

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DEVOTIONAL

# FAITHFULNESS



BP CHURCH



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



**Love (Agape):** Unconditional, self-sacrificing love. It is the highest form of love and is often used to describe God's love for humanity.

**Joy (Chara):** Deep-seated gladness, delight, or rejoicing, often independent of circumstances.

**Peace (Eirene):** A state of tranquility, quietness, and freedom from disturbance. It can also refer to harmony in relationships.

**Forbearance (Makrothymia):** Patience, longsuffering, or endurance in the face of provocation or adversity.

**Kindness (Chrestotes):** Goodness, generosity, moral integrity, and benevolence in one's character.

**Goodness (Agathosune):** Moral excellence, uprightness, and kindness in actions and behavior.

**Faithfulness (Pistis):** Fidelity, loyalty, and reliability in keeping one's promises and commitments.

**Gentleness (Praytes):** Meekness, humility, and a mild or gentle disposition.

**Self-Control (Enkrateia):** The ability to exercise restraint over one's impulses, emotions, and desires.

## Scriptures

“Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.”  
(Psalm 119:90, ESV)

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,”  
(Deuteronomy 7:9, ESV)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”  
(1 John 1:9, ESV)

“Love the Lord, all you his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!”  
(Psalm 31:23–24, ESV)

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.”  
(Hebrews 11:8–10, ESV)

# Day 1: God is Faithful

**READ:** “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” (**Lamentations 3:21–26, ESV**)

**THINK:** The book of Lamentations is made up of five poems, each an expression of grief over the fall of Judah to its enemies. The people of Judah refused to heed the warnings of the Lord through His prophets to repent and turn from their wicked ways back to Him. Lamentations 3 starts with “I am the man who has seen affliction,” a metaphor most likely for a nation that has experienced much suffering and loss as a result of their unfaithfulness. In Lamentations 3:21-26 however, we see that even though they realize that they are a people who have been condemned for their own unfaithfulness, they recognize a God whose compassion and mercies are “new every morning” (v. 23); whose faithfulness is great even in the midst of enduring the consequences of their own actions. Paul the Apostle reminds Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:13 that “if we are faithless, He remains faithful— for He cannot deny himself.”

**DO:** Lamentations 3 reminds us that even though God made be correcting us and we don't like it, it does not mean that He has abandoned us. He will never leave or forsake us. So take a few moments today and consider the faithfulness of God in your life. Even when we are not as faithful as we would like to be, He will always remain faithful.

How has God been faithful in my life?

How has God been faithful in His provision?

How has God been faithful in my family?

How has God been faithful to the world?

How have we been unfaithful to God?

How has God been faithful to us even in our unfaithfulness?

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.”

- Martin Luther

## Day 2: Choosing to be Faithful

**READ:** “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”  
**(Joshua 24:14–15, ESV)**

**THINK:** Chapter 24 in the book of Joshua is a dialogue between Joshua and the people regarding their loyalty to God. He establishes the basis for loyalty by summarizing all the ways that God has been faithful to them. He made a covenant with their forefathers, He led them out of slavery in Egypt, He defeated their enemies, and He helped them possess the promised land. Joshua challenges the people to decide for or against exclusive devotion to God by asking them to choose this day whom they will serve. Joshua reminded the people of their history and showcased how when they were overpowered, outmatched, or at the end of their rope, that God demonstrated His faithfulness to them time and time again. Faithfulness is seen twice here in this story. The first is from God for how He delivered them and the second is from the people. They had to make a commitment to the Lord to be faithful to Him. Read the peoples response below:

*“Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.””*  
*(Joshua 24:16–18, ESV)*

**DO:** Being faithful to the Lord requires more than just our words. It requires our actions, our hearts devotion and all that we have. Here are a few action steps we can take towards being faithful as He is faithful.

**Reflect:** Take time to reflect on your life and acknowledge the blessings and guidance you have received from the Lord.

**Commit:** Make a deliberate commitment to serve the Lord wholeheartedly, recognizing His sovereignty and goodness.

**Eliminate:** Identify any idols or distractions in your life that may hinder your commitment to serving the Lord and take steps to remove them.

**Consistency:** Establish a routine of regular prayer, meditation on scripture, and worship to deepen your relationship with God.

**“IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE  
THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE AND TURN FROM  
THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN AND WILL  
FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND.”**

**(2 CHRONICLES 7:14, ESV)**



## Day 3: Faithful in Life's Challenges

**READ:** “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, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” **(1 Corinthians 10:13, ESV)**

**THINK:** Temptations are a part of every believer's life, and no one is exempt from them. However, being tempted is not a sin in itself. The sin comes when a person gives in to those temptations. Even when faced with morally confusing situations, Christians should never think that they have no options other than sinful ones. Paul assures us of God's unwavering faithfulness amidst our trials and temptations in 1 Corinthians 10:13. He reminds us that our struggles are not unique but common to all humanity. God promises never to let us face temptations beyond our capacity to bear them. He provides a way of escape if we choose to take it, so we can not only endure those trials but also prevail against them. Whenever we encounter life's temptations, let us remind ourselves of God's strength, guidance, and faithfulness to get us through whatever temptations we may face.

**DO:** Below are 5 reasons why we may find it hard to accept God's way of escape out of temptation. Is there one area that stands out? Pray to the Lord to remove those stumbling blocks.

1

**Pride:** Some individuals may struggle to accept help from God because of pride, believing they can handle their temptations on their own with their own strength.

2

**Self-reliance:** People who are accustomed to relying solely on their own abilities may find it challenging to relinquish control and trust in God's provision for a way out.

3

**Fear of vulnerability:** Allowing God to provide a way out of temptation often requires vulnerability and humility, as it involves admitting one's weaknesses and shortcomings.

4

**Attachment to sin:** Some individuals may become so entangled in their sinful behaviours or habits that they are unwilling to let go of them, even when faced with the offer of a way out from God.

5

**Lack of faith:** Doubts about God's ability or willingness to intervene in their lives can lead to skepticism and disbelief, causing them to overlook or disregard the opportunities God presents to resist temptation.

“God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him.”

- Andrew Murray



## Day 4: Faithful in Our Commitments

**READ:** “Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”  
**(Matthew 25:19–21, ESV)**

““One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?” **(Luke 16:10–12, ESV)**

**THINK:** In this parable, Jesus tells the story of three servants who were given different amounts of money to manage. The first servant was given five talents and was able to make five more, while the second servant was given two talents and made two more. However, the third servant was given one talent and buried it in the ground. The purpose of this parable is to teach us several things. First, Jesus is coming back and we must always be prepared for His return. Second, God has given us unique talents and resources, and it is our responsibility to use them to serve Him. Third, we will be held accountable for our faithfulness in using what God has given us.

It’s important to note that the amount of money each servant made was not the focus of the parable. What mattered most was their faithful stewardship of what they were given, as both persons given five and two talents received the same commendation. For most of us, this means doing our daily work with love for God and striving to be faithful in using the talents and resources He has given us.

**DO:** Take inventory of your commitments and responsibilities. Identify one area where you can increase your faithfulness, whether through better time management, improved communication, or a renewed sense of dedication. Seek God’s guidance in this process.

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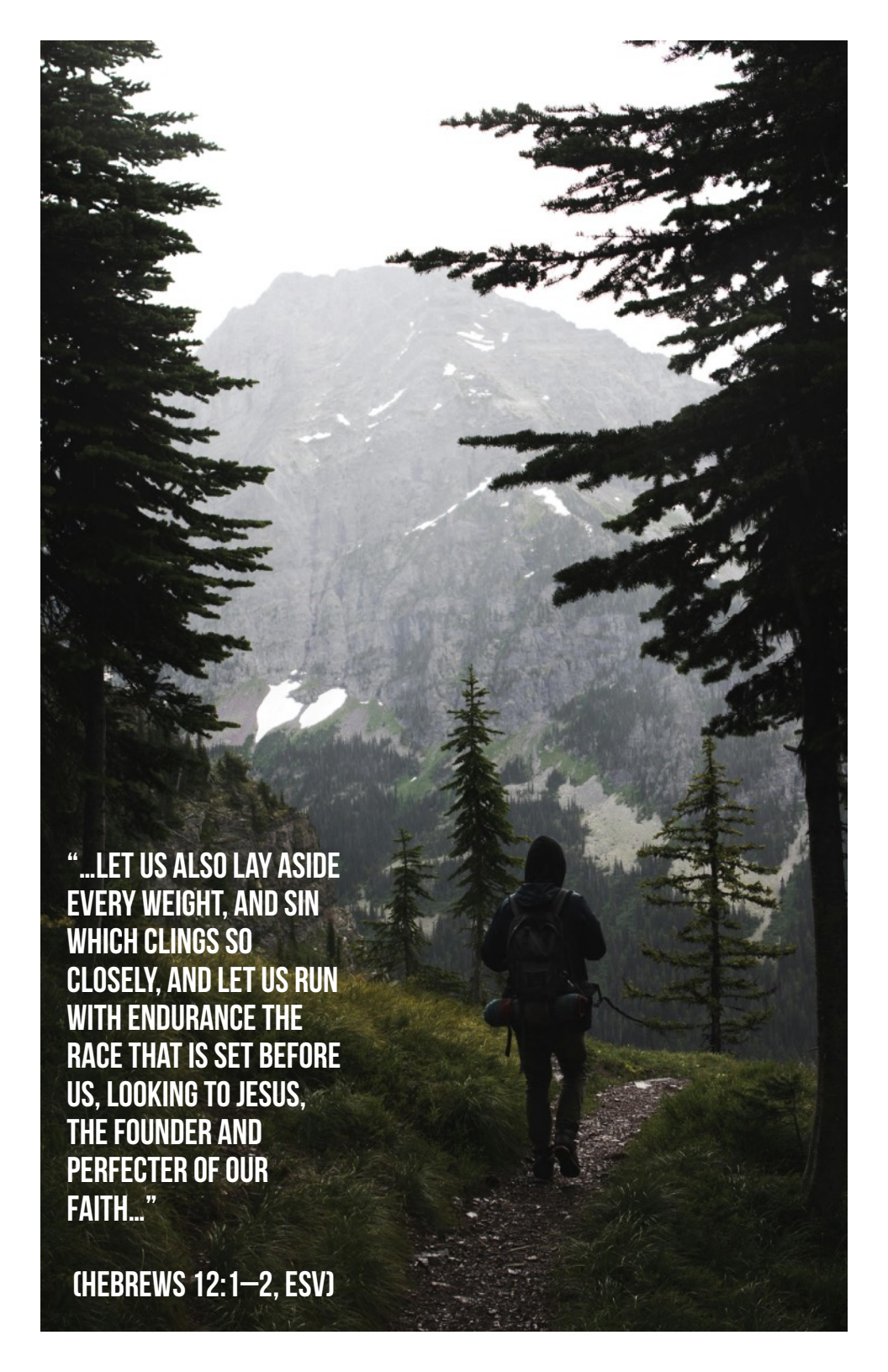
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“Depend on it! God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”

- Hudson Taylor



**“ ...LET US ALSO LAY ASIDE  
EVERY WEIGHT, AND SIN  
WHICH CLINGS SO  
CLOSELY, AND LET US RUN  
WITH ENDURANCE THE  
RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE  
US, LOOKING TO JESUS,  
THE FOUNDER AND  
PERFECTER OF OUR  
FAITH...”**

**(HEBREWS 12:1–2, ESV)**

## Day 5: Faithful in our Words

**READ:** "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." **(Matthew 12:36–37, ESV)**

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy."  
**(Proverbs 27:6, ESV)**

**THINK:** Jesus taught us that our words matter a lot, and we will have to account for every careless word we speak. As a culture, we tend to throw words around or even at each other without considering the impact of our words. The Greek for word "careless" here means idle, lazy or useless. Put another way, they are words that we might consider insignificant or unimportant. It's not just about mindless small talk or carefree jokes, but it also includes broken promises or unfulfilled commitments. Such words are better left unsaid. Jesus reminds us to let our yes be yes and no be no (Mat. 5:37) so that we don't wind up making oaths or promises we cannot keep. A large part of becoming a faithful person is by fulfilling the promises that come out of our mouth. That should not deter us from making commitments altogether, but rather, we should strive to fulfill the ones we do make. Our words are important as they reveal what's in our hearts and what we truly believe. "For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words, you will be condemned."

**DO:** Today, pray that the Lord would help you be faithful in your speech in these 5 areas.

**Speaking Truthfully:** Strive to always speak the truth and avoid falsehoods or deceitful speech.

**Exercising Caution:** Before speaking, pause to consider the impact of your words and whether they align with God's Word.

**Avoiding Gossip:** Refrain from engaging in gossip, rumours, or speaking unnecessarily, especially if it may harm others or spread falsehoods.

**Keeping Promises:** Honour commitments and promises made to others, ensuring that your words are matched by your actions.

**Choosing Words Carefully:** Select words that are kind, uplifting, and constructive, rather than hurtful or divisive.

"Christians should be of such acknowledged fidelity that their sober words should be as sacred as their solemn oaths."

- Matthew Henry

