

Lesson #1 Faithfulness Brings Promotion

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is ... faithfulness

Faithfulness: one who believes, trusts in God's promises, is trustworthy, worthy of trust, reliable, dependable, tested and sure; a ground for faith; adhering firmly and devotedly to a person, cause or idea; loyal, constant, stable, persistent and continuing.

I. God is faithful

1. Responding to the Lord's mercies, what proclamation of God's attribute is given? (Lamentations 3:23)

2. What four things does the Bible say God is faithful to do?

- Hebrews 10:23: _____
- 1 John 1:9: _____
- 1 Corinthians 10:13: _____
- 2 Thessalonians 3:3: _____

II. Faithfulness vs. Flakiness:

Flake: untrustworthy, not worthy of confidence or belief; they can't be trusted, are undependable. They say one thing and do another; long on promises-short on delivery; fair-weather friends; they are not true to their word, but excuses are abundant.

3. What do flakes have a tendency to proclaim about themselves? (Proverbs 20:6)

4. To a farmer in need what does the writer compare a false boaster to? (Proverbs 25:14)

(Read Psalm 15:1-4)

5. How is a faithful person described? (Psalm 15:4b)

6. How are faithful people a blessing?

- Proverbs 13:17: _____
- Proverbs 25:13: _____

7. What does God promise for the faithful?

- Psalm 31:23: _____
- Psalm 101:6: _____
- Proverbs 28:20: _____

III. Faithfulness: A prerequisite for ministry

8. Faithfulness is required of whom? (I Corinthians 4:1-2)

- _____
- _____

Steward: the manager of household or of household affairs esp. a steward, manager, superintendent.

9. When did God put Paul into the ministry? (I Timothy 1:12)

10. How was Paul able to be faithful? (I Timothy 1:12)

Example of Paul's Faithfulness before being promoted as an Apostle

- Arabia (3 yrs) working, evangelizing, studying (Galatians 1:17-18)
- Tarsus (Teaching) (Acts 9:30)
- Antioch (Teacher, Prophet) (Acts 11:25-26)
- Trip to Jerusalem to deliver relief (Acts 11:29; 12:25)

- Paul spent 13 yrs in the preparation. He could have easily said I don't want to do that ministry. In between the promise & fulfillment Paul's life and ministry was marked by faithfulness

Principles of preparation:

1. God is always preparing you for what He has next for you
2. Preparation time is ministry time. Never view it as a stepping stone.
3. Preparation time is never wasted time

The furtherance of your ministry is marked by your faithfulness in each season and step you take

11. Who did Paul want to teach others the things he has taught? (2 Timothy 2:2)

12. How did the servant become ruler over many things? (Matthew 25:21)

13. The principle of the kingdom says: Everyone who has, _____ (Matthew 25:29)

IV. How to be faithful:

1. Be faithful with your part (Read Matthew 25:14-30)
2. Realize faithfulness is more important than talent.
3. Be diligent with what your hand finds to do (Ecclesiastes 9:10)
 - a. Don't wait for a position
 - b. Stick to your assignment.
 - c. Understand progression
 - d. Look for something that needs to be done... meet the need.
 - e. Don't seek positions without faithfulness.
4. Don't quit (Ecclesiastes 10:4)
5. Finish what you start/fulfill your ministry (Acts 12:25)

Fulfilled defined:

- a. to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full, to consummate:
- b. to make complete in every particular, to render perfect
- c. to carry through to the end, to accomplish, carry out,(some undertaking)
- d. to carry into effect, bring to realization, realize of matters of duty: to perform, execute

Q. How to know when your ministry is fulfilled:

1. Work is completed
2. God tells you
3. Ask yourself:
 - a. Have I been faithful to the ministry for the time allotted?
 - b. Am I leaving under negative circumstances or with a bad attitude?
 - c. What is my track record?

Rubber Meets The Road Application:

1. Are you a person who people can be trusted in and relied upon?
2. Do you share problems with others about those you are serving?
3. Do you use difficult times and conflicting pressure to stand by those he has called you to serve?
4. Do you fulfill what you promised to do even if it means unexpected sacrifice?
5. Can your spouse trust you?
6. Is showing up late a way of life with you?
7. Do you give excuses to explain why a job was not done?
8. Do you have many excuses on why you can't come to church?

Conclusion

Revelations 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Not all who are called are faithful, but all who are faithful fulfill their call