

FAITHFULNESS: FIDELITY

FIDELITY TO GOD PRODUCES RELIABILITY TOWARD PEOPLE POINTING OTHERS TO THE CHRIST WHO LIVES IN US

***The biblical definition of faithfulness is “pistis” (Strong's G4102)** - Conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour (intense and passionate feeling) born of faith and joined with it

- **Relating to God**

- The conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ

- **Relating to Christ**

- A strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God
- The religious beliefs of Christians
- Belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same

- **Fidelity, faithfulness**

- the character of one who can be relied on

Faithfulness is both vertical & horizontal | Galatians 5:22-23

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

We hear of His faithfulness, we believe | Romans 10:17

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

We hear, we believe, we become | 2 Corinthians 5:17, 20

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

We hear, we believe, we become, we demonstrate | 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 8

5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,

LET'S OBSERVE THE TEXT...

GOD'S LOVE, AND THE SON'S MISSION

Observe God's solution to restore what sin and death destroyed...His relationship with man.

- **Read Genesis 3:1-7** – “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the _____?’” ... “You will not certainly _____.”
 - Adam and Eve broke **trust** with God by **believing** the lie.
- **Read Romans 5:12-19** – “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made _____, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made _____.”
 - Through one man's **sin** came death, but through one man's **obedience** came life.
- **Read Ephesians 1:3-7** – “For he chose us in _____ before the creation of the world... In him we have redemption through his _____, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, and through His blood we have been redeemed.
- **Read John 3:16-18** – “For God so loved the _____ that he gave his one and only _____.”
 - His love was not partial just to those who would receive the gift of salvation, but His promise of redemption is only for those who do receive it. Man has liberty to choose.
- **Read Luke 19:10** – “For the Son of Man came to _____ and to _____ the lost.”
 - His mission is clear. To save the lost. Not land, not power, not philosophies. He came for sinners, people.

HE NOW LIVES IN US

Observe how being persuaded of Christ's death and resurrection changes our life.

- **Read Romans 10:17** – “Consequently, faith comes from _____ the message, and the message is heard through the _____ about Christ.”
 - The good news (gospel) of salvation must be spoken (and demonstrated in love).
- **Read Romans 6:4** – “We were therefore buried with him through _____ into death... that we too may live a new _____.”
 - Death & resurrection is demonstrated in our lives.
- **Read Galatians 2:20** – “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer _____, but _____ lives in me.”
 - I am no longer the center of my world, it revolves around Christ.
- **Read Galatians 5:22-23** – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, _____ and self-control.”
 - This is the evidence that I have remain persuaded about Christ's life and work. His life is demonstrated in me.

GOD'S FIDELITY IN CHRIST COMMISSIONS US TO BE AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

Observe God's faithfulness as the pattern and power for our faithfulness.

- **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, 20** – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new _____ has come: The old has gone, the new is here! We are therefore Christ's _____.”
 - Our heavenly agenda is clear. Reconcile the lost to the Father.
- **Read Hebrews 11:1, 6** – “Now faith is confidence in what we _____ for and assurance about what we do not _____. And without faith it is impossible to please God.”
 - Faith as conviction and what pleases God.
- **Read 2 Timothy 2:11-12** – “If we died with him, we will also _____ with him; if we endure, we will also _____ with him.”
 - Enduring with Christ, God's unchanging faithfulness.
- **Read Matthew 25:21** – “Well done, good and _____ servant!”
 - Kudos for *faithful* service.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. GROW IT. LIVE IT. SPREAD IT - FAITHFUL SERVICE IN ACTION

Observe how mustard-seed faith grows, multiplies, and persuades others.

- **Read Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19** – “The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ seed... though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden _____.”
 - Mustard seed turns into an invasive plant that spreads like a wildfire.
- **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 8** – “Because our gospel came to you not simply with _____ but also with _____, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction... The Lord's message rang out from you... your faith in God has become known _____.”
 - Faith spreads by word, power, and example.



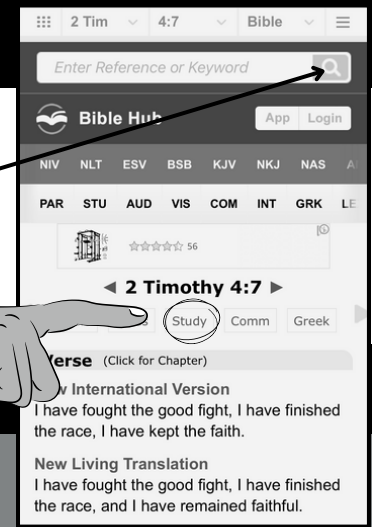
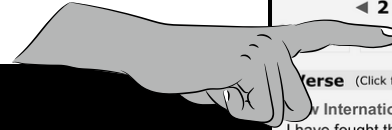
Observe 2 Timothy 4:7

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for **2 Timothy 4:7** in the “Enter Reference or Keyword” box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled “Study”
 - Read the **Study Bible** section.



LET'S INTERPRET

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

Faithfulness in the Bible goes deeper than simple belief. The word “pistis” means conviction and trust so strong it shapes how we live. Toward God, it is confidence that He rules all and brings salvation through Christ. Toward Christ, it is a firm belief that He is the Messiah and the only way to the Father. True conviction produces reliability that others can see.

Humanity’s struggle with faithfulness began in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve **believed** the serpent’s **lie**. Sin entered the world, but God had already planned redemption. Before creation, He chose to send His Son. Jesus’ mission was clear: not to gain power or land but to save the lost (John 3:16–18, Luke 19:10). **His love was the answer to the separation sin created.**

When we hear the gospel and believe, something changes. Romans 10:17 says faith comes by hearing the message about Christ. Romans 6:4 teaches that we are buried with Him in death so that we may live a new life. Paul declared in Galatians 2:20 that he no longer lived, but Christ lived in him. The proof of this new life is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23). Faithfulness is both vertical, in loyalty to God, and horizontal, in reliability toward others...so that they may see God in us.

God’s faithfulness sets the pattern for ours. In Christ we are new creations and ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17, 20). Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Those who endure with Christ will reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:11–12). In the end, the faithful will hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

Jesus compared faith to a mustard seed, small at first but growing into something that spreads and shelters many. The Thessalonians lived this out as their faith “rang out everywhere” (1 Thessalonians 1:5, 8). Real loving fidelity to Christ always multiplies, persuading others by word, power, and example.

Paul finished his life with confidence, saying he had fought the good fight, finished the race, and **kept the faith**. Scripture calls us to examine ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5) and to notice what beliefs may hinder or distract us from our obedience to the message and work of the cross (Galatians 5:6–7), taking inventory of what might be keeping us from a *faith expressed in love*.

Are you convinced that the blood of Jesus still breaks the chains of sin and carries the power of resurrection? When people look at your life, does your faith invite them to taste that same power and find reconciliation with the Father through the Son? This is how revival breaks out. **This is how our land heals. And it starts with us.**

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Applying John 3:16–18** - How does God's love for the world change the way you see people around you who do not yet know Him?
- **Applying Romans 10:17** - What voices are you listening to most? How can you create space to hear the word of Christ more clearly in your daily routine?
- **Applying 2 Corinthians 5:17, 20** - How can you live as an ambassador this week, showing people God's desire to reconcile them?
- **Applying Ephesians 1:3–7** - What does it mean to you personally that God chose you in Christ before the foundation of the world?
- **Applying 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 8** - If someone watched how you lived this week, would they see the gospel in action? How can your faith "ring out" so others are persuaded by your example?
- **Applying Hebrews 11:1, 6** - What are you hoping for that requires faith right now? How does trusting God in unseen areas honor Him?

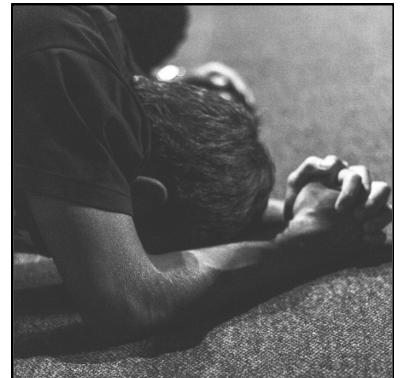
CLOSING SCRIPTURE

37 Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. 38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

-John 10:37-38

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we come before You with humility, confessing that we have not always been faithful to Your agenda. Too often we have listened to lies like Adam and Eve, turning from Your truth instead of trusting Your word. We admit that we have allowed pride, fear, or distraction to pull us away from the mission You have given us. You said in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Lord, we humble ourselves now. We ask for forgiveness where we have fallen short and wandered away from our mission, and we ask You to heal our hearts so we can be whole and faithful to You.



Thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through the blood of Jesus. Help us not to waste that gift but to carry on the ministry of reconciliation with faithfulness and love. Teach us to walk in the Spirit so that our lives display the fruit of faithfulness, reliability, and truth. Make us ambassadors who reflect Christ to the world, pointing others to the cross and resurrection. Restore our conviction and courage, and let our faith spread like the mustard seed that grows into a tree. May our lives call others back to You, and may we remain steadfast until we hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

WHAT'S AHEAD...

Next Week

Fruit of the Spirit: "Gentleness"

Homework

Read Ephesians 4:2