

# Faithfulness

by A.W. Pink

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*A.W. Pink's sermon emphasizes the critical importance of faithfulness in ministry and the Christian life, highlighting its cost and divine rewards.*

**Scripture:** Numbers 12:7, Psalm 31:23, Proverbs 13:17, Jeremiah 23:28, Daniel 6:4, 1 Corinthians 4:2, 1 Corinthians 4:17, Galatians 3:9, 1 Timothy 1:12, Revelation 2:10

**Topics:** "Faithfulness", "Loyalty to God"

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## Description

A.W. Pink emphasizes the critical importance of faithfulness in ministry, asserting that it is a non-negotiable requirement for those appointed as stewards of God's Word. He highlights that true faithfulness involves loyalty to Christ, unwavering commitment to preaching the truth, and the courage to stand firm against popular opinion. Pink illustrates this with examples from Scripture, noting that faithful servants like Abraham, Moses, and Paul were marked by their steadfastness despite personal costs. He warns that in a world rife with disloyalty and compromise, ministers must rely on God's promises to sustain their faithfulness. Ultimately, Pink calls all believers to embody this virtue, reminding them that faithfulness is essential for both ministers and the wider church community.

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## Transcript

"It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2). From the preceding verse it is clear that the Apostle was having reference to the ministers of Christ, those whom He has appointed to act as officers in His churches. Other virtues are desirable, but fidelity is imperative. No matter how gifted a man may be, if he is untrue to this trust, he is an offense unto Christ and a stumblingblock to His people. Ministerial faithfulness includes loyalty to his Master, devotion to His interests, steadfast adherence to the preaching of His Word, dispensing the Truth unto those whose souls are committed to Him, not mixing it with speculations, much less substituting false doctrine. A far higher motive than the pleasing of his hearers must actuate and regulate ministerial service.

Those who have been much used of God have ever been men in whom this grace of faithfulness was outstandingly prominent. The father of all who believe is expressly designated "faithful Abraham" (Gal. 3:9). Concerning Moses the Lord testified, "who is faithful in all His house" (Num. 12:7). What a blessed witness is that borne to Daniel: "Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful" (Dan. 6:4). Of himself Paul wrote, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me

faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1 Tim. 1:12). Concerning Timothy he testified, "For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord" (1 Cor. 4:17). What is now being recorded in the Lord's "book of remembrance" of you and me, fellow-minister?

Loyalty to God has always been a costly matter, but individual faithfulness has never involved more personal sacrifice than it does in this day of abounding disloyalty, hypocrisy and compromise. Faithful preaching will render the minister unpopular, and will empty, not "fill" churches. It will close doors against him, and if he be without a charge he will find his services are not wanted. It cost Joseph something to be faithful! It did Daniel; it did Paul; and it does every minister of Christ in this degenerate and adulterous age. How necessary it is then for the minister to strengthen his heart by laying hold of those promises which are specially given to faithfulness. Here is one of them: "the LORD preserveth the faithful" (Psa. 31:23)--from those rocks upon which so many self-seekers make shipwreck.

"He that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully" (Jer. 23:28): no matter how unpalatable it may be to the flesh, how much of a weariness to those who wish to have their ears tickled with novelties, or how loud be the outcry against it. "A wicked messenger falleth into mischief; but a faithful ambassador is health" (Prov. 13:17): that is, he maintains his own soul in good health, and exerts a healing influence upon others. "A faithful witness will not lie" (Prov. 14:5): he who maintains a pure conscience before God will not dare to give forth a testimony which he knows to be untrue. Nor will he to obtain the good-will of men represent anything to be other than it is. Consequently, "He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness" (Prov. 12:17): that is, by making conscience of veracity and integrity, he makes it clear that he is governed by the principle of righteousness.

How much there is in Scripture to stimulate the minister unto fidelity! "A true (Hebrew, "faithful") witness delivereth souls" (Prov. 14:25), and he is the only one who ever does so. Souls are caught fast in the meshes of Satan's lies, and nothing but the sword of God's Truth can cut them free. However unpopular he may be among men, the faithful witness is approved of and is pleasing to God. "As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters" (Prov. 25:13). Yes, such are "a sweet savour to God" (2 Cor. 2:15). What holy encouragement is there here for the hearts of the Lord's servants! What rich compensation for the slights and sneers of men!

For there is no faithfulness in their mouths.... they flatter with their tongues" (Psa. 5:9). There is the identifying mark of the "hireling," the false witness. He aims at pleasing his hearers, making them feel satisfied with themselves, ever patting them on the back. But what are the springs from which integrity and fidelity issue? First, faith. It is striking to note that both in the Hebrew and the Greek the same word does duty for both "faith" (the noun) and "faithfulness" (the adjective). Unbelief, then, is the root of unfaithfulness.

Second the fear of God: "I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many" (Neh. 7:2). There is nothing like the fear of God to deliver us from the fear of men. Third, love of God, for where that is warm there must be the desire to please Him at all costs.

But let not the reader suppose that this grace is something restricted to Christ's ministers: not so, God requires it from all His people. This is clear from the opening verses of Ephesians, which is distinctly addressed to "the faithful in Christ Jesus." Much of what has been said above applies with equal force to the rank and file of the saints. They, too, will find that loyalty to God and fidelity to His Word will cost them

not a little in the world today, where there is so much pretence, sham, and double dealing. It will result in their receiving the "cold shoulder" even from many of those who profess to be fellow- Christians. But this must not deter them: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10), is the grand word to lay hold of.

Faithful people have always been in a marked minority. "Help, Lord, for the godly men ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Psa. 12:1), cried David. Note how those two characteristics are conjoined, for piety and honesty are inseparable --compare "good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:23). So, too, Solomon exclaimed, "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find" (Prov. 20:6). Why is this? Because it is the part of fallen human nature to take the line of least resistance and choose the path easiest to the flesh. But remember, my reader, whoever you be, "lying lips are abomination to the LORD; but they that deal truly (Hebrew, "faithfully") are His delight" (Prov. 12:22). Here is another of the Divine promises specially addressed to the faithful: "A faithful man shall abound with blessings" (Prov. 28:20): the true way to be happy is to be holy and honest. He who is true to God and man will be blest of Him. O that it may be said of us, "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers" (3 John 5).

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