

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

To be a healthy Christian there are some truths we must embrace and walk out in our daily lives. If we have an unhealthy view of who we are and what Jesus has done for us we will fail to walk in the victory that Jesus won for us and will not be fruitful in our Christian lives.

1 PETER 2:2-3 - Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Hebrews 6:1-3 - Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.

Who we are in Christ the key to overcoming our past

Knowing what Jesus has done for us and in us is the key to overcoming the guilt and condemnation of our past.

Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

I am a new creation in Christ

2CO 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

I am alive to God in Christ

ROM 6:11 - In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

I am made righteous in Christ

GAL 2:16 - know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

I am a son of God in Christ

GAL 3:26 - You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

I have Eternal Life in Christ

ROM 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am not Condemned in Christ

ROM 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death

Nothing can stop God from loving me

ROM 8:38-39 - For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I have a place in the body of Christ

ROM 12:4-8 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

I am sanctified in Christ

1CO 1:2 -To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours.

All God's promises are yes to me in Christ

2CO 1:20 - For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

I am triumphant in Christ

2CO 2:14 - But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

There is no race separations - we are one in Christ

GAL 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ

EPH 1:3-4 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

I am raised up to the heavenly realms to sit with Christ

EPH 2:6-7 - And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

I am created to do good works in Christ

EPH 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

I have been brought near to God through Christ

EPH 2:13 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

I will win the prize in Christ

PHI 3:14 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

I have the peace of God in Christ

PHI 4:7 - And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

All my needs are met in Christ

PHI 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

I have been given the fullness of God in Christ

COL 2:9-10 - For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

I am saved and receive grace in Christ

2TI 1:8-10 - So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

PEACE THE KEY TO HEALTH AND HAPPINESS

Peace is the key to health and happiness. We have peace with God which releases condemnation and guilt before God. Living in peace with one another creates a stress free life. Peace also helps us in times of struggle, remember Jesus spoke peace to the storm and the winds stopped.

PEACE WITH GOD

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:6 - The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

Ephesians 2:14 - For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

PEACE HELPS WITH STRESS

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

PEACE AND HEALTH

Proverbs 14:30 - A heart at peace (rest) gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

A person's emotions affect his physical condition. **A heart at peace** (or, "a mind of health," i.e., a healthy disposition) helps produce a healthy **body**, but envy, an ardent agitating desire to have or achieve what one sees in others, produces adverse effects physically your bones.

LIVING AT PEACE WITH ALL MEN

Proverbs 17:1 - Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.

Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Ephesians 4:3 - Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

1 Thessalonians 5:13 - Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

Colossians 3:15 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Hebrews 12:14 - Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Romans 14:19 - Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:22 - Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

PEACE AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Peace - meaning health, welfare, prosperity, every kind of good. "the way of peace" means the way of happiness.

Romans 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:33 - For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints.

Galatians 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

Isaiah 32:17 - The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

James 3:17 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Hebrews 12:11 - No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

FORGIVENESS THE KEY TO YOUR FUTURE

aphiemi (ἀφίημι, 863) signifies “to send away, set free”

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Colossians 2:13 - When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

IF WE FORGIVE – GOD WILL FORGIVE US

Matthew 6:12–14 - Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ ¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Mark 11:25 - And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Luke 6:37 - “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

BLASPHEME OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Matthew 12:22–32 - Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ²³ All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.” ²⁵ Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶ If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? ²⁷ And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. ³⁰ “He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

PARABLE OF THE WICKED SERVANT

Matthew 18:15–35*A Brother Who Sins Against You*

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. ¹⁸ “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. ²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ ***In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.*** ³⁵ ***“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”***

The Lord was teaching that forgiveness ought to be in direct proportion to the amount forgiven. The first servant had been forgiven all, and he in turn should have forgiven all. A child of God has had all his sins forgiven by faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore when someone sins against him, he ought to be willing to **forgive ... from the heart** no matter how many times the act occurs.

RELATIONSHIP THE MEANING TO LIFE

Relationship comes through fellowship. Relationship gives meaning to live. Without relationships our life is lacking.

Genesis 3:8–10 - Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

Genesis 3:17–24 - To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” ²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹ The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” ²³ So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

1 Corinthians 15:21–22 - For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:44–49 - If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

The Curtain was torn

Matthew 27:45–54 - From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”—which means, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” ⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” ⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. ⁵¹ **At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.** ⁵² The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs,

and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

God Values you

Matthew 6:25–34 - "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 John 3:1 - How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

God is never too busy for us

This parable is about Jesus ministering to the little children. The disciples felt that the work of God was too important to take time to spend with little children. There were sick to heal, lepers to cleanse, and the dead to raise. Yet Jesus, stopped in the midst of this busy schedule to touch the children. This shows us that God the Father will never be too busy for us. He will always be available to us any time day or night.

MAT 19:13-15 - Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

God will never leave us

Jesus promised to never leave us or forsake us. God will always be there for us in good times and bad times. You cannot commit one sin and have God leave you.

MAT 28:20 - and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Our Fellowship with God

1 Corinthians 1:7–9 -Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into **fellowship** with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Acts 2:42–43 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Fellowship - *mkoinonia* /koy-nohn-ee-ah - "fellowship" 12 times **1** fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation.

Relationships built on loving

MAR 12:30-33 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

Love one another

JOH 13:34 - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

JOH 15:12-17 - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my

Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

ROM 13:8-9 - Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," *and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule:* "Love your neighbor as yourself."

ROM 12:9-10 - Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

GAL 5:13-16 - You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

EPH 4:2-6 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

HEB 10:24-25 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1PE 1:22-23 - Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1PE 4:8-10 - Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1JO 3:14-19 - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence.

1JO 4:8-21 - Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and

testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Love your enemies

MAT 5:43-48 - "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

LUK 6:27-38 - "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Faithfulness leaving a good name

Faithfulness - absolutely trustworthy, loyal, reliable, true to his word. God is totally reliable and absolutely trustworthy. God is true to his word. The Bible declares that God is not a man that he should lie, and also that he hastens to perform his word.

DEU 7:9 - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

God will not allow his Faithfulness to fail

God is so faithful he promises to keep his Word and not to allow any of his faithfulness to fail. God is revealing to us that his faithfulness cannot fail us. It is impossible for God to forget his promise to us.

PSA 89:30-35 - "If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness and I will not lie to David.

God is Faithful

1CO 1:9 - God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Most often we see faithfulness in connection with God himself. Because God is faithful, he can be trusted completely to carry out his commitments to us in Christ. Faithfulness is also a word which is used to commend believers for their quality of steadfast endurance. God's faithfulness is unending, it endures to all generations.

PSA 36:5 - Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your **faithfulness to the skies**.

PSA 89:2 - I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you **established your faithfulness in heaven itself**.

PSA 119:90 - **Your faithfulness continues through all generations**; you established the earth, and it endures.

DEU 32:4 - He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. **A faithful God who does no wrong**, upright and just is he.

ISA 11:5 - **Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.**

- God is faithful in temptation

This is one of the greatest promises we have. That God would promise to be faithful to us when we are being tempted to sin. God declares himself faithful to deliver us from temptation.

1CO 10:13 - No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

- Compassion's new every morning

God's compassion is new and fresh every morning. Each day we start fresh with the Lord. Great is his faithfulness.

LAM 3:22-23 - Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassion's never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

- Faith in God will establish people

The faithfulness of God is what releases strength and protection from the attacks of the enemy. Because God is faithful to us he will not allow us to fail. Even tho we go through difficult times God will not fail us.

2TH 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

- Faithful is he who also will do it.

This verse has been a great blessing to me personally. God gave me this verse when I was a young man and was desiring to enter the ministry. I had been told that I would never be successful in the ministry. I would never become a good speaker. Yet God called me into the ministry, so I stood on this verse for years, believing that if God had called me he would do it.

1TH 5:24 - The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

- God is Faithful to his promises

God promises to keep what he has said. He told us that he was not a man that he could lie. But what he had spoken surely it would come to pass. God is faithful to his promises.

HEB 10:23 - Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

- Faithful and just to forgive

Not only is God faithful to keep his promises but he is faithful to forgive us of sin if we will come to him and confess it. The enemy would try to convince us that when we sin we are unworthy to come to God. Yet God declares to us that he will be faithful to forgive us if we will come to him.

1JO 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- Jesus Christ is Faithful high Priest

Jesus was faithful to the cross, showing us that God is totally faithful. Since he was faithful to the cross he is able to understand our sufferings and help us when we need him. He has become a faithful high Priest to help us to God.

HEB 2:17 -3:1 - For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Christians are to be faithful

PSA 89:30-35 - "If his sons forsake my law and do not follow my statutes, if they violate my decrees and fail to keep my commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness. I will not violate my covenant or alter what my lips have uttered. Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness and I will not lie to David.

Now that God has established himself as a faithful God. He calls on us as his children to be like he is. He requires us to be found faithful in all that we do. Everything we set our hand to we are to be faithful in. We must be faithful to obey his word and faithful to follow Christ.

Parable of the wise servant

Story of wise servant who prepares while his master is gone, refers to the coming of Christ. In this parable Jesus is emphasizing the need to be faithful even when no one is looking. It also shows us the need to be found faithful in the natural realm. We must be faithful in the normal activities of life.

- MAT 24:32-51** - "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. **"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.** I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Parable of the talents

Different talents given to each, what they did with their talents determined their faithfulness. This is where many Christians are struggling. Many fear stepping out in obedience to the call of God because they think they are not equipped to do the job. God is not seeking experts, just faithful servants.

MAT 25:21-30 - "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Faithful in least

Again Jesus, shares another parable about faithfulness. Revealing how faithfulness develops. It starts small and grows. If we will learn faithfulness in the little things it will be easy to faithful with big things. This is seem with money, few rich people tithe, because they feel they should not give so much money to the church. Yet they are not responsible for what is done with the money only to be faithful to the Lord. If we learn faithfulness to giving when our income is small it is easy to give when that income grows.

LUK 16:10-12 - "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

- Stewards are required to be faithful

A steward is a servant, who gives his life to God. If we are to serve God, we must be faithful in that service. God has entrusted the message of Christ to us, and expects us to be faithful in sharing the good news to others.

1CO 4:1-2 - So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

- Faithful unto death will be given a crown of life

God rewards faithfulness. Even in the midst of persecution we are to remain faithful. God even expects us to be faithful unto death, and promises to give us life as a reward for that faithfulness.

REV 2:10 - Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

- Faithful shall abound with blessings

God also promises to reward the faithful with blessings. God is a rewarder of those who seek him. Faithfulness always brings a reward.

- **PRO 28:20** - A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Patience the Key to surviving a storm

Proverbs 19:11 - A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.

Proverbs 25:15 - Through patience a ruler can be persuaded, and a gentle tongue can break a bone.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 - The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.

Romans 2:4 - Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

2 Corinthians 6:6 - in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;

Galatians 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Colossians 1:11 - being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

1 Timothy 1:16 - But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

2 Timothy 4:2 - Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Hebrews 6:12 - We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

James 5:10 - Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

2 Peter 3:15 - Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

Obedience the key to fruitfulness

Perseverance and patience the key to surviving a storm