

Jesus and the Fruit of the Spirit (7)

Ponder: Faithfulness

Scripture: “And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, but Christ as a Son of His own house. . .” (Hebrews 3:5, 6a, NKJV).

Star Trek fans may remember the episode where Worf (one of the good guys) was captured and forced to engage in hand-to-hand combat, one by one, with a company of enemy soldiers. The enemy commander shrewdly saved his best warrior for last. By the time Worf had vanquished all the others, he was exhausted. The last enemy knocked him down at will. Even his enemies, who had come to admire him, begged him not to get up. But Worf kept getting up. Finally, the enemy warrior signaled that he was giving up. When his captain demanded to know why, he said, “I cannot defeat this man; I can only kill him.”

Wouldn't you agree that Worf was faithful? But even he couldn't hold a candle to Jesus. As Paul wrote of the “fruit of the Spirit,” the last word in Galatians 5:22 was faithfulness. Jesus perfectly manifested that trait, as well as all the others Paul listed.

Faithfulness means loyalty, trustworthiness, reliability, and honesty. Psalm 89:37 refers to the moon as “that faithful witness in the sky.” You don't have to wonder if it will appear. It is reliable; you can count on it.

In the days of King Joash, men were assigned to collect money to repair the temple. 2 Kings 12:15 says they “dealt faithfully” – that is, they were honest and trustworthy.

Faithfulness also includes obedience to a superior. The priest Ahimelech said to King Saul, “And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who goes at your bidding . . .” (1 Samuel 22:14).

Isaiah prophesied of Messiah that “faithfulness (will be) the belt of His waist” (Isaiah 11:5). Indeed, Jesus was perfectly obedient to the Father. “I always do those things that please him” (John 8:29). And Jesus is reliable. He was faithful even when it cost Him His life (Revelation 1:5 “faithful witness/martyr). Satan could not defeat Him; he could only kill Him. And we can still rely on Him. “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

Like Jesus, we are charged to “be faithful unto death” (Revelation 2:10). If we are faithful, Satan cannot defeat us; he can only kill us.

Song: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”