

Faithful Fathers > Proverbs 20:6

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Introduction: This is a day on which we recognize & honor fathers. To be a father is at once a tremendous privilege as well as an awesome responsibility. An important part of that responsibility is the father's role to reflect what the Heavenly Father is like. In order to fulfill that role, fathers need to examine the Scriptures to see just how God deals with His children. One characteristic of God's dealing with His children that must be found in the life of every father is faithfulness. Consider then with me this evening the need for faithful fathers. Note the definition, the demonstration, & the determination of faithfulness. Then, Dad, ask yourself the question, "Am I a faithful father?"

I. The definition of faithfulness (cf. Luke 2:52)

A. Physically

1. "Faithful" - keeping faith, constant, loyal; maintaining allegiance.
2. Our Lord "...increased in stature."

B. Socially

1. Having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility; conscientious.
2. Our Lord increased in "...favor with man."

C. Intellectually

1. Accurate, reliable, exact.
2. Our Lord increased in "*wisdom*."

D. Spiritually

1. Full of faith, especially religious faith.
 - a. The requirement: Romans 10:17 (& cf. 10:9-13) & Galatians 3:26.
 - b. The result: Romans 1:17, "*The just shall live by faith*."
2. Our Lord increased in "*favor with God*."

II. The demonstration of faithfulness (Acrostic using the word "faithful")

F - Fidelity

1. Defined: honesty; opposite of purloining (stealing).
2. Demanded: Titus 2:10, "...*shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things*."

Are you guilty of robbing your employer, Colossians 3:22-25? Your family, Genesis 18:19? Your God, Malachi 3:8?

A - Accountability

1. Defined: responsible - willing to be held accountable.
2. Demanded: I Corinthians 4:2, "*Moreover it is required in stewards...*"

I - Integrity

1. Defined: 'the quality or state of being of sound moral principle; uprightness; sincerity.
2. Demanded: Proverbs 14:5, "*A faithful witness will not lie...*" & Job 27:4-6.

T - Tenacity

1. Defined: 'the quality or state of holding firm'; "stick-to-i-tive-ness."
2. Demanded: Proverbs 24:10 & Galatians 6:9.

H - Humility

1. Defined: 'the absence of pride or self-assertion; modest.
2. Demanded: I Corinthians 4:7 & Romans 12:3.

F - Fertility

1. Defined: fruitful; providing abundantly.
2. Demanded: John 15:8 > fruit of **converts**, Rom. 1:13 & Col 1:6 -- fruit of **conduct**, Rom. 6:22 -- fruit of **character**, Gal. 5:22-23, & the fruit of **consecration**, Heb. 13:15-16.

U - Usability

1. Defined: useful, dependable, available (see Mt. 25:15, 21, & 23).
2. Demanded: Luke 16:10 & III John 5.

L - Loyalty

1. Defined: faithfulness or faithful adherence to a person, government, cause, or duty.
2. Demanded: loyalty to God > Matthew 22:37; loyalty to family > I Tim. 4:8; loyalty to church > Heb. 10:25 & Psalm 122:1.

III. The determination of faithfulness

A. The **cause**:

Jeremiah 10:23, *"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."*

1. The fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23.
2. The faithfulness of the Father - I Thessalonians 5:24 (Lam. 3:23).
3. The fervency of the Son - Luke 22:32 (Rom. 8:34 & Heb. 7:25).

B. The **consequence**:

1. The provisions from the Lord - Proverbs 28:20 (Ps. 68:19).
2. The promise of the Lord - Galatians 6:9.

Conclusion: I Corinthians 4:2 declares, *"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."* A "steward" is one who is put in charge of that which does not belong to him, but for which he is held accountable. Fathers, you have been entrusted with the stewardship of children (Ps. 127:3). Might we then restate the verse, *"Moreover it is required in fathers, that they be found faithful"*? Dad, are you faithful? We have seen the definition of faithfulness - as illustrated by the life of our Lord. He developed physically, socially, intellectually, & spiritually. Fathers are to be loyal, responsible, accurate, & full of wisdom. The demonstration of faithfulness is seen in the acrostic "FAITHUL". The determination of faithfulness is seen as caused by the fruit of the Spirit, the faithfulness of the Father, & the fervency of the Son, which results in the blessings of the Lord. Again, I ask, "Dad, are you a faithful father?" The first step is to know for sure you are saved, that you have a personal relationship with the Savior, that you know God as your Heavenly Father. Is He your Father? If so, are you reflecting Him in your life?