

FAITHFULNESS

1. The Definition of Faithfulness.

- a. אָמֵן: “basic mng. to be firm, trustworthy, safe; ...to speak the truth, to prove to be firm, reliable, faithful..., to remain faithful to...trustworthy, faithful...to be permanent, to endure” (*HALOT*, 63-64).
- b. אֱמֻנָה:
- c. πίστις:
(1) In a phase one context, πίστις should be interpreted as faith. In a phase two context, πίστις should be interpreted as faith or faithfulness, depending on the context.
- d. **1 Co 4:2** 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found *faithful*.

2. The Source and Standard of Faithfulness.

- a. **Dt 7:9** 9 Know therefore that Yahweh your God is God, the *faithful* (אָמֵן) God who keeps covenant and loyal love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations....
- b. **Dt 32:4** 4 The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of *faithfulness* (אֱמֻנָה) and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
- c. **2 Ch 6:14-15** 14 ...Yahweh, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, *keeping covenant* and showing loyal love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart, 15 who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.
(1) God’s word is his bond.
- d. **Ps 33:4** 4 For the word of Yahweh is upright, and all his work is done in *faithfulness*.
- e. **Ps 89:1-2** 1 I will sing of the loyal love of Yahweh, forever. With my mouth I will make known your *faithfulness* (אֱמֻנָה) to all generations. 2 For I said, Loyal love will be built up forever. In the heavens you will establish your *faithfulness* (אֱמֻנָה).
- f. **Ps 89:8** 8 Yahweh God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, Yahweh, with your *faithfulness* all around you?
- g. **Ps 91:4** 4 [Yahweh] will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge. His *faithfulness* is a shield and buckler.
- h. **Ps 100:4-5** 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him. Bless his name! 5 For Yahweh is good. His loyal love endures forever, and his *faithfulness* to all generations.
- i. **Ps 119:75** 75 I know, Yahweh, that your rules are righteous, and that in *faithfulness* (אֱמֻנָה) you have afflicted me.
- j. **Ps 119:90-91** 90 Your *faithfulness* endures to all generations. You have established the earth, and it stands fast. 91 By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.
- k. **Is 11:5** 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and *faithfulness* the belt of his loins.
- l. **Is 38:19** 19 The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day. The father makes known to the children your *faithfulness*.

- m. ***La 3:22-23** 22 The loyal love of Yahweh never ceases. His mercies never come to an end. 23 They are new every morning. Great is your *faithfulness* (אֱמוּנָה).
- n. **Hos 2:20** 20 I will betroth you [Israel] to me in *faithfulness*. And you shall know Yahweh.
- o. **Ro 3:3** 3 What if some disbelieved (ἀπιστέω)? Does their unbelief (ἀπιστία) nullify the *faithfulness* (πίστις) of God?
- p. **2 Ti 2:13** 13 If we are unfaithful, [Jesus] remains *faithful*—for he cannot deny himself.
(1) Jesus' faithfulness does not depend on our faithfulness.

3. The Call to Faithfulness.

- a. **Ac 11:23** 23 When [Barnabas] came [to Antioch] and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain *faithful* (προσμένω) to the Lord [Jesus] with steadfast purpose....
- b. **1 Co 4:2** 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found *faithful*.

4. The Rarity of Faithfulness.

- a. **Ps 12:1** 1 Save, Yahweh, for the godly one is gone, for the *faithful* (אֱמוּנָה) have vanished from among the children of man.
- b. **Pr 20:6** 6 Many a man proclaims his own loyal love, but a *faithful* man who can find?¹
- c. **Je 5:1-3** 1 Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look and take note! Search her squares to see if you can find a man, one who does justice and seeks *faithfulness* (אֱמוּנָה), that I may pardon her. 2 Though they say, As Yahweh lives, yet they swear falsely. 3 Yahweh, do not your eyes look for *faithfulness* (אֱמוּנָה)?
- d. **Mt 23:23** 23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and *faithfulness*. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

5. The Prerequisite of Faithfulness.

- a. **Ps 119:30** 30 I have chosen the way of *faithfulness* (אֱמוּנָה). I set your rules before me.
(1) Before we choose the way of faithfulness, we have to know the way of faithfulness, and that is through Scripture engagement.

6. The Power of Faithfulness.

- a. **Ga 5:22** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, *faithfulness* (πίστις)....

7. The Practicalities of Faithfulness.

- a. **1 Sa 2:35** 35 And I will raise up for myself a *faithful* priest [Zadok], who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.

¹ A disciple must be *faithful*, available, and teachable.

- b. **Ps 40:10** 10 I [David] have not hidden your deliverance within my heart. I have spoken of your *faithfulness* and your salvation. I have not concealed your loyal love and your *faithfulness* from the great congregation.
- c. **2 Ch 19:8-10** 8 Moreover, in Jerusalem Jehoshaphat appointed certain Levites, priests, and heads of families of Israel, to give judgment for Yahweh and to decide disputed cases. They had their seat at Jerusalem. 9 And he charged them: Thus you shall do in the fear of Yahweh, in *faithfulness* (אֱמִינָה) and with your whole heart: 10 whenever a case comes to you from your brothers who live in their cities, concerning bloodshed, law or commandment, statutes or rules, then you shall warn them, that they may not incur guilt before Yahweh and wrath may not come upon you and your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you will not incur guilt.
- d. **2 Ch 31:20-21** 20 Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good, right, and *faithful* before Yahweh his God. 21 And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.
- e. **2 Ch 34:11-12** 11 They gave [the money] to the carpenters and the builders to buy quarried stone, and timber for binders and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had let go to ruin. 12 And the men did the work *faithfully* (אֱמִינָה). Over them were set Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to have oversight.
- f. **Mt 24:45-47** 45 Who then is the *faithful* (πιστός) and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.
- g. **Lk 16:10-12** 10 One who is *faithful* (πιστός) in a very little is also *faithful* in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11 If then you have not been *faithful* in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been *faithful* in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

8. The Prestige of Faithfulness.

- a. **Eph 6:21** 21 So that you know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and *faithful* (πιστός) minister in the Lord will tell you everything.
- b. **Col 4:7** 7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and *faithful* (πιστός) minister and fellow servant in the Lord.²
- c. **Col 4:9** 9 ...And with him Onesimus, our *faithful* and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.
- d. **1 Ti 1:12** 12 I thank him who has given me strength, Messiah Jesus our Lord, because he judged me *faithful* (πιστός), appointing me to his service...³
- e. **2 Ti 2:2** 2 ...And what you have heard from me [Paul] in the presence of many witnesses entrust to *faithful* men, who will be able to teach others also.
 - (1) Pay more attention to seekers, believers, and disciples who are faithful.
 - (2) Only ask *faithful*, available, teachable believer in your discipleship groups.

² Faithfulness is a chief characteristic that separates believers from disciples.

³ Jesus chose Paul to be an apostle because he was faithful, available, and teachable.

- f. **1 Pe 5:12** 12 By Silvanus, a *faithful* brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you....⁴
(1) Recognise faithful believers in your local church.

9. The Rewards/Results of Faithfulness.

- a. Greater intimacy with God.
(1) **Nu 12:6-8** 6 Hear my words. If there is a prophet among you, I, Yahweh, make myself known to him in a vision. I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is *faithful* (אמון) in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of Yahweh.
(2) **Ps 101:6** 6 I will look on the *faithful* in the land, that they may dwell with me. He who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.
(3) **Jn 15:15** 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
- b. **1 Sa 2:35** 35 And I will raise up for myself a *faithful* priest [Zadok], who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.
- c. **2 Ch 31:20-21** 20 Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good, right, and *faithful* before Yahweh his God. 21 And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.
- d. **Ps 31:23** 23 Love Yahweh, all you his saints! Yahweh preserves the *faithful* but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.
- e. **Pr 28:20** 20 A *faithful* man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.
- f. **Pr 12:22** 22 Lying lips are an abomination to Yahweh, but those who act *faithfully* are his delight.
- g. **Mt 24:45-47** 45 Who then is the *faithful* (πιστός) and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.
- h. **Mt 25:21** 21 His master said to him, Well done, good and *faithful* (πιστός) servant. You have been *faithful* over a little. I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.
- i. **Lk 19:17** 17 And [the nobleman] said to [his servant], Well done, good servant! Because you have been *faithful* (πιστός) in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.
- j. **Re 17:14** 14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called, chosen, and believing/faithful (πιστός).

⁴ Not just Paul but also Peter looked for faithful disciples.