

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Lamentations 3:22-23 “Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

Quote: “Often times God demonstrates *His faithfulness* in adversity by providing for us what we need to survive. He does not change our painful circumstances. He sustains us through them.” Charles Stanley

Faithfulness “is carefully fulfilling our duty towards others; it is speaking exact truth; it is being faithful to our promises; it is being trustworthy.”¹ A faithful person will not be a talebearer. A faithful person will fulfill his or her responsibilities in ways that win the trust of those in authority as well as the confidence of those whom he or she leads. A faithful person will gently, meekly “wound” a friend for the sake of his or her soul and character. “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”²

Christ taught His disciples that true faithfulness is constant at all times and in all circumstances. “He who is faithful in what is *least* is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?”³ Speaking of God's faithfulness during Israel's bondage in Egypt, David wrote, “He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave.” Joseph's faithfulness to his master and to God is one of the best illustrations of trustworthiness in the Bible. Instead of groveling in his circumstances, Joseph faithfully served Potiphar in an exemplary manner. Numerous times Potiphar's wife tempted him to sin. “But he refused and said to his master's wife, ‘Look, my master does

not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. *How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*’ So it was, as she spoke to Joseph *day by day*, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.”⁴ In spite of his faithfulness, Joseph was thrown into prison! “They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.”⁵ Even there Joseph's faithfulness was rewarded. In God's providence, Joseph explained the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servants who were also imprisoned, but “until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.”⁵ After two more years in prison, “the king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions, To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom.”⁵ Through each trying chapter of God's providence that would impact thousands, Joseph's faithfulness was exemplary.

The Spirit's fruit, faithfulness

Paul called himself “a servant of Christ and steward of the mysteries of God.” He said, “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found *faithful*.”⁶ When it comes to their responsibilities to God and to men, Christians ought to have a reputation for rock-solid faithfulness and integrity. Solomon wisely wrote, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, loving favor than silver and gold.”⁷ Unfortunately, as he grew older, Solomon did not follow his own advice.⁸ Like Joseph, and a host of other heroes of the faith, a faithful, trustworthy person has a good name because he or she possesses good character that evidences itself in good choices and right actions! He or she can be counted upon to do what is right for the glory of God by seeking to “please all men in all things, not seeking (his or her) own profit, but the profit of many, *that they may be saved*.”⁹ When folks in your circle of friends and family think of faithful, dependable people, would you be on their short list?

1 W. Burkitt 2 Proverbs 27:6 3 Luke 16:10-12 4 Genesis 39:8-10
5 Psalm 105:17-22; I Chronicles 16:7-36 6 I Corinthians 4:2 7 Proverbs 22:1 8 I Kings 11 and II Chronicles 10 9 I Corinthians 10:33