



The
Abundant Life
Series

- Lesson 10: Faithfulness -

One of the greatest decisions that a person can make is to turn from _____ to _____. But after you make that decision, then what?

- **Matthew 24:13**, But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
- **1 Timothy 6:12**, *Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

We must be willing to "fight the good fight of _____." We must not stop with the first step of initial salvation from sin, but continue on living for God. All of these duties can be summed up in one scriptural word: **FAITHFULNESS!**

What is the Next _____ ?

When people first give their life to the Lord, they often have trouble figuring out what their next _____ should be.

Usually the " _____ " in the kingdom of God attract them and they want to be powerful speakers, great singers, prophets, teachers, missionaries, leaders, etc...

Remember to pray for God's _____ for your life and not to try to force yourself into someone else's ministry.

There is a _____ of growth and development that God set in motion at creation. Everything in the natural and the spiritual is governed by these laws. The reason that Jesus said being saved was like being "born again" is because you become a "new creature in Christ Jesus." Spiritually, you are like a new-born babe and now you must grow from stage to stage in God's Kingdom:

1 Peter 2:2, *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

1. We are to "desire the sincere _____ of the word" of God! Spiritual growth is a process of learning and growing.
2. So what should you focus on during this time of your _____ life? The small things. The everyday things.

Luke 16:10, *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

3. The _____ things really matter to God, because He knows that He can only trust you with the large anointing, blessings and gifts if you have proven faithful with the smaller things in the kingdom of God.

If a person has not been faithful with everyday _____, then how can God trust them with a ministry of prophecy which requires that they be extremely sensitive with His Word?

If a person has not been faithful in _____ small amounts, then how can God trust them with riches so that they can bless others greatly?

God is more concerned with what we do with what we have than how _____ or _____ that we think that we have.

If you have the _____, then you have the greatest treasure on the face of the earth!

1 Corinthians 4:2, *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

NIV, *Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

Areas of Faithfulness

So what are some of the "small things" in which we must learn to be faithful so that God can _____ and bless us?

Faithful In _____ - We must learn to praise and worship God even when times are tough. Our praise will elevate us into the spiritual realm where God can bless us!

1. Psalm 150:6, *Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.*

2. Psalm 32:11, *Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.*

3. Psalm 33:1-3, *Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. 2, Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. 3, Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.*

4. Hebrews 13:15, *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

Faithful In _____ - We also must learn to be faithful in prayer.

1Thessalonians 5:17, *Pray without ceasing.*

Faithful In _____ - Money is nothing to God, but it tends to be very important to man, therefore God does care about your attitude toward giving and your finances.

Luke 16:11-12 NIV, *So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? **12**, And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*

1. Throughout scripture, God teaches the concept of tithing and offering. The word " _____ " literally means "a tenth" or "ten percent."

When God made a _____ with Abraham, Abraham paid a tenth of his income to the man of God in his life, Melchizedek.

The practice of tithing was continued under law and has continued under _____.

Malachi 3:8-10, *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. **9**, Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. **10**, Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Matthew 23:23 TLB, *"Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders-- hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things-- justice and mercy and faith. Yes, you should tithe, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone.*

1 Corinthians 9:13-14, *Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? **14**, Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

1 Corinthians 9:14 TLB, *In the same way the Lord has given orders that those who preach the Gospel should be supported by those who accept it.*

2. Tithing is the first ten percent of your income and is to support the ministry of the church. Offerings are anything you give beyond your tithing and is to be for the upkeep of the church buildings.
3. Many "Christians" today balk at the idea of paying regular tithing and offerings. Some have even tried to say that it was not a scriptural principle for us today but ended with Moses' law. We believe that tithing and offerings are required under Grace because:
 - a. Tithing and Offerings _____ the Law and thus did not end with the ending of Law.
 - b. If we are _____ of Abraham's, then we will do the works of Abraham and he paid tithes (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:2-6).
 - c. _____ commanded that we are to give God that which is due to Him (Matthew 22:21).

- d. Jesus said that we “ought” to pay tithes (Matthew 23:23).
- e. The writer of Hebrews mentioned that even under Grace, tithes were paid to the ministry (Hebrews 7:8).
- f. Paul told the Corinthian church that in the same manner of the priests of old received payment for their services so should the ministers of the gospel (I Corinthians 9:14).
- g. God said that failure to pay tithes was robbery and we know that under Grace no thieves shall enter into eternal life. (Malachi 3:8-10 with I Corinthians 6:9-10)

Faithful In _____ - Equally important is attending services and fellowships with your local church family.

Hebrews 10:25, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

TLB, *Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.*

1. We should be more faithful to the _____ of God as we get nearer to the return of Jesus Christ.

Missing a service is in the _____ like missing a meal in the _____. It will affect your spiritual walk.

The Early Apostolic church was faithful in church attendance AND in fellowship with one another (Acts 2:46).

Faithful In _____ - "holiness" means "as is pleasing to God."

Psalm 96:9, *O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.*

1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV, *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

Romans 12:1-2 TLB, *And so, dear brothers, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy-- the kind he can accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? 2, Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.*

We should be a new _____ in our actions, appearance, speech, and over all lifestyle after we come to God!

To be faithful in holiness is to live as God wants in everyday life.

Faithful to the _____ - God has placed the ministry over you to help you and to instruct you.

Hebrews 13:7, *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

TLB, *Remember your leaders who have taught you the Word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and try to trust the Lord as they do.*

Faithful Even When Times Are

The Apostle Paul is perhaps the greatest example of faithfulness in the scriptures. He absolutely refused to allow anything to discourage him or cause him to sway from living for God. Because of his faithfulness, God rewarded him with a ministry that forever changed the world!

2 Corinthians 11:23-30 NIV, *Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **24**, Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. **25**, Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26**, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. **27**, I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. **28**, Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. **29**, Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? **30**, If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.*

And yet at the end of his life, Paul still had this testimony:

2 Timothy 4:6-8, *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. **7**, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: **8**, Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

How could Paul stay so faithful to the things of God? Because he was completely convinced that God would not fail him, and that nothing could cause him to lose out with God!

Romans 8:35-39 NIV, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36**, As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." **37**, No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**, For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Seven Little

The greatest lesson on the importance of faithfulness in scripture is found in seven little words that we want to hear Jesus Christ say about us at the end of this life.

Matthew 25:21, *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

Faithfulness is the bottom line in living for God. God is not going to commend you on how many people you prayed for to be healed, or how many hours you interceded for your city, or how many hot meals that you gave away to the poor, and all of those things are important. But, in the end, we will make heaven because we were faithful. Those seven little words should resound in your mind as a goal. I want to hear Jesus say "well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Above all else, we must be faithful.