

## FAITHFULNESS

God requires faithfulness of His people. To those who are "faithful until death", He promises "the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). In a world of compromise, we must remain faithful. But what is faithfulness?

At its core, faithfulness involves uncompromising loyalty, unselfish devotion, and undying love. In many ways, it is like the attitude we are called upon to bring into the marriage relationship. As members of the Lord's church, Christians are married to Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:22-32). This implies certain responsibilities not unlike those found in marriage.

Loyalty is essential in marriage. Without it, faithfulness cannot exist. The bride of Christ must be completely loyal if her husband is to enjoy first place in all things (Col. 1:18).

How is such loyalty expressed? In unselfish devotion. Our loyalty to Christ must be expressed by a steadfast devotion which places Christ before everything and anything the world has to offer. There is no earthly pleasure or pursuit so important that Jesus should be relegated to second place. Jesus must be Lord of all if He is to be Lord at all!

Such devotion and loyalty arise from a heart filled with undying love. We love because we have first been loved (1 Jn. 4:19). The love of Christ kindles a fire of loyalty and devotion in the service of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:14-15). Faithfulness will not be shallow where it has arisen from such love.

But, in a more observable sense, faithfulness is known by the work it accomplishes. God has called His people for the purpose of good works (Eph. 2:10). Faith is useless where no good works are produced (Jas. 2:20). But, why do we perform good deeds? The shallow faith operates from guilt and insecurity. The stronger, deeper faith is motivated by love and devotion. The former often leads to frustration. The latter cultivates true joy and peace.

God does not call us into a life of unfulfilled drudgery. Instead, He calls us to steadfast devotion and faithfulness to His cause. Remember, the victorious will be "the called and chosen and faithful" (Rev. 17:14).

- Glen Elliott, Greenbrier Church of Christ, Greenbrier, AR -

## Loyalty To The Lord

Of all the noble traits a Christian may possess, surely **loyalty** is one of the most important! We should never give our Lord any reason to doubt our total fidelity to Him and His cause!

God has been so good to us, and has proven Himself a thousand times over as the One in whom we can have 100% confidence. He has never been "faithless" in all His dealings with His people, nor shall He ever be! Even if we are faithless, "**he abideth faithful**" (2 Tim. 2:13) "**God is faithful ... in Him is yea**"! (2 Cor. 1:18-19; Lam. 3:22-23).

Therefore, in view of God's eternal steadfastness, and the need for us to respond to Him with love and gratitude, may we never waver! Let each resolve from the deep recesses of their heart, "that God can count on me ... **I'll never, no never forsake my dear Lord**" (Remember Rev. 2:10).

- Maxie Boren

(Bulletin Digest)

**FAITH** - Forsaking all I trust Him.

## News Notes

**BEST WISHES:** To Emily Petrock on the birth of a son, Isaac Nathaniel.

**BIBLE MEDITATIONS:** Monday-Friday 12:30-12:35 p.m. on WOHI 1490 AM and 103.9 FM.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. All ladies welcome.

**CONVERT'S CLASS:** Each Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-Noon. Open to all.

**BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:** If you have a Bible question you would like Bro. Rico to answer, please submit in writing before Sunday, Nov. 30th. These will be considered and answered on that date at the p.m. service as time allows.

**PANTRY:** Cranberry juice.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** *Magee Hospital, Pittsburgh:* John Sprout. *At Home:* Peggy Linger, Scharlotte Jones, Harry Huff, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker, Brian Haught (Skip's brother), Micheal Sabol (Karen Strum's daughter-in-law's father). *Serra Manor, Weirton:* Jean Haught (Skip's mother). *Fox, Chester:* Mary Johnson. *Elsewhere:* Herman McHan, 29 Jenny Lane, Columbiana, OH 44408.

## Turkey Time



It's turkey time again and we're looking for a fine, fat, fresh or frozen flock of terrific turkeys to fill our famished freezer. The fabulous featherless flock of fearless fowl will feed our friends and faithful family with a festive feast focusing on the first class fowl flesh.

So folks, fly fast to the grocery store to fetch a fresh or frozen fine, fat and fluffy featherless fowl to furnish a friendly family, facilitating a festive feast.

And remember, **bring a turkey to church!**

