Bible Study Pastor Joffre Swinney "Faithfulness"

Lamentations 3:23

<u>Faithfulness</u> definition, a lasting loyalty, and trustworthiness in relationships, especially marriage and friendship:

<u>Faithfulness</u> is a quality or attribute applied in the Scripture to both God and man.

To be faithful is to be reliable, steadfast and unwavering, and the Bible speaks of this type of faithfulness in four ways: as an <u>attribute of God</u>, as a <u>positive characteristic</u> of some people, as a characteristic that many people lack,

<u>Faithful</u> is also used in the sense of "believing," as in the case of the Christians in Ephesus and Colossae Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:2.

Scripture speaks often of <u>God's faithfulness</u>. Over and over, we learn that when God says He will do something, He does it (even when it seems impossible). <u>John 9:7</u>

When God says something will happen, it will happens. This is true for the past, the present and the future. Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6, Revelation 1:8

If God were <u>unfaithful</u> even *once*—He would not be God, and we could not rely on any of His promises. But as it is, "Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave" (1 Kings 8:56).

God is eternally reliable, steadfast, and unwavering because faithfulness is one of His inherent attributes. God does not have to work at being faithful; He *is* faithful. Psalm 89:8;

Faithfulness is an essential part of who He is Hebrews 13:8.

In His faithfulness,

God protects us from evil (2 Thessalonians 3:3),

Sets limits on our temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13),

Forgives us of sin (1 John 1:9), and sanctifies us (1 Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 1:6).

When a person walks consistently with God, in humble service to Him, he or she can be called "faithful." Men who would not take bribes, who were committed to the welfare of the people, and who would uphold the integrity of the office. Notice, also, that faithfulness is associated with fearing God. The better we truly know God, the more we will want to imitate Him (Ephesians 5:1). Other examples of faithfulness include Silas (1 Peter 5:8), Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21), Epaphras (Colossians 1:7), Onesimus (Colossians 4:9), and Moses (Hebrews 3:2).

faithfulness, even in small matters, is known to God and rewarded in the end (<u>Luke 19:17</u>).

The Bible also warns us of the consequences of unfaithfulness. These warnings are necessary because, as the old hymn says, we are "prone to wander... prone to leave the God I love." Our hearts are too often found fickle, despite our best intentions (<u>Proverbs 20:6</u>; <u>Jeremiah 17:9</u>; <u>Matthew 26:75</u>).

Faithfulness affects every relationship we have. The Bible says it is a gift from God. When we receive Christ as Lord, the Holy Spirit indwells us and brings the blessings of love, joy, peace and faithfulness (<u>Galatians 5:22</u>). The fullness of these blessings depends on walking with God and yielding to His Spirit. We should be faithful to read and abide by God's Word and to seek the Lord in prayer (<u>Psalm 1:1-2</u>; <u>Ephesians 6:18</u>).

God. He is faithful to His children, and by His grace we will one day hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:23).