience that allowing Him to flow through me works much better!

So a working definition of faithfulness from Webster's Dictionary is; An unswerving allegiance. To be faithful in allegiance to one's lawful sovereign or government. In our case we are to be first and foremost loyal to our King Jesus.

The word FAITH, in the ESV, is mentioned 250 times in the New Testament and the word FAITHFULNESS is mentioned another 47 times. So this is an important topic! The first thing to discover is that God sets the example of faithfulness for us.

1 Corinthians 1:9 **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. **God is faithful**, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, ....

2 Thessalonians 3:3 ....**the Lord is faithful**. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Ephesians 6:16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

As you can see when we seek to be faithful to God we have promises of victory in difficult times.

So how I get this done is to come to Him, usually first thing in the morning, and ask for His fruit to fill me and to be expressed by the way I think, act, and, talk. I also ask right in the middle of a stressful situation.

Please remember Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **he who promised is faithful**.

Thank you for your faithfulness to Jesus by helping Alpha!

Alpha Counseling Services  
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Richard

