



Word Study on "Faithfulness"

Faithfulness (or Faith) – showing confidence or trust, loyal, reliable

Please read the following passages and answer the associated questions.

[A] According to Hebrews 11:1 what is faith? _____

[B] According to Deuteronomy 32:4 is faithfulness an attribute of God? _____

[C] In Luke 16:10-13 what are we not able to do? _____

[D] What promise do we find in Revelation 2:10? _____

[E] In James 1:2-3 what does faith produce?

HAMMER & NAIL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. — JAMES 1:2-3 NIV

Read James 2:14-26 and answer the following questions:

[F] Jm 2:14 Is faith without works useful? _____

[G] Jm 2:17 & 26 What is faith without works? _____

[H] Jm 2:19 Do the demons believe in God? _____

[I] Jm 2:23 Whose faith was reckoned to him as righteousness? _____

[J] In James 5:13-18 what is required for the prayer to restore someone who is sick? _____

[K] How do we reconcile James 5:13-18 with the fact that we sometimes pray for sick people who die anyway? Is it our lack of faith or what is going on? Doesn't James 1:5-8 promise that if we do not doubt we can have whatever we pray for?

Think & Pray _____

----- "FAITHFULNESS" ANSWERS -----

Lesson 8 – Faithfulness (or Faith)

[A] According to Hebrews 11:1 what is faith?

"The assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." What does that mean?

[B] According to Deuteronomy 32:4 is faithfulness an attribute of God? Yes

[C] In Luke 16:10-13 what are we not able to do? Serve two masters Lk 16:13

[D] What promise do we find in Revelation 2:10? "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

[E] In James 1:2-3 what does faith produce? Endurance or Perseverance Jm 1:2

Read James 2:14-26 and answer the following questions:

[F] Is faith without works useful? No Notice we are talking about usefulness, not salvation.

[G] What is faith without works? Dead It is metaphorical death, not spiritual death

[H] Do the demons believe in God? Yes James is making a distinction between acknowledging His existence and trusting Him. We wouldn't trust someone just because they have a birth certificate, would we? But we would believe they existed.

[I] Whose faith was reckoned to him as righteousness? Abraham And Abraham's faith was demonstrated by obeying God. How do you demonstrate your trust in God?

[J] In James 5:13-18 what is required for the prayer to restore someone who is sick? Faith Jm 5:15

[K] To understand James 5:13-18 you must look at the Old Testament passage James is talking about. In 1st Kings chapters 17 and 18 there is a drought that begins and ends with Elijah's prayer. The important thing to notice here is that Elijah is praying as God directs him to pray. If you pray for God's will, you will always get what you pray for. However, please don't be one of those people who think adding the phrase "God's will" to their prayer will magically make the requests of their prayer be given to them. It has to actually be something God told you to pray for or promised in His word. Similarly in James 1:5-8 the promise is that if we pray for wisdom without doubt we will receive it. It can't be just anything we want. It is not a lack of faith that keeps our prayers from being answered. It is a lack of faith that makes us disappointed when God's answer is "No," or "Not right now, My child."

The Greek word *pistis* here translated "faithfulness" by the New American Standard is most often translated "faith" which is the way the King James translated it here. Most modern versions render it "faithfulness" in Gal 5:22 and two or three other places, but then translate it just "faith" in over 200 other places in the New Testament. I was unable to discover the reasoning behind this choice. It may be because it is in a list of other things most of which are clearly behaviors, and faithfulness is faith shown in behavior. However, "peace" was not translated "peacefulness" and "joy" was not translated "rejoicing," so perhaps they had some other reason for translating it "faithfulness."

For further thought:

(L) What can you add to this list of actions that show faith?

Obeying God's word even when you do not fully understand

Living in hope

Doing your best and trusting God for the results

Deciding not to doubt

Which of these do you do? What is your plan for showing faith in the future?

(m) Read and discuss 1 Peter 1:3-9.

(n) Read and discuss Romans 3:19 – Romans 4:25.

(o) Read and discuss Hebrews 10:32 – Hebrews 12:3.

(p) Read and discuss Galatians 3:1-29.

(q) Use a concordance to look up the word "faith" and "faithfulness" and discuss some of the verses where it appears. I found over 375 of them, over 225 in the New Testament alone.