



# Faithfulness

*Outside* the Home

Faithfulness is used to translate several words in Scripture—firmness, righteousness, goodness, true, mercy, and faith. When you search for the word faithfulness in the Bible, you will find many references about God’s faithfulness to us (Psalm 36:5; 40:10; 88:11; 143:1; Isaiah 25:1; and Lamentations 3:23). Psalm 89:1 states, “I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.” As His disciples, we must make known His faithfulness and follow His example in our lives. In this study, faithfulness will focus on how believers are to be true, firm, and righteous in expressing and holding to the faith.

Paul’s letter to Timothy is a prime example of how our faithfulness extends to those around us. Timothy witnessed the faithfulness of his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5). Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the example set by these women (2 Timothy 2:14-15). Paul also charged Timothy to communicate to others what he had learned from Paul (2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2).

## Faithfulness in the Workplace

Colossians 3:23 tells us to do whatever we do as if doing it for the Lord. God expects our best in everything. You cannot share Jesus with your co-workers if you are not faithful to do your best. Your example will speak louder than your words. Work hard!

If Jesus is your joy, that will spill over into your workplace. It should not matter whether you are on the lowest rung of the ladder or at the top. A Christian worker should be humble enough to learn from others and teach others patiently.

Christians in the workplace are a beacon to unbelievers.

They see how Christians respond to disappointment, setbacks, hurts, and office gossip. Christians also present a different perspective, a different worldview. Let Jesus shine through you, so you can share words about Him with others.

Daniel was recognized for his good work ethic and faithfulness (Daniel 6). Unfortunately, this also made him a target. Christians may face similar challenges in the workplace. With wisdom, we can act on principle as Daniel did, so we can trust God with the outcome whether we are promoted or face the lions.

How are you showing Christ to your co-workers?

What challenges have you faced in the workplace because of your faith?

In what ways will your legacy speak of your faithfulness to God?

## Faithfulness in the Church

Authentic is a buzzword used in the relational world today. It means be yourself, be real. Don't try to be something you're not. Along that line, faithfulness in the church involves each believer doing their part, based on their calling, giftedness, role, and maturity.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul used the metaphor of the body in comparison to the church. We each have a different role in the body. We can't all be the eye. We can't all be before the congregation, but we can all be faithful in whatever place God has put us.

Paul considered faithfulness as a qualification for ministry

(1 Timothy 1:12). The reason God put Paul in ministry was because God found him faithful. Paul didn't begin as a missionary church planter. He started his ministry by sharing his testimony and debating with the Jews in the synagogue. He was so effective the disciples had to sneak him out of town! He eventually migrated to the outskirts of the Jewish territory in Antioch, where he was chosen to accompany Barnabas on a mission trip.

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

1 Timothy 1:12

In 1 Corinthians 4:17, Paul told the church at Corinth that he was sending Timothy to them, because Timothy was “faithful in the Lord.” In Romans 16, Paul recommended that the church receive Phebe because of her dedicated service. For whatever reason, she was traveling to Rome and the apostle instructed the believers to assist her however she needed.

We don’t know what role Phebe served in the church. We don’t know anything else about her, but at the beginning of a long list of commendations and acknowledgements, Phebe topped the list.

Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned second in Romans 16. We know more about them. Paul met them in Corinth during his second missionary journey.

They provided him lodging and worked with him as tentmakers. Then they traveled with him and assisted his missionary efforts. We know specifically that they mentored Apollos and hosted a church in their home.

Much of the work in a church is done behind the scenes. On any particular Sunday, nothing will be said about the bathroom being cleaned, the chairs being arranged, the doors opened, the heat or air conditioning turned on, unless these things weren’t done. Those who serve faithfully behind the scenes do it as an act of service and worship toward God. Those who are on stage humbly know their work is facilitated by the work of others. The faithfulness of everyone on the ministry team is necessary to accomplish the task.

What tasks require faithfulness in your role in the church?

How does maturity affect the opportunities for leadership in the church?

Who have you seen faithful in little things that make a big difference?

## Faithfulness in the Community



If you hear a conversation about “unfaithfulness,” you automatically think of a marriage situation. Faithfulness in marriage is extremely important, but faithfulness applies to all areas of our lives.

In James 1:17, God is described as “the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” God is faithful to His Word, His promises, His laws, and His creation—especially humanity. He loves us and is faithful to us, even when...

According to Ephesians 5:1, we are to follow (imitate) God. Paul’s instruction for the Christian was to be like our Father, faithful in all our ways.

Serving in the community allows you to show Jesus’ love even when you can’t speak about it. To be an influencer to unbelievers in your community, you have to be alongside them.

How will they know of your Father and His love if you are not serving and working with them?

Christians need to make the effort to be involved in the public school program. This can mean volunteering, attending sporting events (even when you don’t have a child on the team),

and making yourself available to help however is needed.

Civic organizations need Christian influence. Christians care about the community and can find common ground with a variety of organizations and causes. Be a bell ringer during Christmas. Serve at a soup kitchen. Help stock at a food bank. Organize a fundraising drive. Coach a little league or soccer team. Whatever is happening in your community, be involved.

As you develop relationships, you will gain the opportunity to speak into people's lives. And people's lives are messy. There are risks, but if you look at the example of Jesus and the early disciples, the risks are necessary. Some may not like that you are there. But, you cannot allow the wisdom of Christ to be absent from the public square.

You may be asked questions you can't answer. Don't offer some lame explanation. You don't have to be the expert on everything. Tell them "I don't know, but I'll get back to you." Then research, talk to your pastor or another reliable resource. There are good answers to hard

questions. Keep in mind, for most of the problems people face, we do have "The Answer"—Jesus Christ. It won't be a quick fix. Salvation is instantaneous, but discipleship is a lifelong process.

Christians are called to be salt (Matthew 5:13). Scripture doesn't explain what that involves, but we recognize that salt can preserve, purify, and flavor. Scripture does caution that the salt not lose its usefulness. While working in the community, it is imperative that you be faithful in all you do. You have to be conscious of what you say, how you act, and how you represent Christ to others. A bad example is worse than no example.

Christians are also the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). In order to fulfill this role, your light has to be visible. You can't hide in your church building or home and shine the light of Christ to the world. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Find a candlestick, and shine!

What are the civic organizations in your community in which you can participate? Brainstorm ideas with the other ladies in your group.



What reliable resources can you use to answer difficult questions? (Consider these: [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org); [www.answersingenesis.com](http://www.answersingenesis.com); [www.carm.org](http://www.carm.org); [www.seanmcdowell.org](http://www.seanmcdowell.org); [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org); [www.truelife.org](http://www.truelife.org); or email: [hardquestions@randallhouse.com](mailto:hardquestions@randallhouse.com))

## Faithfulness in the World

You may have limited opportunities to be actively involved beyond your local region. There may be some cross-cultural opportunities you can support. There are missionaries who definitely need your financial and prayer support. And you may be able to visit a mission field. But, how can your faithfulness extend to the world?

What about the Internet?

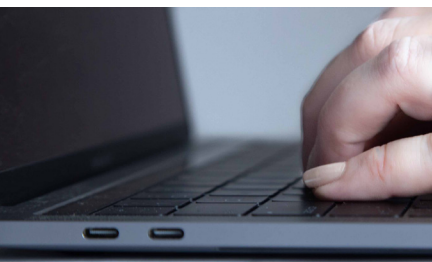
Technology provides us with connections literally around the world. You can receive regular updates from missionaries through social media. Several missionaries have Facebook groups where they share prayer requests, needs, and news. Some of these may be secret

because of the area of the world in which they serve.

You can also communicate through email. Share a word of encouragement. Keep it short. Don't forward junk and don't include them in group emails. Be aware that international data plans can be limited. Also, be aware that some governments monitor everything. Check with your missionaries and find out what is the best way to communicate with them. You can also check with their sending agency, IM, Inc. ([iminc.org](http://iminc.org)) or North American Ministries ([fwbnam.com](http://fwbnam.com)).

Social media connections don't have to be limited to missionaries. You can also become friends with Christians and even unbelievers around the world. You could help someone practice communicating in English. You can participate in discussion boards or share ideas on Pinterest. Through these groups you can develop friendships around common interests and hopefully share your faith.

Be especially mindful of the need to be nice. Avoid arguments.



Be careful. Don't give out any personal information.

You may also have the opportunity to be involved in short-term service projects. You can share your expertise in rewarding ways. The Hanna Project ([www.HannaProject.com](http://www.HannaProject.com)) and ELIC ([www.ELIC.org](http://www.ELIC.org)) are two ministries to consider.

Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, provides a shoebox gift and the gospel to children in need. You can organize a shoebox drive, volunteer at a collection site, or help sort in a regional distribution center ([www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child)).

WNAC ([www.WNAC.org](http://www.WNAC.org)) also offers opportunities for ministry. You may want to organize a provision closet drive to help provide household goods for missionary families. You can also give to the various scholarship funds, which offer educational opportunities to young women. Shine!, another ministry of WNAC, offers blogs, conferences, and resources for teen girls—and for their moms and youth leaders ([www.ShineFWB.com](http://www.ShineFWB.com)).



What can you do that is outside your comfort zone, but within your ability with God's help?


What other ministry opportunities can you share with your group?

How has your life been affected by someone else's service?



# Conclusion

In a parable regarding faithfulness (Luke 12), Jesus referenced the principle, to whom much is given much is required. By any measure we all have been blessed. We have the opportunity and responsibility to do what we can to faithfully share the gospel. Jesus told His disciples to look up and notice that the fields are ready for harvest. Basically, this means the harvest is what you see where you are. You don't have to go anywhere to be involved in the harvest.

Just be involved. Wherever you find yourself, recognize that your purpose for being there is to be a faithful representative of Jesus Christ. You may have a highly visible role or serve behind the scene. Paraphrasing what Jesus said, "She that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10). 

**About the Writer:** Diane Conn is a freelance proofreader and editor. She has served as WNAC bookkeeper and in numerous offices on the local, district, and state level in Florida and Oklahoma. Diane earned a B.A. in Theology from Randall University. She resides in Springfield, Tennessee, with her husband Danny and a high-energy yellow Lab named Tuck. Diane is a preacher's daughter, preacher's wife, and she loves Dr. Pepper, Braum's ice cream, and reading on her porch swing.

*Motivation is the key that opens the door to service.*

*Kathy Hardee*

*DaySpring DayBrightener*

*And whatever you do in word or deed,  
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks  
in God the Father through Him.*

Colossians 3:17 NKJV

