



## The Alexander SBS Summer 2025 Series

### Lesson #8 – The Element of Faithfulness

#### Main Idea

This summer we are becoming intimately familiar with the fruit of the Spirit, the elements of which are listed below. This week we'll be discussing the sixth element, goodness.

Love  
Joy  
Peace

Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness

**Faithfulness**  
Gentleness  
Self-Control

If kindness is the “heart” of the Fruit of the Spirit, faithfulness is the “mind.” Because being faithful is so multi-faceted, I’ll admit I struggled in how to best present and discuss this most important element. It’s easier to understand God’s faithfulness towards us because He is so good at it and the Bible is filled with examples of how He has been faithful to His people. But what does it look like when we are faithful? As I often do, my greatest thoughts occur either when mowing or running. This week it was the lawn mowing that won out! So, I’d like to share with you my “lawn mower epiphany!”



As an engineer, I often think in terms of processes. Because God was the first engineer, it always makes me feel better to think that He might also think this way. Processes are important because they help us understand why things work, or equally important why they don’t work. It’s often easier to diagnose problems than successes because problems typically have a root issue. Have you ever gone to a doctor and asked him, “Can you explain to me why I feel well?” We’re not very good as humans understanding why things work, but we’re pretty good at troubleshooting things that don’t.

It has been my observation that the most faithful people in God’s Kingdom are those who are **consistent**. I think about my 83-year old parents. This summer on July 31<sup>st</sup> they will have been married 60 years. To a large extent, I am a product of their faithfulness. They were (and are) faithful to one another in marriage, but their most defining attributes are their love for Jesus, His Word, and the Church. If you take these three areas from their marriage they are not that different from other people who have had long marriages. What defines them is their faithful commitment to God in honoring Jesus with their lives.



If consistency is the metric by which we define faithfulness, where does it start? As a disclaimer there is no perfect way to present this, but the Bible provides several wonderful examples in the lives of the patriarchs and His relationship with the nation of Israel. The greatest of the patriarchs in the context of faithfulness has to be Abraham. Romans 4:3 states, "For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness'". This verse highlights that Abraham's faith, not his



works, was credited to him as righteousness. Faith was what defined His relationship with God. Before Abraham demonstrated faith, God called Him to an extremely unique relationship with Him based on what we now know as the Abrahamic covenant. Part of that covenant was that all people of the earth would be blessed through Him, which is a foreshadowing of our relationship with God through Jesus.

Provided below are descriptions of the “Five C’s” associated with the above graphic to address how we can demonstrate faithfulness as a Fruit of the Spirit.

**Calling:** God initiates relationships with Believers, inviting them into His purpose. His calling is gracious, personal, and anchored in His unchanging love and eternal plan. God also has a unique call on your life, using the combination of gifts, talents, resources, passions, and relationships He has only given you.

**Covenant:** A covenant is an agreement. God establishes a binding promise through Christ to never to abandon His people. His covenant ensures mercy, guidance, redemption, and eternal security, rooted in His trustworthy and faithful character. When you and I put our trust in Jesus at the point of justification (salvation), we entered into a binding covenant with God.

**Commitment:** A central part of being a Believer is commitment, specifically a commitment to God’s call on our lives through Jesus. Our commitment reflects faith in His promises and a desire to walk in obedience and relationship with Him. Our faithfulness can be measured by the commitment and the consistency with which we pursue Him.

**Conviction:** Conviction deepens through the Spirit’s work, affirming God’s truth and anchoring Believers in faith. Convictions strengthen resolve, even when circumstances challenge trust in God’s promises. The deeper the conviction the deeper the commitment. Like a large boulder that’s tough to move, our conviction ensures we are not easily swayed by temptations that lead us astray.

**Consistency:** Faithfulness matures as Believers live consistently using God’s Word. His ongoing presence enables endurance, steady obedience, and a life that reflects His commitment to us. Our commitment to Him is reflected in consistently living a life that honors Him. This often requires that we live sacrificially by giving up things we desire or resisting temptation that draws us away from Him. Consistent living for Jesus is the goal!

#### Questions for Consideration

1. Have you ever been around someone who is (or was) consistently faithful? In thinking about their lives, how would you describe them and what factors seem(ed) to contribute to the faithfulness they exhibit (or exhibited if they are no longer with us)?
2. Make a list of all the factors, contributors, or reasons, either we or others lack faithfulness?
3. Review the Bible passages provided on the back page that in some way address faith and being faithful. Which verse stands out most to you?
4. Why is it sometimes difficult to be faithful? What draws us away from being consistently faithful?



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

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<sup>1</sup> **Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.** <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. <sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup> **And without faith it is impossible to please God,** because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**Hebrews 11:1-6 (BOLD text added)**

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

For we live by faith, not by sight.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

**Romans 10:17**

'Have faith in God,' Jesus answered. 'Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.'

**Mark 11:22-24**

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

**James 2:17**

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 2:20**

