

The Black Wall Street Inspiration Hour of Power
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Episode #1023--The Fruit of the Spirit—Faith—Teaching #1 and #2

Recap

The first 3 fruit come from God

1. Love—The supreme, sacrificial love, and unconditional love (Agape)
2. Joy—Inner happiness that is not dependent upon your circumstances
3. Peace—A calmness and contentment, free from anxiety and surpasses all understanding

The second 3 fruit are how we are to deal with our fellow man/woman

4. Longsuffering—Patience during a trial and/or during times of testing
5. Kindness—Meek and tenderhearted towards other people
6. Goodness—Moral supremacy/excellence and doing right because it's the right thing to do

The last 3 fruit are general traits / characteristics in a Christian's life

7. Faith
8. Gentleness
9. Self-control

Galatians 5:25 (NKJV)—“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit

Definition of Faith

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV): *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Now—The present time, moment, or the immediate circumstances; action happening immediately.

Now can be an

- A. Adverb (Present time/moment—He is leaving **now**)
- B. Noun (State of being—person, place, or thing—We must focus on the **now**.)
- C. Conjunction (acts as a connector—**Now** (that) they are here, we can start the event.)
- D. Adjective (to describe the current era—descriptive / quantitative)

Hebrews 11:1--Faith—is the confident assurance (substance) of future hopes and the conviction (or evidence) of unseen spiritual realities. Biblical faith is not sightless / blind but is lively /

active / energetic / industrious enabling / equipping believers to endure / tolerate / bear / remain and obey by acting on promises not yet physically realized / fulfilled (made a reality).

Hebrews chapter 11 (author unknown) reminds us of those included in the “Hall of Faith”.

(Akin / similar to the Hall of Fame—The word “hall” was an edifice dedicated to honoring distinguished individuals, acting as a shrine or museum for memorabilia. It symbolizes a permanent space for recognizing great / outstanding achievements in a special field, such as art, music, and sports.)

Key Figures in the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11)

The chapter highlights several key individuals and their acts of faith:

- Abel: Offered a better sacrifice (v. 4). (He gave the best of his flock with faith and a sincere heart)
- Enoch: Taken up to God without experiencing death (v. 5). (He maintained intimate, daily communion with God for 300 years.)
- Noah: Built the ark for things not yet seen (v. 7). (He displayed complete obedience to God)
- Abraham: Obeyed to travel to an unknown land and trusted God for a son (v. 8-10, 17-19). (He obeyed during difficult commands)
- Sarah: Trusted in God’s promise to bear a child in her old age (v. 11). (She ultimately trusted God despite her age and initial doubt.)
- Moses: Chose to suffer with God’s people rather than enjoy the pleasures of Egypt (v. 24-27). (He obeyed divine commands.)
- Rahab: Received the spies and was not killed with the unbelieving (v. 31). (She acted on her belief in His power; she risked her life while trusted in God’s protection which led to her salvation and inclusion in Jesus’ genealogy.)
- Others: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets (v. 32).

A. The book of Hebrews was written to the persecuted Christians to offer encouragement during persecution; it highlighted their faith while waiting for a future reward (a heavenly city) rather than immediate gratification.

- B. The book of Hebrews acts as a simple guide for Christian living defining what it means to have faith; emphasizing that true faith requires believing in God's existence and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (*Hebrews 11:6*).
- C. The list includes individuals with significant flaws and highlights their imperfections and redemption: (e.g., Noah's drunkenness, Abraham's lying, Moses' murder).
- D. These individuals were in active and intentional pursuit of God.
- E. They surrendered their lives to God and trusted him without knowing the outcome.

Background Scriptures

- A. *Hebrews 11:6 – Without faith it is impossible to please God.*
- B. *Ephesians 2:8-9 – Salvation is a gift of God through faith, not works. (so that no one can boast)*
- C. *2 Corinthians 5:7 – "For we walk by faith, not by sight".*
- D. *Matthew 17:20 – Faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains.*
- E. *Romans 10:17 – "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ".*
- F. *Mark 11:24 – Believe that you have received what you ask for in prayer.*
- G. *James 2:17 – Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*
- H. *Habakkuk 2:4 / Romans 1:17 – "The righteous shall live by faith".*
- I. *1 John 5:4 – Our faith is the victory that overcomes the world.*

Faith in Difficult Times

- A. *Psalms 56:3 – "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you".*
- B. *Psalms 23:4 – Even in the valley of the shadow of death, fear no evil.*
- C. *Proverbs 18:10 – The name of the LORD is a strong tower, where the righteous are safe*
- D. *James 1:2-4 – The testing of faith produces endurance.*

Verses on Building Faith

- A. Romans 10:17 – Faith grows by hearing the word of God.
- B. Luke 17:5 – The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith.
- C. 2 Peter 1:5-8 – Supplement your faith with virtue, knowledge, and endurance.

Opening

Why Should We Be Faithful?

- A. God is faithful to us! *Lamentations 3:22-23 (KJV)*—“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness”
- B. Being faithful to God guarantees his continued blessings on our lives. *Proverbs 28:20 (NIV)*—“A faithful person will be richly blessed.”
- C. Faithfulness is just who He is. *Psalm 89:8 (NIV)*— “Who is like you, LORD God Almighty? You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.”
- D. God’s faithfulness is not reliant / dependent on human performance. *2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)*— “if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself”
- E. It should be our response to his loving, unchanging, and trustworthy nature.
 - 1. He is consistently loyal with unwavering faithfulness towards us
 - 2. He is true to His Word (If He said it, you can believe it!)
 - 3. He made a decision to be bonded to you through fellowship by sending Jesus the Christ to restore the broken relationship, creating covenantal partnerships, and joining / uniting believers to Jesus the Christ by the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:10)
- F. The displaying of this fruit (as all the others) serves as the visible evidence of our spiritual transformation. Requires our ongoing surrender to God. *Romans 12:2 (NIV)* “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
 - 1. Do not conform—Paul’s warning to us for us to not adopt to the world’s views / lifestyles / shallow / superficial values that are not Godly

2. Be transformed—taken from the Greek word *metamorphoo* (describing a metamorphosis); a heart posture (change) that occurs over time—lifelong process called sanctification (set-apart from sin and consecrated to God), that is influenced by the Holy Spirit, to a life that pleases God
3. Renewing of your mind—feed your mind the things of God; biblical truths
4. Test and approve God’s will—try it and others will begin to see (have proof of the transformation) because God’s nature will show on the outside (in our behavior) proving the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God because we will be living it

What Does Faithfulness Do for the Church?

- A. Mirrors God’s unwavering love and trustworthiness / reliability / consistency allowing others to visibly see the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers
- B. Creates generational discipleship where older members can mentor and guide the younger generations through their wisdom; ensures the continuation and progression of the faith
- C. Congregation is seen as a serving church (doing the work of the ministry) using their gifts to bless others; assists with the church tending to the spiritual and practical needs of the congregation.
- D. Faithful members of the church are the backbones / anchors of the church and help the church remain loyal to their convictions and keeps the church on track when the enemy tries to derail it
- E. Creates dependability and reliableness which fosters a safe, supportive environment where families can flourish, marriages can be made stronger, and children can grow while intensifying and strengthening the congregation’s commitment to each other’s spiritual well-being

What Does Faithfulness Do to/for Us?

- A. Being faithful allows faith to grow; we can see how our faith has grown over time—faith is a muscle—*James 1:2-3 (NIV) encourages believers to find joy in trials: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance".*

- B. Remaining faithful will allow us to reap the benefit of seeing it being developed in our lives—*Galatians 6:9 (NIV)*—"*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*"
- C. Remaining faithful allows us (Christians) to reflect / mirror the nature of Jesus the Christ to a broken world; serving as a witness to the faithfulness of God

What Does it Mean to be Faithful to Fellow Man?

- A. Proves reliability, consistency, and dependability; even when it's inconvenient, difficult, and unappreciated
- B. Demonstrates your dedication to serving God's people
- C. Acts within the best interests of your fellow man; protecting and upholding their reputation and dignity
- D. Aligns your words with action proving trustworthiness
- E. Sees people through the eyes of grace and mercy realizing and recognizing humans make mistakes and faithfulness incorporates loving everyone despite the faults (because we all have them)

Why Are We Not Faithful to God?

- A. We take God for granted because we are too busy doing our own thing and take Him for granted
- B. We operate in flesh instead of spirit
- C. We have skewed / misaligned values—our desire for comfort and prosperity are in direct conflict with God's focus on character development and virtue
- D. We doubt God—failing to trust God's plan and we fall prey to our weakness and doubt
- E. We have poor perception—not surrendering to God and following our own perceptions of truth rather than walking by faith which leads to inconsistency, inadequacy, and insecurity

- F. We have misplaced priorities and focus—we fail to keep God first in all things and allow the distractions of the world to cloud our focus and priorities which contributes to our lack of commitment to spiritual growth (you have to be intentional about being faith
- G. We are not being consistent on reading the scriptures
- H. We have lack of commitment—we don't make daily efforts to guard our commitment to God

What to Comprehend

We need to THANK GOD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS TOWARDS US!!! Why? Because His love for us continues forever!