

Faithfulness - Being Called Out & Into

by Stephen Kaung

God is looking for people who are faithful to Him, not just called or chosen, but faithful to the very end.

Duration: 59:15

Scripture: Lamentations 2:10, Luke 16:10, Revelation 2:10

Topics: "Faithfulness"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of faithfulness to God. He refers to the letters to the churches in Revelation, specifically the letter to the church in Smyrna, which encourages believers to remain faithful despite tribulation. The preacher explains that the ten days of tribulation mentioned in the letter symbolize a short period of time. He also highlights God's faithfulness throughout history, citing examples such as the covenant with Abraham and the promise to David. The sermon concludes by discussing the ongoing spiritual war between God and Satan, and the ultimate victory of the Lamb of God and his faithful followers.

Transcript

Will you please turn again to Revelation, Chapter 17. Revelation, Chapter 17, verse 14. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and they that are with Him, called and chosen and faithful.

Second Timothy, Second Timothy, Chapter 2. We read from verse 11 through verse 13. Second Timothy, Chapter 2, verse 11. The Word is faithful, for if we have died together with Him, we shall also live together.

If we endure, we shall also reign together. If we deny, He will also deny us. If we are unfaithful, He abides faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Lamentations, Lamentations, Chapter 3. We read from verse 22 through verse 24. Lamentations, Chapter 3, verse 22. It is of Jehovah's lovingkindness we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness. Jehovah is my portion, saith my soul, therefore will I hope in Him.

Revelation, Chapter 2, verse 10. Fear nothing of what thou art about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast of you into prison, that ye may be tried, and ye shall have tribulation ten days.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee the crown of life. And finally, Luke, Chapter 16. The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 16.

We read from verse 10 through verse 12. He that is faithful in the least is faithful also in much, and he that is unrighteous in the least is unrighteous also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous manner, who shall entrust to you the truth? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another's, who shall give to you your own? Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, our hearts are full of joy and thanksgiving, because such as we are, and yet Thou hast called us unto Thyself. We are Thy children, and we have the rights, the privilege to come to Thee, to call Thee up, our Father, and to worship Thee. O our Father, how we do thank Thee for all Thy mercy, lovingkindness and grace.

And, Father, as we continue in Thy presence, we do ask Thee that Thou will quicken Thy word to our hearts. Do speak to us, and draw us into Thyself, and to Thee be the glory, in the name of our Lord Jesus. We have been considering together on this verse in Revelation, Chapter 17, verse 14.

And that verse tells us that there is a war going on. There is a war going on in the spiritual realm. A war that has been going on through the ages and the centuries.

But that war will one day come to an end. And Revelation 17, verse 14 tells us, here is the last battle. Now this war is a war between God and Satan.

So in this last battle we find that the Lamb of God, with His army, those who are the called and chosen and faithful, they will go out and fight against the beast and his followers. And the beast will be completely destroyed. And if you go on to Revelation 19, you will find that the beast will be thrown into the lake of fire.

And Satan will be bound and put into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. And then the Kingdom of God shall come upon this earth. Not only our Lord Jesus shall reign, but those who are the called and the chosen and the faithful, they will reign with Him during that millennium time.

We are looking into these three qualifications. Those who are qualified to follow the Lamb into the last battle and into the glory of the Kingdom. And these are the people that are the called, the chosen and the faithful.

We have considered together on the called. Thank God we are called by glory and virtue. We are not just called to satisfy our little needs.

We are called to satisfy God's own glory. And we are called by grace. We are called by grace.

None of us is worthy, but His grace comes upon us freely and universally. And we are called according to purpose. When God calls us, He has a purpose behind it.

And that purpose is the consummation of our calling. You know, we are called out of many, many things. More than probably we think.

And we are continuously being called out. We are being called out of all that is not of God. Now, brothers and sisters, anything that is not of God has to pass away.

Only that which is of God will remain to eternity. So we are called out from all that which is not of God, whether it be sin, whether it be the world, whether it be flesh or our self-life or the kingdom of darkness. God is calling us out of all these things in order to call us into His very purpose.

Not only to have Christ as our righteousness, but to know His life, His resurrection life, how real it is, and to know the light of that life that is guiding us every day. We are called to be God's children. We are called into the fellowship of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

We are called to be the body of Christ. We are called to be part of that eternal purpose of God, even Christ and His bride, the Church. So, brothers and sisters, we do thank God.

It is not because we are better than anybody else. It is because God looked upon us, and by His grace He called us. We are the called of God.

But here you'll find we are not only the called, we need to be the chosen. That is, if we respond to what we are called into, then we will be the chosen to fulfill that function, that purpose that God has called us into. We remember the story of Moses, how when he was forty years old, he chose God.

He chose the reproach of Christ rather than the riches of Egypt. And because he made that right choice, he became the vessel of God in leading the children out of Israel unto God's purpose. So, brothers and sisters, we who are the called, we need to prove ourselves that we are the chosen.

Now, it is true that God has chosen us even before the foundation of the world, and that chosen is for a purpose. But we will not be able to really fulfill what God has ordained for us until one day we make a choice. We choose Christ rather than the world, and by that choice we will be the chosen.

We will be those whom God can use to fulfill His purpose. Now, this morning we will come to the third qualification, the faithful. Not only the called, not only the chosen, but the faithful.

You know, faithfulness is God's character. Our God is a faithful God. That is His very character.

He cannot deny Himself. He is faithful to what He is. We may deny, but He will never deny Himself.

We may be unfaithful, and unfortunately, often times we are. But He remains faithful. Now why is it? Because faithfulness is God's character.

That is what God is. He just cannot help but be faithful. Otherwise He would deny what He is.

Our God is so faithful. He is faithful to His promise. You remember in the Garden of Eden when man fell, and God in His mercy came to man and offered to man the promise of redemption, of salvation, and He said, the seed of the woman shall come.

And when the seed of the woman shall come, He will crush the serpent's head, even though the serpent will hurt His heel. Now this is God's promise to mankind from the very beginning of man's history. And probably it was over six thousand years ago, God made that promise.

But God was faithful to His promise. Four thousand years passed as if God had forgotten. But God had not forgotten.

He was faithful to His promise. So two thousand years ago, the seed of the woman came into this world. Even our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful. You know God is faithful to His word. He spoke to Noah, saying that the world is so corrupted, violence everywhere, and God repented of creating mankind.

But Noah found favor in God's sight. So God told Noah, He said, there will be another hundred and twenty years, and then He will destroy the world. And sure enough, hundred twenty years.

Now we may think hundred twenty years is a long period. If we can live to hundred twenty years, that will be a very long life. But to God, hundred twenty years is nothing.

And yet, you find He kept His word. The flood came and destroyed the world. You know, this world is not what we thought.

It was destroyed once. Covered by water. But God saved Noah and his family.

Now after Noah and his family came out from the ark, and Noah offered sacrifice to God, and the sweet savor ascended to God, and God smelled it, and God said, I will never destroy the world with water. I will never destroy mankind altogether. And God said, as long as this earth remains, the days of the earth remains, there will be sea time and harvest, winter and summer, cold and heat, day and night.

And there will be rain. And God put a rainbow in the cloud to remind him, as it were, that He will keep His promise, and never destroy the earth with water again. And brothers and sisters, do you know that today mankind is still under the Noahic covenant? Here we find sea time and harvest continue on.

Winter and summer continue on. You may not like winter, but winter and summer continue on. Heat and cold continue on.

And day and night continue on. God is always faithful to His word. And there you find God made a covenant with Abraham.

And even 430 years later came the law, but the law did not annul the promise that God had made to Abraham. God is always faithful to His covenant. And again you find God is faithful to what He promised David.

He promised David. He was pleased with David. So He promised that His kingdom and His household shall be firm forever, and His throne shall be established forever.

And we find how it is fulfilled in the son of David, even the Lord of David, our Lord Jesus Christ. Truly His kingdom never ends, and His throne is established forever. The faithfulness of God is not only seen in past history.

We find the faithfulness of God is sung by the psalmist. How in the book of Psalms you find the psalmist, they sing of the faithfulness of God. Great is thy faithfulness.

Thy loving kindness endures forever, and thy faithfulness remains from generation to generation. It is the song of the psalmist. And even the prophets you find they prophesied of the faithfulness of God.

In Lamentations chapter 3, you know the children of Israel at that time were in very, very bad condition. And actually they were destroyed. They were taken into captivity.

But thank God, when they look up, they found that great is His faithfulness. It is not because of the loving kindness of God we shall all be consumed. And how true it is.

But we are what we are today. It is not because of what we are. It is because of what He is.

Because of His faithfulness to Himself. Brothers and sisters, you come to the New Testament. And who do you find as the faithful one? Our Lord Jesus Christ.

You know, there is none in the whole world who is so faithful as our Lord Jesus. He is faithful to His Father, even until death. And let the dead of the cross.

So in the book of Revelation, you find again and again, He is called the faithful witness. In Revelation chapter 1, He is the faithful witness. In Revelation chapter 3, you find God is the Amen, Christ is the Amen, the faithful and true witness.

And in Revelation chapter 19, you find when He shall come, He is called the faithful and true. Our Lord Jesus is the faithful one. He is faithful to His Father.

Now thank God. Not only our Lord Jesus Himself is faithful, but you know, He is the one who brings faithfulness. Do you think that naturally we are faithful? Now you may find in this world, some people are more faithful than other people.

Now that is true. But when you come to the will of God, you will find no matter who you are, the natural man is never faithful to God's will. So naturally, we are unfaithful.

That is what we were. But thank God, our Lord Jesus, He is not only faithful, but He imparts faithfulness into us. Why? Because the life that we received from Him is a faithful life.

In other words, in that life of Christ that we receive, we receive, there is that nature of faithfulness there. And it is on that basis that He expects us to be faithful. You know, He never demands what He has not given.

If He shall demand faithfulness from us and it is not in us, then we are under the law and it will bring death to us. But thank God, what is grace? Grace is His always give first before He demands. He demands on Himself.

He does not demand really on us. So here you will find the Lord is looking today for people who are faithful to Him. We are not only to be the called.

We are not only to be the chosen. Now after we are chosen, then it requires faithfulness to Him. That we may be faithful to Him to the very end.

So this is what God is looking for among His people. We may go to the Bible to find some of the faithful people who are faithful that really satisfies God's heart. Now first of all, of course, we like to think of Moses.

Why? Because in Hebrews chapter 3 we are told that Moses was faithful to all his house as a ministering servant for a testimony of the things that are spoken for. Now Moses was faithful in all God's house. Now we know Moses was called and Moses was chosen.

He was chosen to be the leader of the children of Israel. Now when we read Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and you will find when Moses led the children out of Israel on the way to Jerusalem to the promised land, during that forty years, how faithful he was in the house. His faithfulness was such that when the children of Israel worshipped the golden calf, and God wanted to destroy that nation, and God said, I will destroy that nation and I will raise you up as a great nation.

Now think of the faithfulness of Moses. Moses was so faithful to God that not only he refused that he would be blessed by God to substitute the children of Israel, but on the contrary he pleaded with God how he insulted for the children of Israel. Even to the extent that God, if you will not forgive them, blot my name out of the book of life.

Now brothers and sisters that is a tremendous thing. Only those whose names are written on that book of life, they will be able to enter into what we call heaven. And that is the blessed hope of everybody.

That is the final thing. And yet Moses as a servant of God, he was so faithful to that which God had entrusted him, that he would rather see himself destroyed, than to see the people of God destroyed. Now that is faithfulness.

And then afterwards, if you go to Numbers chapter eleven, you know, they began that wandering journey, and when they began that wandering journey, now how did the children of Israel were difficult. They were very very difficult. You know, they want everything to satisfy them, and if something happens they murmur.

And they not only murmur against God, of course Moses was the target. They murmur against him, they blame him for everything, they want to kill him, to stone him to death. Now that was the situation of Moses was in.

And often times you find that in the controversy between God and the people Moses was in the middle. God was angry, and the people was angry, and Moses was in the middle of the whole thing. Now you will think, a person who was in that situation, what will you do? And you know one day Moses really complained.

And Moses said, God why do you allow these things to happen to me? Why do you say that I have to take the children of Israel in my breast and carry them as nursing father, carry the babies? I haven't brought them out, I haven't formed them. Now why do you put this burden upon me? You see the point? You see Moses felt that God has entrusted him with the house of Israel, and he was a nursing father to them, and he wondered why? Why God should do such a thing to him? He said that's too much for him. And yet he was faithful.

He remained faithful. And even though the children of Israel provoked his spirit, and he lost his temper, and because of that he was unable to enter into the promised land. But you'll find, he wasn't one who said, well if I could not enter, nobody should enter.

But instead you'll find even before his death, he pleaded with the children of Israel to be faithful to God that they may enter in and possess the land. Brothers and sisters, that is faithfulness. And not only that, but he was faithful in all God's house.

And God's house, representatively, is the tabernacle. You know God commanded Moses to build a tabernacle. And God gave him instruction to the very last detail.

Now it was almost like God was insulting Moses. You see Moses was a big man. He had all the learnings of Egypt.

And Egypt was famous for its architecture. Now even today people go to Egypt to see these pyramids. And if you study the pyramids, you will find it was built with such precision.

And we were told that in the big Great Pyramid there is a hole there, and that hole points to the North Pole. And because of all these thousands of years, you'll find that it shifted a little bit, but it shows how accurate when it was first built. Architecture was one of the glory of Egypt, and Moses was a builder.

And yet God insulted him. Asked him to build a little tabernacle. And what is that? And told him to the very last detail.

Not only the material, the measurement, even a nail, even the color of it. God told him everything. And Moses was faithful.

And what is faithfulness? Faithful to God's Word. To the last detail. He did not stab him and say, well I will improve it.

But you'll find his faithfulness is doing God's will. That is faithfulness. And Moses is faithful in God's.

And you know that has much to do. Why? Because what he did is a testimony of the things that is to come. Because this tabernacle is only a shadow.

It is the shadow of a reality. And the reality is the New Jerusalem. So it is a big thing, not a small thing.

But it is a shadow of the reality. Now you cannot change the shadow. If you change the shadow, it won't see the reality anymore.

So it is a tremendous thing. Now brothers and sisters we often think that a small thing, what does it matter? But you know it is a testimony of the things to come. It does matter.

Moses was faithful in God's help. Think about that. Think of David.

You know in Acts chapter 13 it says that God has chosen David. Why? Because God saw in David a heart. He is a man at the God's own heart who shall do all God's will.

There is in the heart of God, heart of David, to do God's will. And this is faithfulness. You know when David was a shepherd in the wilderness, what a faithful shepherd he was.

Why? Because the lion came, the bear came, and they came upon the sheep that he was entrusted with. And of course he was just tending a few sheep as his brother said. You know and yet how faithful she was to his sheep.

He would sacrifice at worst his very life. He would fight with the lion. He would take hold of the bear and tear it up in order to save the sheep.

He was faithful to his sheep. And how faithful she was to Saul. Saul yielded to him.

Saul wanted to kill him. But there was no one faithful among Saul's servants as David. And this was what Ahimele the priest said about David.

No one is faithful in your house than your son-in-law David. He was so faithful to Saul. He was so faithful to God's word.

Because Saul was God's anointed. So he wouldn't help himself by killing Saul. It is as if God tested him, put Saul into his hand twice.

And his people said, now kill him and all your trouble will be over. And David said, no, I cannot touch God's anointing. He was faithful.

And how faithful he was to God. When he ascended to the throne, the first thing he did was to take Jerusalem. Because Jerusalem was the appointed place of God.

You know, even in Deuteronomy, God said one day he would choose a place to put his name there. But all these hundreds of years passed and that place was still not there. But David knew by revelation Jerusalem was the place.

So the first thing he did as king was to take Jerusalem. That God may have a name on earth. And he brought an ark into the city.

And he intended to build God a house. Now that is his faithfulness. You know, he was not allowed to build the temple.

Because he was a man of war, he shed blood too much. And yet not because he was not allowed to build it, he would have nothing to do with it. You find he prepared all the materials for the temple.

Because he loved God and his house. Now that is faithfulness. Think of Daniel.

How faithful was Daniel to God. As a teenager he was taken as a hostage to Babylon. And ironically you find that it seems as if luck came to him.

Because even though he was taken as a hostage when he was a teenager out of his country, out of his family and transplanted into a foreign country. But he was chosen to be educated, instructed to stand before the great king. And yet he was given the king's food and the king's wine.

But here you find a young man. He was determined not to pollute himself with the king's food and the king's wine. In order to keep himself pure for God.

Now what is wrong with enjoying the king's food and the king's wine? Well, because the king's food and the king's wine were usually first sacrificed to the idols before they were given to be taken. So Daniel wanted to keep himself pure for God. He wouldn't let himself be polluted.

Because his life was for God, not for anybody else. And God honored his faithfulness. God opened a way for him.

He was able not to drink the king's wine and the king's food. And yet he was fatter than the other young man who had the king's wine and the king's food. And God gave him wisdom, understanding, discerning, interpreting dreams and visions.

How faithful was Daniel? He was put into the first place in the government, next to the king. You know, not only in the Babylonian empire under kings, but even after Babylonia was destroyed by Medo-Persia. And here you'll find, again, he was almost like a prime minister in Medo-Persia.

And of course the other people were very jealous of him, so they wanted to find fault, pretext to accuse him. And they couldn't find anything. He was the prime minister.

He must be managing tens of thousands of things, the whole country, the whole empire. And yet his enemies couldn't find a fault in all the things that he did. Why? Because he was faithful.

And finally they said, if we want to find anything in that man, we have to find it in his relationship with God. So they persuaded King Darius, you know, try to boost up his ego, that during these seven days, nobody can ask anything from anybody, from any God, but from you. Well that really boost up his ego.

So he fell into that trap. He signed that decree. And Daniel knew it.

He went to his room, as usual, knelt down and prayed. And also opened a window towards Jerusalem. Now he could close the window and pray, and nobody would see it.

But he opened a window towards Jerusalem, and he prayed. Faithful. Even to the point of death.

And God honored him. God shut the mouth of the lions. And God delivered him.

Brothers and sisters, that is faithfulness. Well we can think of Paul. Paul is another one, who represents the faithful.

God has not in called him, God has not only chosen him, but God has given him power. Why? Because he said, God has counted him as faithful. So God used him as an apostle.

And how faithful he was to God. You know, you remember on his last trip to Jerusalem, he called the elders of the church in Ephesus to come to my liturgy, and he shared his heart with them in Acts chapter twenty. He said, during the three years and half that I was with you, how I ministered to you with loneliness, with tears, with tribulations, that I have not withhold anything good for you, that I have shared with you the whole counsel of God, that I help you day and night, not only in public, but from house to house.

Brothers and sisters, how faithful that servant was. And no wonder, when he was tried by King Agrippa, his testimony was, oh King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. That's why I'm here.

He was faithful to that heavenly vision that God has given to him. And he was faithful even. So brothers and sisters, we do know that because God is faithful, because our Lord Jesus is faithful, because the life that he has given to us is faithful, therefore he expects us, who are the called and the chosen, to be faithful to him to the very end.

Here you find in the last seven letters to the churches. His letter to the church in Smyrna said, you are in tribulation, but do not lose heart. Do not be afraid.

There will be ten more days of tribulation. You know, ten in the scripture means very short time. That is the meaning of eight or ten.

You know, you remember when the servant Abraham sent to get Rebekah, and the servant next day said, now since you have already given Rebekah to Isaac, all right, my mission is fulfilled, so we go. And of course, the brother and the mother said, no, no, no, let her stay a little longer before he go. Ten or eight days, not just a short while, ten or eight days.

You know, but the servant, no, God has blessed me, why should you delay him? And Rebekah said, I'll go. You know, so eight and ten means a very short time. Brothers and sisters, in this world we have tribulation.

But remember, it is only ten days. And the Lord Jesus said, in the world you have tribulation, but in me you have peace. And the Lord said, be thou faithful even unto death, and you shall receive the crown.

And you know, in the third letter, the letter to the church in Pergamos, he said, you are faithful to me. You still keep my word, you still honor my name, as long as my servant Antipas, the faithful Antipas, was living. You were faithful.

But now Antipas was dead, and you became unfaithful. Now who was this Antipas? Now Rebekah was in church history, we do not find a person named Antipas. As a matter of fact, in all the seven letters, you find these names are symbolic.

In other words, Antipas, pas means people, pas means all, and anti means against. In other words, here is a man who is against all. This is such a world, that here is a man who is of the other world.

So he seems to be a person that is against all. And because he is so faithful to God, he is Antipas. And he suffered, probably martyrdom, for that reason.

But his faithfulness sustained the church in Pergamos, as long as he lived. So you know, faithfulness is not just a personal thing. If one is faithful, he is able to affect other people to be faithful.

And of course, in the letter to the church in Philadelphia, he said, hold fast, lest any man would take away your crown. In other words, faithful to the very end. So what God requires is faithfulness.

You know, one thing is very interesting, and that is, in the scripture, in the New Testament, the word faithfulness and the word faith is one word. Pistis is one word. You have to know whether it refers to faithfulness or whether it refers to faith by the context.

It is the same word. Why? Because faith in Greek means three things. Number one, it means a firm conviction, an acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth.

Now that's faith. It is a firm conviction, acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth. Secondly, faith is, based upon that conviction, you make an absolute surrender to God.

Now that's faith. See, faith is, it is a full surrender. Now if you believe in God, then you have to surrender to God.

If you don't surrender to God, what is your faith? And thirdly, because you surrender to God, therefore you find there is faithfulness produced within you. You are faithful. So faithfulness and faith actually cannot be separated.

You know, Dr. Lightfoot, he said, he was an Anglican Bishop and he was a most learned person. He wrote some commentaries which almost cannot be surpassed and when he interpreted the word faithful, he said the scripture called believers faithful, the faithful. Now what does that mean? Does it mean that they have a faith, a belief, or does it mean that they are trustworthy, they are faithful? He said you cannot be rigid about it.

You have to let the two things come together. In other words, those who have faith will be faithful. Those who are trustworthy is because they are trusting.

So brothers and sisters, how can we be faithful? We can be faithful if we have faith. Faith is the secret to faithfulness. You know, if we believe in God, our faith will give us that faithfulness and this is something that God has promised what He is looking for from His own people.

Here you find the Apostle Paul, how he encouraged Timothy to be faithful. You know, 2 Timothy is a very special letter. Every book in the Bible is special, of course, and every book in the Bible speaks to us, but 2 Timothy is most relevant to our days.

You see, there is a great difference between 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy. Even though it is just a matter of a few years, Paul wrote 1 Timothy after he was released from Roman imprisonment, and he revisited Ephesus, and he was in such a hurry he couldn't stay there long enough, so he left Timothy there to help build the church there. And the church is the house of God, of the living God, the pillar and the base of the truth.

And in other words, here you'll find the church, even though it was very weak, and yet it was still church in God's eyes. And God left Timothy there to help build up the church, that it may truly fulfill its testimony as the pillar and the base of truth. And that's the reason why you find in 1 Timothy Paul instructed Timothy as to how to build the church.

But in 2 Timothy, it was only a gap of a few years, and you know the situation in the Roman Empire completely changed during that few years. Because in AD 64, you remember, Nero burned Rome. And the people were murmuring, so he tried to find a scapegoat, and he said the Christians did that.

So from that time onward, to be a Christian becomes a crime. You know, when Paul was first taken to Rome to be a prisoner, to be a Christian was not a crime. At that time, the Roman Empire considered Christianity as a sect of Judaism.

And Judaism was a recognized religion in the Roman Empire. So the Roman Empire didn't persecute Christianity. But then, you know, Christianity and Judaism were separated completely.

And to be a Christian became a criminal, a crime. Now think of that. Under that kind of atmosphere, how it had affected the church at that time.

So when Paul wrote 2 Timothy, the situation had completely changed. Paul said, all Asia has forsaken me. They haven't forsaken God, but they've forsaken Paul.

Why? Because they want to protect themselves, keep a distance between them and Paul, because Paul was a criminal. And brothers and sisters, it was during the time of great tribulation, great trouble at that time. The church was shaking.

And many God's people became unfaithful. You know, when you are put into that kind of situation, are you able to remain faithful to God? Faithful to your brothers and sisters? Faithful to the vision that God has given to you? Some people may not deny God, they deny their brothers and sisters. And we find this happening everywhere, under the communist rule.

And some people even go to the extent of denying Christ. And why is it so difficult? It's too difficult. When you lose faith in God, you lose your faithfulness.

And there you find Paul. Under that kind of situation, he knew Timothy was timid. You know, Timothy was a shy person, naturally timid.

So Paul was encouraging him. Paul said, be faithful. If you are faithful, if you endure, you will reign with Christ.

If you are unfaithful, if you deny, God will deny you, but God will not deny Himself. In other words, be faithful. And Paul said, by the grace of God, look at me.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, and now there's a crown of righteousness waiting for me. Not only for me, but for all those who wait for the coming of the Lord. Brothers and sisters, in our days, this is a day of unfaithfulness.

This is a day that people are losing faith. And especially in such a time, how we need to be faithful. And the only way to be faithful is to have faith.

You know, when you look around, it's full of unfaithfulness. The world is unfaithful. Even your brothers and sisters may prove to be unfaithful.

And what will you do? There's only one you can look to, and that is God. And you'll find He remains the same, yesterday, today, and forever. He is always faithful.

And because He is faithful to Himself, He is faithful to you. And He expects you to have faith in Him, and to be faithful to Him. And not only that, but there you'll find in 2 Timothy, what Paul says.

He said, He said, Be thou therefore my child, be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus, and the things which thou hast heard of me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, such as shall be competent to instruct others also. You know, we are in a time when you find the testimony of God is severely contested. We are living in a dangerous time.

We are living in a time of apostasy. We find falling away on all sides. We find the church is not what it ought to be.

Now, when we are living in that kind of situation, what should we do? Is it because others are unfaithful, therefore we can be unfaithful? Is it because others lose faith in God, that we should lose our faith too? Or should we, under that kind of situation, that we should, by the grace of God, be strong in the grace of God, and keep all that God has entrusted us. And not only that, but entrust to those faithful men. In Proverbs it said, faithful men who can find.

The gospel said, when the Lord shall come, will he find faith upon this earth. Brothers and sisters, we are severely tested today in this matter of faith and faithfulness. But God is faithful.

And He wants us to be faithful, and not only ourselves be faithful, but entrust all that He has given to us, to faithful men, that His testimony may continue on. Brothers and sisters, thank God, He is faithful. Therefore have faith in God.

And the called, the chosen, the faithful. They will be faithful. They will be with Him.

Following the Lamb, today, where so ever He goes. So in the last battle, when the Lamb came to the last battle, they will be there, with Him, and they will enter into glory with Him. May God bless us.

Shall we pray? Dear heavenly Father, we do realize that we are living in an unfaithful world. We do realize that faith is falling away all around. We do realize that even among Thy people, faithfulness is rare.

But Lord, we do look to Thee. Thou hast given us that life of Thy beloved Son that is faithful to the very end. So we just, we cannot trust ourselves, but we do trust in Thy life.

Lord, we look to Thee. We know that Thou art God and Thou art ever faithful. So Lord, keep us faithful to the very end.

Lord, raise a faithful man and woman among Thy people throughout the world, that they may maintain Thy testimony in this age, in the name of our Lord Jesus.

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