

- Hebrews 10:12-13, NIV – (12) *But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. (13) Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.*

4. Protect Your Hearing

- Deuteronomy 1:28-31, NIV – (28) *Where can we go? Our brothers have made us lose heart. They say, “The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.” (29) Then I said to you, “Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. (30) The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, (31) and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”*
- Joshua 14:6-14, NIV – (6) ... Caleb ... said ... “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. (7) I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, (8) but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. (9) So on that day Moses swore to me, The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’ (10) Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ... (12) Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. ... (14) So Hebron has belonged to Caleb ... ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

5. Dwell On The Fact Of Who You Are

- Romans 8:32, NIV – (32) *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

6. Guard Your Tongue

- Proverbs 6:2, NIV – (2) *If you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth.*
- Proverbs 18:21, NIV – (21) *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

FOUNDATIONS FOR NEXT LEVEL LIVING

Part 1 - A Power Greater Than Faith: Faithfulness!

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THE NUMBER ONE QUESTION

- Luke 18:8, NIV – “... *When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?*”
- Romans 12:3, NIV – “... *the measure of faith God has given you.*”
- “Faith” = “persevering faith”, “persistent faith”, “faithfulness”
- Faithfulness is what you are doing with your faith

CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITHFULNESS

1. Faithfulness Is An Expression Of Love

- Psalm 85:10, NIV – (10) *Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.*
- If there is no faithfulness, then there really is no true love

2. Faithfulness Is A Fruit Of The Spirit

- Galatians 5:22, NIV – (22) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- Your degree of faithfulness is an indicator of the health of your walk with God

THE BENEFITS OF FAITHFULNESS

- 1 Samuel 26:23, NIV – (23) *The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness.*
- Your reward is not based on your measure of faith, but on your measure of faithfulness.

1. Deeper Revelation From God

- Numbers 12:6-8, NIV – (6) ... “Listen to my words: *When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. (7) But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. (8) With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. ...”*
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, NIV – (1) *So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. (2) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

2. Preservation, Protection And Deliverance From God

- Psalm 31:23, NIV – (23) ... *The LORD preserves the faithful ...*
- Psalm 37:28, NIV – (28) *For the LORD ... will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever ...*
- Psalm 97:10, NIV – (10) ... *the LORD ... guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

3. Material Blessing

- Proverbs 28:20, NIV – (20) *A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.*

4. Manifested Faithfulness Of God

- 2 Samuel 22:26, NIV – (26) *To the faithful you show yourself faithful ...*”

5. Promotion, Increased Influence And Authority

- Matthew 24:45-47, NIV – (45) *Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? (46) It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. (47) I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*
- Matthew 25:21, NIV – (21) *His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!”*

6. Assignments From God

- 1 Timothy 1:12, NIV – (12) *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*
- 2 Timothy 2:2, NIV – (2) *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men ...*
- Matthew 22:14, NIV – (14) *For [the] many are called [invited], but few [literally: a puny number] are chosen [selected].*

FAITHFULNESS IS NECESSARY FOR NEXT LEVEL LIVING

- No matter what level you are at now, you need the benefits of faithfulness to go to the next level

PROVIDING AN ATMOSPHERE TO BRING FORTH FAITHFULNESS

1. Do What You Already Know You Should Do

- 1 John 5:14-15, NIV – (14) *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (15) And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him.*
- Psalm 37:4, NIV – (4) *Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
- Romans 10:17, NASB – (17) *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*
- But faithfulness comes by DOING the word of Christ
- Matthew 25:14-30, NIV – (15) *To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability [his ability to use it]. ... (21) His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ ... (23) His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’ ... (26) His master replied, You wicked, lazy servant! ... (30) And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*
- Faithfulness is not measured by what you have, but what you do with what you have.

2. Place Your Confidence In The Faithfulness Of God (And Not In Your Faith)

- Psalm 89:33-37, NIV – (33) *But I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. (34) I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. (35) Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness -- and I will not lie to David – (36) that his line will continue forever and his throne endure before me like the sun; (37) it will be established forever like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.*
- Lamentations 3:22-26, NIV – (22) *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. (23) They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (24) I say to myself, “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.” (25) The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; (26) it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

3. Allow Tests To Perfect Your Faith

- 1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV – (6) *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. (7) These have come so that your faith -- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire -- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*