

HOW IS FAITHFULNESS MEASURED?

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Is there any room for doubt in our mind that faithfulness to the Lord is required of us?
2. Since the only begotten Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of the virgin Mary, was required to obey the Father in order to accomplish his mission on earth, is there any doubt we must do the same?
3. Can this required faithfulness to the Lord be “measured,” ascertained, determined, or defined?
 - a. If so, how?
 - b. If not, how can we ever know whether or not we are meeting the Lord’s requirements of faithfulness?
4. Hopefully, by considering the following examples, we will be able to answer our questions satisfactorily.
5. We learn:

II. DISCUSSION

A. BY CONSIDERING HOW WE KNOW GOD IS FAITHFUL.

1. The Scriptures affirm that God is faithful, 1Cor.1:9; 10:13; 1Th. 5:24; 2Th.3:3; 2Tim.2:11-13; Heb.10:23; 11:11; 2Pet.3:9.
 - a. Cf. Psa.89:1,2,30-36; 119:90.
 - b. Cf. God “cannot lie,” Tit.1:2; Heb.6:18.
2. We have the truth of this confirmed by various examples of his faithfulness to his word both to his promises of blessings and his warnings of wrath in the O.T. and in the N.T. during the age of miraculous gifts.
3. He always did what he said he would do, whether a blessing or a curse; this is how we know God is faithful.

B. BY CONSIDERING THE FAITHFULNESS OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD.

1. As God, the Father, is said to be faithful, so Jesus is declared to be, 1Jno.1:9; Rev.1:5; 3:14.

2. Furthermore, Jesus is the perfect example of what it means to be faithful in fulfilling the mission he voluntarily accepted in coming to this earth requiring his perfect obedience to the Father's will.
 - a. Scriptural proof is as follows, Jno.6:38; 8:28,29; 9:4; 12:49,50; 17:4; Mt.26:39,42; Heb.5:8,9.
 - b. Moreover, he did it perfectly without once failing, 1Pet.2:21,22; Lk.23:41; Jno.8:46; 2Cor.5:21; Heb.4:15.
3. Even though he was the Son of God, faithfulness was required of him; and by the example he set while in the flesh he proved to us what faithfulness means, how it is measured, ascertained, determined, or defined. In other words, what it means to obey or to be faithful to one's mission.

C. BY CONSIDERING THE FAITHFUL EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL, THE LORD'S CHOSEN APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES.

To summarize we note:

1. His commission as an apostle along with three of his preaching journeys that are recorded in the Book of Acts.
2. His additional 13 Epistles, from Romans through Philemon, and a possible 14th, the book of Hebrews, that fully catalog his faithfulness to his divine commission, all through its successes, joys, trials, tribulations and tests of his faith and service to the Lord.
3. His final statement in 2Tim.4:6-8 which sums up for us what it means to be faithful, how it is measured, ascertained, determined, and or defined.

D. FINAL QUESTION: DOES THE LORD REQUIRE US, AS HIS DISCIPLES, BAPTIZED BELIEVERS, TO BE FAITHFUL?

1. The scriptures answer with an emphatic "Yes"!
2. It is explicitly stated that we must, by faith, obey him, Heb.5:8,9; Jno.12:48; Rev.2:10; 1Pet.2:21,22; Mt.7:21; Lk.6:46; 12:47,48; Jno.13:17.

3. James spells it out for us as being by faith, but by an obedient faith – or by “the obedience of faith,” Jas.2:14-26. Cf. Rom.1:5; 6:16-18; 16:25,26.
- 4 In fact, Rom.6 declares what life after baptism is all about – i.e., being committed servants of God as servants of righteousness unto holiness, Vv.16-23.
5. Finally we are reminded of Jas.2:10.

III. CONCLUSION

1. Surely, by considering how we know God is faithful, how the example of Jesus Christ defines faithfulness, as well as the example of the great apostle Paul, we are able to understand how faithfulness is measured, ascertained, determined and/or defined by the word of God.
2. In fact, by considering such biblical examples of faithfulness, how can we fail to see what it means to obey or to be faithful to one’s mission as servants of the Lord?
3. Now, in light of this, remember that when we by faith obeyed the gospel confessing allegiance to Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, the Son of God, we actually took an oath to obey him, to be faithful to him! Cf. Num.30:2; 1Kgs.2:43; Mt.5:37; Heb.6:16.
4. Will we be true to our oath? To our commitment unto the eternal salvation of our soul?
5. If not, consider the alternative!