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### From Faith to Faithfulness

Series: *The Fruit of the Spirit – Living a Life that Pleases God*  
Galatians 5:22

**Faithful:** Loyal, constant, steadfast, reliable, trustworthy.

**Galatians 5:16–18 (NIV)** — 16 So I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 **For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.** They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV)** — 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**Central Thought:** Faithfulness is a confident, active obedience to God in response to his faithfulness to us, and grows as we learn to walk by the Spirit.

❖ God is the truly faithful one.

**Deuteronomy 7:9–11 (NIV)** — 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 commandments. 10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. 11 Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today. (See also Psalm 25:10)

❖ God's faithfulness is demonstrated most fully through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

**Colossians 1:21–23 (NIV)** — 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 **But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation**—23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (See also vs.15-23; Romans 5:8)

**Revelation 5:9–10 (NIV)** — 9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” (See also all of chapter 5 and 19:11-13)

❖ The Circle of Faith: Faithful action in response to God's faithfulness increases my faith and leads to greater faithfulness.

**Romans 4:18–22 (NIV)** — 18 Against all hope, **Abraham in hope believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 19 **Without weakening in his faith**, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20 **Yet he did not waver through unbelief** regarding the promise of God, but **was strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, 21 **being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.** 22 This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”

### Homework

❖ Read Hebrews chapter eleven and the “See also” passages above and consider your faith and faithfulness in light of God's faithfulness.