

## Fruit Of The Spirit — Faithfulness

? What is Faithfulness? Conversely, what does it mean to be unfaithful?

? How do words get their definition? When Merriam-Webster or Oxford add a name to the dictionary, what is it that gives a word its meaning? Can you think of any words whose definitions have changed?

### Exodus 3:13-15

Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?”<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”<sup>15</sup> God, furthermore, said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.

? When the Israelites ask what God’s name is, they are asking... who are we putting our faith in? Who is this God that is coming to us?

? At that point in their history, the Israelites may well have not called God their God. In fact, the way they ask for his name, seems to indicate that they don’t even know him anymore. How does God respond to that in his answer?

? When God defines himself based on himself, what more is He telling the Israelites?

? What does this passage make clear about faithfulness?

? If God is unchanging, and his name and character traits are based on himself, what does that tell you about his faithfulness?

### 2 Timothy 2:11-13

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

1. What would it mean for God to deny himself?
2. How does God defining himself as himself give you confidence in his character traits?
3. Which do you consider God's faithfulness to be:
  - a. He is consistent to His own character - aka He is not duplicitous, or,
  - b. He never leaves or forsakes His children (His commitment to you?).
    - Do you think you can have one without the other?
4. Can we use God's faithfulness to mean that He will automatically do what we want or need? Will God ever do anything outside his character?
5. Is God faithful to those who are not aligned with Him?

**Old Faithful** is a cone geyser located in Wyoming, in Yellowstone National Park in the United States. Old Faithful was named in 1870 during the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition and was the first geyser in the park to receive a name. It is also called the most predictable geographical feature on Earth, erupting almost every 91 minutes. The geyser, as well as the nearby Old Faithful Inn, is part of the Old Faithful Historic District.

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Predictability

here is a synonym of faithfulness.

- Is God predictable?  
*See Isaiah 55:8, 2 Tim 2:13, Numbers 23:19, Romans 5:6, Hebrews 13:8*
- How can God be defined as predictable?
- How is God unpredictable?
- How has he been predictable or unpredictable in your life?

Note: We're not the only ones who incorrectly predict what God's going to do...

**Luke 24:13-27**

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

<sup>25</sup>He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

*Here is a clear Biblical example where even what Jesus’ disciples expected to happen proved counter to their expectations. They expected Jesus to be the redeemer (truth), but the very way they saw that to fail was how God did redeem his people (v21 Jesus death for his people).*

### **Psalm 86:11**

Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

? How does knowing God, and understanding him, allow you to rely on his faithfulness?

? Can you have your faith in God + something else?

? What does faith have to do with faithfulness? For example, how does saying “I have faith in you” relate to believing in someone’s faithfulness?

? God isn’t just faithful for one day, month, decade, or millennium. God is eternally faithful, because He is eternal. This puts our transient attempts at being faithful in sharp relief.

The hymn says: “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it.” How are we as children of God faithful?

### **Community Application Question**

How could walking with the Spirit lead to increased faithfulness in your life?