



Front Cover

Christian Faithfulness

Faithfulness to Grow in Knowledge

Scripture Reading: II Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:21; 4:15.

- I. Christianity is a Taught and Learned Religion:
 - A. Jesus quoted Isaiah 54:13: “All your children shall be taught by the Lord.” “They shall all be taught by God” (John 6:45).
 1. Taught. This is necessary first.
 2. Heard and learned.
 3. Come to me.
 - B. Knowledge of God and His word is given great emphasis throughout the Bible:
 1. The Hebrew word *been* has a number of uses and definitions:
 - a. Understand (Nehemiah 8:8; Job 13:1; 38:20; Psalm 139:2; Daniel 10:1).
 - b. Perceive (II Samuel 12:19).
 - c. View, regard (Ezra 8:15; Psalm 28:5).
 - d. Discern (Proverbs 7:7).
 - e. Looks well (Proverbs 14:15).
 - f. Consider (Proverbs 23:1).
 - g. Informed (Daniel 9:22).
 - h. Have intelligence (Daniel 11:30).
 - i. Instruct (Daniel 11:33).
 2. The Hebrew word *deh-ag*: what one knows, opinion (Job 37:16).
 3. The Hebrew word *deh-gah*: Knowledge of God (I Samuel 2:3; Job 36:4; Isaiah 11:9).

- C. The word more frequently used and with variety of applications: *jah-dag*.
1. To perceive, to be aware, acquire knowledge, to be acquainted (Genesis 4:1; Genesis 18:19).
 2. To see, observe with the eyes (Isaiah 40:21).
 3. To get to know, discover. To know by experience (Job 5:25; Ecclesiastes 8:5).
 4. To become acquainted with (Numbers 14:31; Genesis 4:17, 25; I Samuel 1:19). An intimacy.
 5. To know by name, face to face (Deuteronomy 34:10; Exodus 33:13, 17).

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6. To know knowledge (Proverbs 17:27).
7. Foresee, expect (Psalm 35:8).
8. Turn the mind to something, care for (Genesis 39:6; Proverbs 9:13; Job 9:21).
9. To know, wise (Psalm 73:22; Isaiah 44:9, 18).
10. To be taught (Proverbs 10:9).
11. To make to know, to show (Job 38:12).

II. The New Testament's Treatment of Knowledge:

- A. *Ginosko*: to perceive, to ascertain by examination, understand, conclude, Christian enlightenment.
- B. Passages to read and consider:
1. If a man chooses to do God's will, he will know, find out (John 7:17).
 2. You shall know the truth (John 8:32; II Thessalonians 2:10). A refusal to love the truth and be saved. Divine arrangement—hear the truth, believe the truth, love the truth, obey the truth, practice, continue in the truth.
 3. I know My sheep; My sheep know Me (John 10:14).
 4. Analyze and categorize the content of these passages (II Corinthians 2:4, 9; 3:2; 8:9; Ephesians 3:19; Philippians 3:10; I John 2:3, 5; 3:19; 4:2; 4:13; 5:2).
- C. Consider there are different degrees or measures of knowledge.
1. You may know a man by name, or fame (Exodus 4:31; Numbers 14:15; Joshua 2:10; 9:9).
 2. You may be acquainted with the history or the doings of one (Exodus 6:7; 9:14; 18:11; Joshua 23:13).
 3. You may know intimately, as a friend, servant, child (John 4:22; II Corinthians 8:9; I John 2:3; 4:2).
- D. Another New Testament word frequently used, *oida*:
1. To know, regard with favor.
 2. Read and classify these passages: Matthew 6:8; 22:29; John 7:15, 29; 16:30; II Corinthians 5:1, 11; Ephesians 1:18; Galatians 2:16;

Philippians 4:12; II Peter 1:12; II Thessalonians 1:8; I Timothy 3:15.

III. Can You Know God? Truth?

- A. You can be taught (Matthew 28:19; John 6:44-45).
- B. It is understandable. It is the common salvation and this makes it common (Jude 3).

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- C. It can be known, perceived. There can be a full cognition of it (Philippians 3:8-10; John 8:32; I Timothy 3:15; II Timothy 3:15).
- D. It can be fully and thoroughly known (I Timothy 4:3; II Peter 2:21; Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17; 4:13; I Timothy 2:4).
- E. Then a different word, *parakoloutheo*, to follow along by the side of (II Timothy 3:10).
- F. The reason you can know the truth:
 - 1. He has revealed it, *apo kalupto*, to take the cover off, unveil (Matthew 11:25; I Corinthians 2:10; Galatians 1:12, 16; Ephesians 3:5).
 - 2. Know: with all of its meanings.
 - 3. See, enlighten, *photize*, photos (Ephesians 3:9).
 - 4. Understand (Ephesians 5:17).

IV. Knowledge would be Impossible or Immaterial if:

- A. Our behavior was dependent upon inheritance.
- B. Environment shaped us to what we are. Influence plays its part (I Corinthians 15:33).
- C. We are what we are because of determinism.
- D. Predestined, instead of taught.
- E. Truth is a purely relative matter.

V. Some things the Knowledge of God's Word does provide:

- A. What He says comes to pass (Numbers 11:23).
- B. More than food (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). It proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. Source.
- C. Precious (I Samuel 3:1).
- D. It should ever be in our tongue (II Samuel 23:2).
- E. Not one of His words has failed. Guarantee (I Kings 8:56).
- F. Frequently admonished to hear it (II Kings 7:1; Isaiah 28:14; John 5:24).
- G. Now take all these passages, classify them and give the key thought relative to the word of God (Psalm 18:30; 33:4; 119:5, 25, 50, 74, 123, 140, 160, 170; Isaiah 37:22; Jeremiah 20:9; 23:29; Ezekiel 1:3; Mark 2:2; 16:20; Luke 4:32; John 1:1-5, 50; 5:38; 8:31; 12:48; 15:3, 7; 17:17, 20; 20:30-31; Acts 2:41; 4:31; 6:7; 12:24; 13:26, 49; 17:11; 19:20; Romans 15:18; II Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 1:13; 5:26; 6:17; Colossians 3:16; I Thessa-

Ionians 1:8; 2:13; II Thessalonians 3:1; I Timothy 4:5; 5:17; II Timothy 2:9, 15; 4:2; Titus 1:9; Hebrews 1:3; 4:13; 5:13; 6:5; 11:3; James 1:18; 1:21; I Peter 1:23-25; 2:2; I John 2:5, 14).

- VI. How can I Grow in that Knowledge? Study. Practice. How?
- A. Study the word of God with personal needs in mind. It will provide every need and longing.
 - B. Study a book, or letter.
 - C. Study characters and draw lessons from their lives (Hebrews 11).
 - D. Study words and verses.
 - E. Study the doctrines of God's word. Contrast them with men's doctrines (Matthew 15:8-9).
 - F. Obey God's word if you would grow in the knowledge of it.

Christian Faithfulness

Faithfulness to Grow in A Positive Attitude

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:3. There are many attitudes possessed by the Christian.

- I. My Attitude toward God:
 - A. I must form and fashion that attitude after Jesus Christ (Read the Text).
 - B. It must be one of submission (Mark 14:36; Luke 11:2; 22:42; John 4:34; 5:30; 7:38; 9:4; 17:24; Romans 2:18; 8:27; 12:2; I Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 1:4; I Thessalonians 4:3; I Peter 2:15).
 - C. I must love Him with my whole being (Matthew 22:37; John 14:15; 15:10; I Corinthians 8:3; I John 5:3).
 - D. I must fear and revere God (Psalm 135:20; Proverbs 1:7; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Hebrews 4:1; 11:7; 12:28; I Peter 1:17; 2:17; I John 4:18; Revelation 14:7). Remember what He did to Adam, Cain, the antediluvian world, Nadab and Abihu, Moses, David, Saul, Israel (Deuteronomy 28:15-19; Ezekiel 19; Matthew 24).
 - E. Attitude has always been important in everything we do:
 1. Giving (Matthew 6:1-4).

2. Praying (Matthew 6:14-15).
3. Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18).
4. Worship (John 4:23-24; I Corinthians 11:27-32).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; 19:1-6; 22:16).

II. My Attitude toward my Brother (Hebrews 10:23-24).

- A. Some things we ought not to do to one another:
1. Wrong and injure one another, quarrel (Acts 7:26).
 2. Judge and accuse one another (Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2:1-15; 14:10-13). Set at naught, hold in contempt.
 3. Puffed up, arrogant, prideful toward one another (I Corinthians 4:6).
 4. Having matters against one another (I Corinthians 6:1).
 5. Bite and devour one another (Galatians 5:15). *Kata*, down plus *esthio*, to eat. So, literally, it is to eat one another down!

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6. Provoking one another and envying one another (Galatians 5:26).
 7. Speak not evil one of another (James 4:1).
 8. Do not grumble and complain against one another (James 5:9).
- B. Kindness is used eighty-eight times in the New Testament; compassion is used forty-three times; and mercy three hundred forty-seven times. The expression one another is used two hundred and fourteen times in the New Testament. Christianity is unique in that it considers the other person first. Its attitude toward and its treatment of the other person makes it superior to any other religion or system of ethics in the world.
- C. Here are some things we should do for one another:
1. Show compassion (I Peter 3:8). This was a chief characteristic of Jesus.
 - a. Pity, feeling of distress to be moved in one's inwards. "Bowels of compassion."
 - b. The Hebrew word meant of the same womb.
 - c. Sympathy, *sumpatheo*, to suffer with, a fellow feeling.
 - d. To have mercy, *eleos*, to have such actions and deeds toward one as to render helpful aid. Our word is *elemosonary*. The first word, *sumpatheo*, has to do with feelings held in the heart. The second word, *eleos*, has to do with actions proceeding from those feelings.
 2. Attitude toward one another:
 - a. Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50).
 - b. Honor one another (John 5:44).
 - c. Prefer one another, *pro*, before plus *ago*, lead or go (Romans 12:10).
 - d. Be kind one to another (Ephesians 4:32).

- e. Unity and harmony among each other; same mind (Romans 12:16).
- f. Forbearing and forgiving one another (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13).
- g. Esteem one another (Philippians 2:3).
- h. Members one of another, closeness (Romans 12:5).
- i. Accept and receive one another (Romans 15:7).
- j. Consider one another (Hebrews 10:24).

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- k. Look to the good and advantage of one another (I Corinthians 10:24-33).
- l. Be courteous and kind to one another (I Peter 3:8-9). Not rude, insulting, cutting, viscous. Good manners (I Corinthians 13:4-7).

D. Our treatment of and deportment toward one another:

- 1. Salute, greet one another (Romans 16:16).
- 2. Serve, slave one another (Galatians 5:13).
- 3. Edify, build his house, one another (Ephesians 4:12).
- 4. Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16).
- 5. Comfort one another (I Thessalonians 4:18).
- 6. Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13).
- 7. Minister to one another, *diakonos* (I Peter 4:10): This kind of service is (1) voluntary (2) rendered out of love (3) unselfishly (4) in the interest and on behalf of another.
- 8. Hospitality toward on another (I Peter 4:9).
- 9. Fellowship with one another (I John 1:7). *Koinonia*, what does it mean?
- 10. Confess to one another (James 5:16).
- 11. Pray for one another (James 5:16).

E. This relationship comes about naturally when:

- 1. We abound in love toward one another (I Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9).
- 2. We love one another with a pure heart (I Peter 1:22).

III. My Attitude toward His Word and those who are lost:

A. This attitude is seen in Paul's examples:

- 1. "I serve the Lord with great humility and tears" (Acts 20:19).
- 2. Night and day (Acts 20:31).
- 3. Fearlessly (Acts 20:27).
- 4. By example (Acts 20:20, 35).
- 5. Publicly and from house to house (Acts 20:20).
- 6. Constant, persistent (Acts 20:18).
- 7. He taught all, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 20:21).
- 8. Extended over a three-year period (Acts 20:31).

9. Why did Paul do all this? Because he cared about lost people, and he believed that the teachings of Jesus were what they needed. He believed that they were: inspired, authoritative, understandable, powerful, indestructible, eternal.

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- B. The example of Jesus:
 1. “The Son of man came to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10; John 10:10).
 2. To serve and give himself (Matthew 20:18; I Timothy 2:6).
 3. Look at all He did for us (Luke 19:41-42; Matthew 23:37; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 2:9-10).
- IV. What will Actuate me to do this?
 - A. “And they were preaching the gospel there” (Acts 14:7).
 - B. What will cause me to go after them (Luke 15:1-7)?
 1. The love of Christ (II Corinthians 5:14).
 2. A sense of obligation (Romans 1:14).
 3. Fear of danger (I Corinthians 9:16).
 4. Consciousness of God’s grace (Ephesians 3:8-10).

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Christian Faithfulness **Faithfulness in Endurance**

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:10; James 1:3; Romans 2:10.

- I. There are many terms in the New Testament which have to do with Faithfulness and Endurance:
 - A. The word faithful (*pistos*) means true and trusty; credible, sure, certain, indubitable (Acts 13:34; I Timothy 1:15). True-hearted, yielding, belief and confidence. This is the kind of person one is when he is faithful.
 - B. It is a subject of large discussion:
 1. Who is a faithful and wise servant (Matthew 24:45)?
 2. God tells us who one is in the judgment (Matthew 25:21).
 3. One could see and judge by the person’s life (Acts 16:15).

4. So many times God is shown to be faithful in every way (I Corinthians 1:9; II Thessalonians 3:3; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 10:23; I John 1:9; Revelation 1:5). We ought to be faithful because: (1) God is faithful to us and (2) we must be faithful to be saved.
5. Faithful men are those to whom the word of God should be committed (II Timothy 2:2).

II. Endurance, *hupomones*: There are many other words, which define and describe “endure.”

- A. This term is also translated “patience.”
 1. Bring forth fruit (Luke 8:15).
 2. Patient continuance in well doing (Romans 2:7).
 3. Tribulation works patience (Romans 5:3-4).
 4. The trying of your faith (James 1:3-4).
 5. Add (II Peter 1:6).
 6. Run (Hebrews 12:1).
 - B. There is the word, *anakomai* to bear with, to endure patiently.
 1. In all your tribulations (II Thessalonians 1:4).
 2. Sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:3).
 - C. Another word is *kartereo* which means to be strong, to endure or bear up with fortitude (Hebrews 11:27).
 - D. Then there is the word, *remain*, endurance “*meno*.”
 1. To everlasting life (John 6:27).¹⁸
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2. Word of the Lord (I Peter 1:25).
 3. But here are some things in which we are encouraged to remain:
 - a. Abide in Christ (John 15:4-9).
 - b. If what he has built survives (I Corinthians 3:14).
 - c. His righteousness (II Corinthians 9:9).
 - d. Christian women (I Timothy 2:15).
 - e. Continue (remain) in what you have learned (II Timothy 3:14).
 - f. Love for each other (Hebrews 13:1).
 - E. There is the word *phero*: to bear or to carry (Romans 9:22; Hebrews 12:20).
 - F. *Hupomeno* is translated endurance:
 1. All things for the elect’s sake (II Timothy 2:10).
 2. Blessed is the man who perseveres (James 1:12).
 - G. Keep in memory the gospel (I Corinthians 15:2).
 - H. *Hupophero*, to bear up under (II Timothy 3:11; I Peter 2:19).
 - I. *Kakopatheo*, to suffer evil. To show endurance in trials and afflictions (II Timothy 2:3).

- J. *Makrothumeo* comes from two words, *Mekos*, length (Ephesians 3:18), plus *Thumos*, a strong passion or of the mind. Hence, to be long or patient-minded (Hebrews 9:15).
- III. Hold Fast: *Kateko*. To what?
- A. That which is good (I Thessalonians 5:21).
 - B. Traditions; teachings (II Thessalonians 2:15; II Timothy 1:13).
 - C. Eternal life (I Timothy 6:12, 19).
 - D. Confidence (Hebrews 3:6).
 - E. See also (Hebrews 3:14; 4:14; Revelation 2:25; 3:3; 3:1).
 - F. Hold fast the ordinances (I Corinthians 11:2)
 - G. Keep in memory the gospel (I Corinthians 15:2).
 - H. Retained (Philemon 11).
 - I. Keep word (Luke 8:15).
 - J. Seize (Matthew 21:38).
- IV. Closely Associated with this term is “Forsake” (*Egkatalaipo*) to leave, forsake, abandon.
- A. Read these passages in which the word is found: II Timothy 4:10, 16; Hebrews 13:5; Acts 2:27.
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- B. Give special attention to Hebrews 10:25: Why were some forsaking?
 1. Fear of reprisals. Unpopular and dangerous.
 2. Felt no interest in it.
 3. Doubts about the necessity of it.
 4. Engaged in business and other activities.
 5. Get the best out of all religions.
 6. Some returned to Judaism. This had been the warning (Hebrews 6).
 - C. What was the sin they committed in forsaking (Hebrews 10:29)?
 1. Trampled under foot the Son of God. (Note the use of this term in the New Testament.)
 2. Counted the blood of the covenant unholy (common).
 3. Despised the Spirit of grace.
 - D. What were the consequences of forsaking (Hebrews 10:26-31)?
 1. No more sacrifice for sins.
 2. Fury of fire.
 3. More severe than under Moses.
 4. God will recompense.
 5. Fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - E. What should be done to those who forsake (II Thessalonians 3:6)?
- V. The Strong and Continued Admonition is to Continue:
- A. Well illustrated in the narratives of Luke 15.
 - B. There are some things in which the Christian is admonished to continue:

1. Grace (Acts 13:43).
 2. Goodness (Romans 11:22).
 3. Abide or persist in belief (Romans 11:23).
 4. In the flesh (Philippians 1:24).
 5. Faith (Colossians 1:23).
 6. In all those Christian qualities (I Timothy 4:16).
- C. The same word is used without the preposition:
1. Abide in me (John 15:4-9) to which reference has been made.
 2. It is, nonetheless, very strong.
- D. This persistence, remaining, produces a spirit of endurance. The practice, with God's help, does that:
1. Tribulations (II Thessalonians 1:4).

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2. Trying of your faith (James 1:3-4).
3. Running (Hebrews 12:1).
4. Adding (II Peter 1:5).
5. Endure all things for other Christians (II Timothy 2:10).
6. Afflictions (II Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 10:32).
7. Grief and suffering (I Peter 2:19; II Corinthians 1:6; 6:4).
8. Chastening (Hebrews 12:7).

- VI. How Can the Christian Accomplish This?
- A. Let God say something to you every day.
 - B. Say something to God every day.
 - C. Say something for God every day.
 - D. Do something for God every day. "He went about doing good." Do not neglect.

12

Christian Faithfulness **Faithfulness in Prayer**

Scripture Reading: I Timothy 2:1-4; Matthew 26:39; Acts 4:31.

- I. Old Testament Definitions and uses of Prayer:
 - A. To petition: Hebrew (Daniel 6:11).

- B. To entreat grace: Hebrew (II Chronicles 6:37).
 - C. To judge self; to pray habitually: Hebrew, (Genesis 20:17; I Kings 8:10-11; Ezra 10:1; Nehemiah 1:4; 2:4; Jonah 2:1; 4:2).
 - D. To bend or bow: Hebrew (Ezra 6:10; Daniel 6:10).
 - E. To bow down, meditate: Hebrew (Psalm 55:17; 64:1).
 - F. Smooth down: Hebrew (Zechariah 8:21-22).
 - G. Song of praise: Hebrew (I Kings 8:54; Daniel 9:17).
- II. New Testament Definitions and uses of Prayer:
- A. Beseeching, supplication: Greek: (Luke 2:37; Romans 10:1; Philippians 1:4; II Timothy 1:3; James 5:16).
 - B. To want, beseech: Greek: (Luke 10:2; Acts 4:31; 8:22; 10:2; I Thessalonians 3:10).
 - C. To ask or interrogate: Greek: (Luke 14:18; John 14:16).
 - D. To wish: Greek: (II Corinthians 13:7; James 5:16).
 - E. To call for, alongside of: Greek (Acts 16:9; 24:4).
 - F. To wish for others: Greek: (Matthew 5:44; 6:6; Mark 1:35; 14:32; Luke 6:28; 9:18; Acts 1:24; 14:23; 21:5; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 1:9; I Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:13-14). It may be noted that when Greek words are compounded, that is, preposition is added to the verb, generally the word is intensified or made stronger.
 - G. Intercession: Greek (I Timothy 4:5).
 - H. Pouring out: Greek (Matthew 21:22; Luke 6:12; Acts 1:14; 2:42; 10:31; Romans 1:9; Philippians 4:6).
- III. A List of Several kinds of Prayer:
- A. Thanks and thanksgiving. Request: look at the number of times these terms are used in the Bible, selecting the ones that have a particular interest and meaning to you.
 1. The word most frequently used in the New Testament is *charis*. This word means grace or favor. There are variations of this root word (I Timothy 1:12; II Timothy 1:3; I Corinthians 15:57; II Corinthians 9:15).
 2. There is the word *eucharisteo*. The added strength to this word is *eu* which seems to say, "to give thanks well" (Matthew 26:27; I Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:16; I Thessalonians 2:13; Philemon 4).
 3. There are other strong terms and even different terms for prayer, but these serve to inspire us to further study and understanding of what prayer is and ought to be.
 - B. Praise. There are two words for praising God, and another, which has to do with our recognition of and our showing honor to men.
 1. To speak well, *eulogeo* (Luke 1:64).

- 2. To praise, *aineo* (Luke 2:20; 24:53; Acts 2:47; 3:8; Romans 15:11).
 - C. Asking (See passages in Old and New Testaments).
 - D. Beseeching, begging.
 - E. Intercession (Acts 8:24; James 5:16).
 - F. Meditation.
- IV. Upon what Grounds will our Prayers be heard by the Lord?
- A. Our hearts are in the right attitude (II Kings 20:2-6).
 - B. That we will listen to Him (Proverbs 28:9).
 - C. That our desires are not selfish (James 4:2-3).
 - D. That we be free from doubt (James 4:6-7; Matthew 21:22).
 - E. That we ask according to His will (I John 5:14).
- V. How Does God Answer Our Prayers?
- A. He may say yes (James 5:17; II Kings 20:2-6).
 - B. He may say no (Luke 22:42; II Corinthians 12:8).
 - C. He may say not now (Numbers 11:13. Defer it).
 - D. He may give something different but better for us (II Chronicles 1:9-12).

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