

Faithful

FAITHFUL, (a definition from Oxford dictionary)
Loyal, true, a faithful friend
Obedient to God and authority
Keep one's promise,
One who can be trusted totally
True to the facts, a faithful copy

FAITHFUL = FULL OF FAITH IN A MIGHTY GOD AND OBEDIENT TO HIS WORD, NO MATTER WHAT.

The Bible teaches that God gives special responsibilities to one who is faithful. There is a long list of examples in Hebrews chapter 11.

Abel was praised as Godly man,

Enoch was praised as one who pleased God,

Noah built the ark because of his great respect for God.

Abraham had faith so he obeyed God. So he went. He did it even though he didn't know where he was going.

Joseph was faithful when his faith in God was tested over a period of 13 years with 10 major trials.

Moses was faithful and only disobeyed once in his entire life of service for God.

The Israelites were faithful to God's instructions. So the walls of Jericho fell down. It happened after they had marched around the city for seven days.

Rahab, the prostitute, was faithful and kept her promise. So she welcomed the spies. That's why she wasn't killed with those who didn't obey God.

Hebrews 11:32, *“What more can I say? I don't have time to tell about all the others. I don't have time to talk about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah. I don't have time to tell about David, Samuel and the prophets.³³ Because of their faith they took over kingdoms. They ruled fairly. They received the blessings God had promised. They shut the mouths of lions.³⁴ They put out great fires. They escaped being killed by the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became powerful in battle. They beat back armies from other countries.*

³⁵ *Women received their dead back. The dead were raised to life again. Others were made to suffer greatly. But they refused to be set free. They did that so that after death they would be raised to a better life.*

³⁶ *Some were laughed at. Some were whipped. Still others were held by chains. They were put in prison.* ³⁷ *Some were killed with stones. They were sawed in two. They were put to death by the sword. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats. They were poor. They were attacked. They were treated badly.* ³⁸ *The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains. They lived in caves. They lived in holes in the ground.*

³⁹ *All of those people were praised because they had faith. But none of them received what God had promised.* ⁴⁰ *God had planned something better for us. So they would only be made perfect together with us.”*

God is Faithful

Deuteronomy 32:3-4, “I will proclaim the name of the LORD.

Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A **faithful** God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

His Word and Deeds are Faithful

Psalms 33:4, “For the word of the LORD is right and true; He is **faithful** in all he does.”

God prospers a faithful servant

2 Chronicles 31:20, “This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah, doing what was good and right and **faithful** before the LORD his God. ²¹ In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commands, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. **And so he prospered.**”

Love and Faithfulness go hand in hand

Romans 12:9, “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful** in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Jesus Christ is faithful

Hebrew 3:6, “But Christ is **faithful** as a Son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.”

We must be faithful in meeting together to encourage each other in faithfulness and service

Hebrews 10:25, “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

We must be faithful as we see the Day approaching

2 Peter 3:10, “But **the day** of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to **the day** of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Many believe that we live in the last days and that The Lord will come back soon. Earthquakes, wars and pestilences are signs of the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:44, “So you also must **be ready**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. At that time we must give account to our Master of our life and service here on earth. If you and I are faithful to our Master then we will hear, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ (Matthew 25:21)