

FAITHFULNESS



*His mercies are
new every morning;
Great is Thy
faithfulness*

Lamentations 3:23

FAITHFULNESS: DEVELOPING REAL “PISTOS” IN MY LIFE

A STORY LIKE GREY FRIARS ‘BOBBY’: ILLUSTRATIVE STORY OF THE ‘FAITHFUL’ PERSON, AND THEIR LIVES,
DEFINED BY ETERNAL LOYALTY, SEEN IN THE LIFE OF ELIJAH

- 1. One of the terms** that describe the real “fruit of the spirit” is one that reminds us of the essential quality of Grey Friar’s Bobby, the little dog that tells us of lasting ‘faithfulness’. Like all of the terms that have gone before this one in that list, they all have certain common traits and they all come together to produce one common fruit that endures the struggles we face in life.
- 2. The term for “faithfulness”** is the Greek term ‘pistos’, the word one would use to describe someone who is **loyal** to that body of teachings that define a movement. It is a very **common** word, reflecting a most **uncommon** sense of loyalty. This term, is used in an easy going type of mindset, one where those qualities of looseness, give and take, but always family, no matter what, the things which are so essential in all family relationships. **It requires commitment and constitution more than any thing else.**
- 3. This term’s great opposite** is all of the attributes that would go together to make up a wavering and unstable mindset. Rather, this is the term that would fulfill the requirements **of Hosea 6:6**, where the principal understanding of real religion is not found in being ritually pure and perfect, but in having hearts that are more defined by loyalty and love than anything else. It is an idea that supports the dictums of righteousness without over looking the process of growing. It is thus an active word of process, of the going towards something. It is not super critical.
- 4. God is the ultimate example in this matter.** Look at how diverse we all are, and yet God tolerates us and loves us and works with us as one. He understands the uniqueness of each of our modes of communicating our dedicated faithfulness to Him and He approves. It is much like the nature of our love languages in one sense. When we say we love someone in a manner that does not communicate our love, the message of that love never reaches the other’s heart, and we feel in return that our efforts are in vain and or the other person is not faithful because they do not speak the same ‘faithfulness language’. We need to be careful to understand ‘faithfulness’ from God’s perspective rather than from our own.
- 5. THEREFORE** we can say that the qualities that go together to make up ‘faithfulness’ are:…
 - ✓ **Balance:** a parallel line of thought is the statement of “be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect…” Tolerant of imperfections while promoting growth towards real maturity.
 - ✓ **Priority Identification:** A knowledge of what is really true and how everything in your life should fit together in light of that primary truth. We must identify that truth and then magnify it every day.

- ✓ **Dedication:** Single eyed living while being an easy going, accepting person. A relentless pursuit of good relationships where everyone is authentic and has a place in our hearts.
- ✓ **Striving:** In real time, living each day knowing that you have planned to do some special thing for God. It is full on living for Jesus with the good of the body foremost in our minds.

6. **The great question is**, “how do we become more like the ‘faithful’ character of the person who has decided to make Christianity the long term commitment that is requested here in **Galatians 5:22**”

7. Let me suggest we remember these four stories from the life of Elijah:

ELIJAH AND THE CALL: *From total obscurity, without anyone really knowing Him Elijah the Tishbite comes out to serve Yahweh, just as his name declares God to be his God, he makes the great declaration with his living that he belongs to God, totally no matter what is going on.*

ELIJAH AND THE QUEEN: *Remember who the real authority is and have faith in Him, speaking for Him, inviting others to Him, devoting special time to Him and keep it as a sacred time: know your enemy but first know your real God, and serve Him openly*

ELIJAH AND THE RAVENS: *When your belly is empty, and your enemies are actively, -seeking your soul, trust God and His church, turn your face to God and not your pain, accepting God’s little gifts of a morsel of grain and His big gifts of adoption as His children*

ELIJAH AND ‘BAAL BOYS’: *don’t go hide, but go out and do something that tells the world that you are God’s servant – show your faith in an open and public way... Be bold and be a committed soul.*

--Similar to the story of Elijah but yet maybe more real for us, are the stories of people like Jonathan who stayed loyal to David, even until his death, He constantly returned to his friendship with David in spite of many external pressures. When you saw Jonathan you saw a friend to David that went beyond any mere family tie and or any mere problem that they faced.

Like Elijah, Johnathan was a staunchly loyal person and you knew it by the way that he lived his life. There never was even a hint of divided loyalty, or of a wavering faith, found in Him.

That is the type of person we must seek to be, to own a piece of the fruit of the spirit of God, FAITHFULNESS, to share in an attribute of God’s desired character.

So, like Samson who made his way back to God, of Mark who wavered but came back and wrote for God, and myriads of examples more, remember the God theses great men served. **STAY WITH GOD; BE EVER FAITHFUL.**

TERMS FOR AND QUALITIES OF “FAITHFULNESS”

The English language is one of the those languages distinguished by very large vocabularies. It is just one of the traits that identify the whole “English“ language experience. Where other languages make do with one word to mean a great many things, English has a whole additional set of terms to identify particular nuances of meaning. One of the terms in English, ‘faithfulness’ is such a term. A very quick look in Roget’s Thesaurus will show a true multitude of terms that either are synonyms for nuances of the term, or else words that mean the exact opposite of the term. These synonym’s and antonym’s can, by themselves alone, describe all that is meant by the very limited number of terms in Koine Greek that are translated as “faithfulness” in English. In the next few pages you will find this list.

If one were to make a study of all of these synonyms and antinomy’s, one would very close to understanding what the one single Koine term “pistos” is all about.

The Koine Greek term for “faithfulness” are all based on just one primary word:

“Pistos” / “Pistis”: trustworthy, faith-filled, worthy, believing, keeper of promises, trusted servant, reliable.

Synonyms for faithful, ‘pistos’ *adj* loyal, reliable

- resolute
- sincere
- hard-core
- conscientious
- ardent
- staunch
- devoted
- trusty
- steadfast
- dependable
- scrupulous
- obedient
- truthful
- loving
- affectionate
- honorable
- upright
- dutiful

- honest
- trustworthy
- patriotic
- firm
- constant
- straight
- steady
- fast
- circumspect
- dyed-in-the-wool
- enduring
- genuine
- incorruptible
- on the level
- sure
- tried
- tried and true
- true-blue
- unchanging
- unswerving
- unwavering

- veracious
- allegiant
- true
- attached
- behind one
- confiding
- string along with

Antonyms for faithful

- irresolute
- dishonest
- untrustworthy
- irresponsible
- unscrupulous
- disloyal
- undependable
- unreliable
- negligent
- unfaithful
- disobedient

- lying
- untruthful
- faithless
- fraudulent
- unstable
- changeable
- unsteady
- inconstant
- untrue
- inaccurate
- inexact
- uncertain
- weak
- careless
- corrupt
- cold
- cool
- disliking
- false
- flexible
- loose
- wavering
- unfixed
- treacherous
- different

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- **accurate**
adj. **precise**
- authentic
- careful
- close
- concrete
- correct
- defined
- definite
- deft
- detailed
- discriminating
- discriminative
- distinct
- exact
- explicit
- factual
- faithful
- genuine
- judicious
- just
- literal
- matter-of-fact
- methodical
- meticulous
- on the button
- on the money
- on the nose
- particular
- proper
- punctilious
- punctual
- regular
- right
- rigid
- rigorous
- scientific
- scrupulous
- severe
- sharp
- skillful
- solid
- specific
- strict
- systematic
- true
- ultraprecise
- unerring
- unmistakable
- veracious
- **ardent**
adj. **loyal**
- allegiant
- constant
- devoted
- faithful
- resolute
- steadfast
- true
- **authentic**
adj. **real, genuine**
- accurate
- actual
- authoritative
- bona fide
- certain
- convincing
- credible
- creditable
- dependable
- factual
- faithful
- for real
- legit
- legitimate
- official
- original
- pure
- reliable
- sure
- true
- trustworthy
- trusty
- twenty-four carat
- valid
- veritable
- authoritative

**adj. recognized as true,
valid**

- accurate
- attested
- authentic
- authenticated
- circumstantiated
- confirmed
- definitive
- dependable
- documented
- factual
- faithful
- learned
- legit
- proven
- reliable
- righteous
- scholarly
- sound
- straight from the
horse's mouth
- supported
- trustworthy
- truthful
- validated
- verified
- veritable

CLOSE

adj. accurate, precise

- conscientious
- exact
- faithful
- lifelike
- literal
- resembling
- similar
- strict

CONSCIENTIOUS

adj. thorough, careful

- complete
- diligent
- exact
- exacting
- faithful

- fastidious
- fussy
- hanging in
- hanging tough
- heart and soul into
- heedful
- meticulous
- minding p's & q's
- painstaking
- particular
- playing safe
- punctilious
- punctual
- reliable
- tough
- walking on eggs