



Strive to be a Faithful Man

By Ben Godwin

One of the most important attributes a man can have in God's eyes is faithfulness. Too often, in the warped value system of our culture, we look for the wrong characteristics to evaluate people. We look on the surface level at appearance, talent, personality, intelligence, charm, humor, skill, money, or success. God is looking for the rare quality of faithfulness. "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?" (Proverbs 20:6)

Faithfulness means "Adhering firmly to a person, idea, or cause, true to one's word, promises, or vows, steady in allegiance or affection." Synonyms include: trustworthy, loyal, true, constant, steadfast, dependable, devoted, and committed." What a lofty goal to aspire to! Solomon stated, "A faithful man will abound with blessings...." (Proverbs 28:20) This generation desperately needs positive male role models, who are faithful in the following four areas:

- **Be faithful to God.** True Christian men need to model their faith. Our families need to see us make God's house, His Word, and prayer a top priority, not just an afterthought. I was fortunate to have a godly father. I never heard my dad curse, never saw him drink, gamble, or mistreat my mother. I regularly saw him reading the Bible, praying, listening to Christian radio, taking us to church, and supporting various ministries. I observed him working long hours to provide for my mom and six kids. He started a hardware business in our garage and saw it flourish into an 80,000 square foot warehouse with nearly 50 employees and 15 delivery trucks. Besides being a successful businessman, my dad was an ordained minister and an Elder in our church. He led me to salvation as a child during family devotions and baptized me. Over the years, he's witnessed to countless clients and customers, won many to Christ, and helped disciple many people in their faith, all because he was faithful to God.
- **Be faithful to your wife.** We are living in an age of infidelity. Sex scandals fill the headlines on a weekly basis. Be aware that the devil wants to destroy your home and marriage too. So protect your household and guard your thoughts. Adultery doesn't start in the bed; it starts in your head! If you're married, you have forfeited the right to flirt with anyone other than your spouse. The Bible commands husbands to love our wives as Christ loved the church. That doesn't

mean sitting on a throne and barking out orders. It means being a servant leader and laying down our lives for the greater good of our family. Jesus didn't save the church on a throne; He saved it on a cross. Good marriages don't just happen. You've got to work at it by practicing togetherness. Too many married couples live separate lives and just share the same address, setting themselves up for an affair. Anything neglected deteriorates. So nurture your marriage. Invest time, attention, and energy into your spouse and watch your relationship thrive.

- **Be faithful to your children.** A father's responsibility extends beyond putting food on the table, clothes on backs, and a roof over heads. God wants us to be the spiritual leaders (priests) of our homes. Too many men drop the ball when it comes to spiritual leadership and take a back seat to their wives. Men need to adopt the spirit of Joshua, who said, "...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We are all too familiar with dead beat dads who have abandoned their kids. But there is another problem—dads who make a god out of their work, sports, hobbies, etc., and are not involved in their kid's lives. Make a regular attempt to connect verbally and emotionally with your kids. Rules without relationship result in rebellion. We teach our kids to swim, walk, talk, read, ride bikes, and play ball. But do we teach them how to pray, read the Bible, respect God's house, and make spiritual things a priority? The greatest gift we can give our children is not our name, our looks, or our material possessions—it's our time. Someone said, "Children spell love T-I-M-E." As busy as my father was running a business, he always took time out to play with us kids. Let's pass on a rich spiritual heritage to the next generation.
- **Be faithful to your job.** 1 Corinthians 4:2 reads, "...It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." An employer will not hire, much less promote, someone they can't rely on. Paul wrote, "But if anyone does not provide for his own...household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8) Your work is more than just a way to make a living. If done well, it honors God and becomes a form of worship. Unfortunately, there are many who have a sense of entitlement. They expect something for nothing. The old saying is true, "The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." The wisest man wrote, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10) Faithful men work hard, take pride in their labor, and pay their bills.

The ultimate goal of a faithful man is to hear these words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." (Matthew 25:21) Happy Father's Day, fellows. Keep striving to be a faithful man.

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