



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness—Galatians 5:22-23

Week of 11.4.2019

Icebreaker: When you hear the word “faithfulness,” what word, scripture, or song comes to mind?

HOW does Gal. 5:22-23 define Faithfulness?

The Greek word for Faithfulness is *pistis*.

In his sermon, Randy discussed its 3 definitions.

1.) A body of beliefs; set of teachings.

“Beloved, although I was eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.” Jude 3 ESV

2.) Have confidence in; depend on; active trust.

“Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” Gal. 3:11 ESV

3.) Faithfulness; trustworthiness; reliability, dependability.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...” Gal. 5:22 ESV

Randy said, “**Faithfulness is Spirit-supplied consistency to long-term loyalty.**”

Discuss the 2 parts of the definition. Can a person be one without the other?

WHY is faithfulness supernatural?

“Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.”

Psalms 36:5 ESV

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” La. 3: 22-23 ESV

- Since faithfulness is a fruit of the spirit, does that mean that a non-believer cannot be faithful? Do you have a friend or family member (non-believer) who you can rely upon, trust? Can that person also be called faithful?
- For the following verses on faithfulness, fill in the blanks (or look them up).

- We live by faith not _____. 2 Cor. 5:7
- "The _____ will live by faith." Gal. 3:11
- Fight the _____ of faith... 1 Tim. 6:12
- Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the _____ and _____ of our faith. Heb. 12:2
- ...faith without _____ is dead. James 2:26
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and _____ to _____ us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
- For great is your _____, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the _____. Psalm 57:10
- Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your _____, write them on the tablet of your _____. Prov. 3:3

WHAT does faithfulness look like in our lives?

Hebrews 11 is called the Roll Call of Faith (or the Hall of Faith). Read the chapter aloud, if time allows. Pick one of your favorite "By faith" characters in the chapter and tell why you made that choice. If you have your Bible, would you add verse 41 with your name? "By faith, _____."

- Bible teacher Beth Moore said, "Failure isn't terminal. Faithless is." Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- If you feel the need/desire to increase your walk of faithfulness, would you consider specifically praying for the Holy Spirit to gift you with an extra measure of this fruit this week? Ask your group to also pray for you, if you desire.
- Individually, or as a group, read Rev. 19:11-16 aloud. What do you think and feel as you hear these verses, especially verse 11?

Prayer:

Father God, May all who come behind us find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe and the lives inspire them to obey. Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.
In the Mighty Name of Jesus, who is faithful and true,
Amen.