

BEING FAITHFUL IN A FAITHLESS WORLD

Luke 18:8 (NLT)

Jesus: “When I, the Son of Man, return, HOW MANY WILL I FIND ON EARTH WHO HAVE FAITH?”

THE BIBLE TELLS US

#1 GOD IS LOOKING FOR FAITHFUL PEOPLE

2 Chron. 16:9 (LB)

“For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, LOOKING FOR PEOPLE whose HEARTS ARE PERFECT TOWARD HIM, so that he can SHOW HIS GREAT POWER in helping them.”

#2 FAITHFUL PEOPLE ARE HARD TO FIND

Prov. 20:6

“Everyone talks about how FAITHFUL HE IS, but it is DIFFICULT to find SOMEONE who REALLY IS!”

Psalms 53:2-3

“God looks down from heaven at the children of man to see if a SINGLE ONE is WISE and one WHO SEEKS GOD. But ALL HAVE PROVEN FAITHLESS, all have been CORRUPTED, and NOT ONE OF THEM always does right.”

#3 FAITHFULNESS IS THE KEY TO BLESSINGS AND VICTORY

1 John 5:4-5 (CEV)

“Every CHILD OF GOD CAN DEFEAT THE WORLD, and IT IS OUR FAITH that gives us this victory. No one can defeat the world WITHOUT HAVING FAITH IN JESUS AS THE SON OF GOD.”

Prov. 28:20

“A FAITHFUL MAN will be RICHLY BLESSED.”

SIX TESTS OF FAITHFULNESS

1. GOD USES LITTLE THINGS TO TEST OUR INTEGRITY

Luke 16:10

“Whoever is FAITHFUL IN SMALL MATTERS will be faithful in large ones, and whoever is DISHONEST in SMALL MATTERS will be DISHONEST in LARGE ONES.”

Luke 16:12

“And if you have not been FAITHFUL WITH THAT which belongs to SOMEONE ELSE, who will give you WHAT BELONGS TO YOU?”

2. GOD USES OUR TALENTS TO TEST OUR UNSELFISHNESS

1 Peter 4:10

“Each one should USE WHATEVER GIFT HE HAS RECEIVED to SERVE OTHERS, FAITHFULLY ADMINISTERING GOD'S GRACE in its VARIOUS FORMS.”

1 Cor. 4:2 (NIV)

“Now IT IS REQUIRED that those who have been given a trust MUST PROVE FAITHFUL.”

3. GOD USES TOUGH TIMES TO TEACH US PERSISTENCE

2 Cor. 4:16-18 (NLT)

“This is why we NEVER GIVE UP. Though OUR BODIES ARE DYING, our SPIRITS are BEING RENEWED EVERY DAY. For our PRESENT TROUBLES are quite small and WON'T LAST VERY LONG, but they WILL PRODUCE FOR US an IMMEASURABLY GREAT GLORY that WILL LAST FOREVER! So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN. For the TROUBLES WE SEE WILL SOON BE OVER, but the JOYS TO COME WILL LAST FOREVER!”

Galatians 6:9

“Don't get tired of doing what's right. YOU WILL BE REWARDED when the TIME IS RIGHT, IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP.”

4. GOD USES SHORTAGES TO TEST OUR GENEROSITY

Luke 16:9-14 (NLT)

Jesus: “I tell you, USE YOUR WORLDLY RESOURCES to BENEFIT OTHERS and MAKE FRIENDS FOR ETERNITY. In this way, YOUR GENEROSITY stores up a reward FOR YOU IN HEAVEN... BUT if you are UNFAITHFUL WITH YOUR WORLDLY WEALTH, who will trust you with the TRUE RICHES OF HEAVEN?... You CANNOT serve BOTH GOD and MONEY.”

5 PRINCIPLES TO MAKE IT THROUGH TOUGH TIMES

PRINCIPLE #1

GOD GIVES TO GENEROUS PEOPLE

PRINCIPLE #2

**OBEYING GOD'S VISION
WILL BRING GOD'S PROVISION**

PRINCIPLE #3

**WHEN WE DO ALL THAT GOD TELLS US TO DO
HE DOES WHAT WE CAN'T DO**

PRINCIPLE #4

**WHEN WE HAVE A NEED
WE SOW A SEED**

PRINCIPLE #5

**THERE'S ALWAYS A DELAY BETWEEN
SOWING AND REAPING**

SIX TESTS OF FAITHFULNESS

5. FAITHFUL PEOPLE BRING FRIENDS TO JESUS

Matthew 9:2

“Some men BROUGHT TO JESUS a PARALYTIC FRIEND, lying on a mat. When JESUS SAW THEIR FAITH, he said to the paralyzed man, ‘TAKE HEART, SON! YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN.’”

6. FAITHFUL PEOPLE BUILD THE FAITH OF OTHERS

2 Tim. 2:2

“The things you’ve learned from me in the presence of many witnesses you are to ENTRUST TO OTHER FAITHFUL PEOPLE who will also BE QUALIFIED to PASS IT ON TO OTHERS.”

Luke 22:31-32 (LB) (JESUS)

“Peter, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU that YOUR FAITH WILL NOT COMPLETELY FAIL. So AFTER YOU HAVE REPENTED and TURNED TO ME AGAIN, strengthen and BUILD UP THE FAITH OF YOUR BROTHERS.”