

## "FAITHFULNESS" AS TAUGHT FROM PROVERBS 3 & SELECTED TEXTS ...

—>(Proverbs 3:5–8 ESV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

### 1. **TRUST IN THE LORD: The Spirit works in the lives of those who have trusted in the Lord for salvation.**

(John 1:11–13) (Romans 3:21–22) (Galatians 2:16)

### 2. **TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART: The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in the lives of the faithful.**

#### A. The Spirit will not produce his fruit in the life of the person whose faith in Jesus Christ is not genuine.

Faithfulness is observable fruit. And, yes, you can fake righteousness but you will reap what you sow. If you sow a pretend relationship with God, then you will reap a pretend relationship with God.

- (Galatians 6:7–8 ESV) Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

#### B. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in the life of the believer.

- (Luke 6:43–44a ESV) For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit.
- (Galatians 5:22 ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

### faithfulness ...

#### 1. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in our obedience.

- (Romans 1:5 ESV) Through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.

#### 2. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in our life direction.

- (Psalm 26:3 ESV) For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

#### 3. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in our sincerity and authenticity.

- (Proverbs 20:6 ESV) Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?

#### 4. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in our trustworthiness.

- (Proverbs 25:13 ESV) Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the soul of his masters.

#### 5. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident in little and in much.

- (Luke 16:10 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.

#### 6. The Spirit's work of faithfulness is required in the leadership of the church.

- (1 Corinthians 4:2 ESV) Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

#### 7. The Spirit's work of faithfulness will be evident

unto death.

- (Revelation 2:10b ESV) Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

### 3. **TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN**

**UNDERSTANDING: The Spirit is the only One who can give an accurate account of the depth and meaning of God's faithfulness as taught in the Bible, and we will only understand God's faithfulness—or any other attribute of God—when we trust only God and not trust in ourselves.**

A. We only understand the biblical concept of the faithfulness of God as the Spirit reveals the mind of God.

B. We do not come to understand the biblical concept of the faithfulness of God by revealing our minds—our opinions and speculations.

- (Proverbs 18:2 ESV) **A fool** takes no pleasure in understanding, but **only in expressing his opinion.**

- (Proverbs 18:2 NASB95) **A fool** does not delight in understanding, But **only in revealing his own mind.**

C. The Spirit reveals the mind of God through describing and explaining the concept of God's faithfulness by the written word—the Bible.

D. The Spirit reveals the biblical concept of the faithfulness of God as beyond the ways and thoughts of humans.

- (Isaiah 55:6–9 ESV) Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 **let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;** let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly

pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

#### E. To receive and understand the biblical concept of faithfulness we must first call on the LORD and forsake our ways and thoughts.

In eliminating our understanding, our ways and our wisdom, and trusting completely in the LORD, we are now ready for biblical truth.

#### 1. The faithfulness of God extends to the clouds.

- (Psalm 36:5 ESV) Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

- (Psalm 57:9–11 ESV) I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. 10 For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

#### 2. God shows his great faithfulness in steadfast love that never ceases and mercies that never come to an end and are new every morning.

- (Lamentations 3:22–24 ESV) The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

#### 3. God abounds in steadfast love and faithfulness.

- (Psalm 86:15 ESV) But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.