

# FRUIT



Faithfulness



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, gentleness, self-control.... If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5: 22, 25

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“The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and faithfulness”

1 Sam 26:23

“Well done, good and faithful servant”

Matt 25:23

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For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his **faithfulness** to all generations.    Psalm 100:5

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, **faithful** and sure.    Isaiah 25:1

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You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and **faithfulness**. Psalm 86:15

I thank you with all my heart, Lord my God, I will glorify your name forever, for your **faithful** love for me is so great that you have rescued me... Ps 86: 12-13 NJB

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- 1.) Reasons we're faithful
- 2.) Unrewarded faithfulness
- 3.) Increasing faithfulness

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“The calling of Paul and the other apostles to carry the gospel forward permeates the New Testament. And while the mission of God is immensely important... that is not what Paul desired most for himself or for others. *Although God’s mission dominated his life, it did not define it.*

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A more careful reading of Paul's letters reveals something remarkable – everything in the apostle's life, including God's mission, took a backseat to his paramount goal: God himself.

While in prison, Paul wrote... “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

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... When he wrote of “knowing” Christ, the word did not mean intellectual knowledge *about* someone, but rather an intimate and ***experiential*** knowledge.

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Paul, the most celebrated missionary in history, ...understood that his **calling** (to be a messenger to the Gentiles) was not the same as his **treasure** (to be united with Christ).

His communion *with* Christ rooted and preceded his work *for* him.”

With, Skye Jethani pgs 85-87

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“At the end of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave a haunting description of those who have accomplished a great deal for God but did not ultimately desire Christ himself. “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and cast out demons in your name and do many mighty works in your name?’ and then I will declare to them “I never ***knew*** you...” Matt 7:22-23                            Jethani pg 87

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Jesus said, “I have said these things to you, that IN ME, you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33

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“It is never comfortable or natural to treasure the invisible over the visible, the promises of God over the promises of the world, the things that will not be fulfilled until the return of Christ over the things the world says we can have here and now.

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We want control and security on our terms, yet the Scripture tells us that the only true security comes from abandoning the illusion of control and surrendering ourselves unreservedly to the person and purposes of God.”

Conformed to His Image,  
Kenneth Boa pg 66

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“I will not fail you or forsake you.”  
Joshua 1:9

“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for  
the LORD God, my God, is with you. He  
will not fail you or forsake you”

1 Chronicles 28:20

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“Never will I leave you.

Never will I forsake you”

Heb 13:5

“No, I will not leave you; no,

nor will I utterly forsake you.”

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“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.  
Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!”

John 20: 19-20, 21a

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1. Remember that it is the Holy Spirit's work to enable our growth
2. Pay attention to our hearts

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Trust in the LORD, and do good; **dwell** in the land and befriend faithfulness [or, feed on faithfulness]. **Delight** yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the **desires** of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him

Psalm 37:3-6

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1. Remember that it is the Holy Spirit's work to enable our growth
2. Pay attention to our hearts- Dwell, Delight, Desire
3. Recognize growing edges
4. See the beauty of faithfulness

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