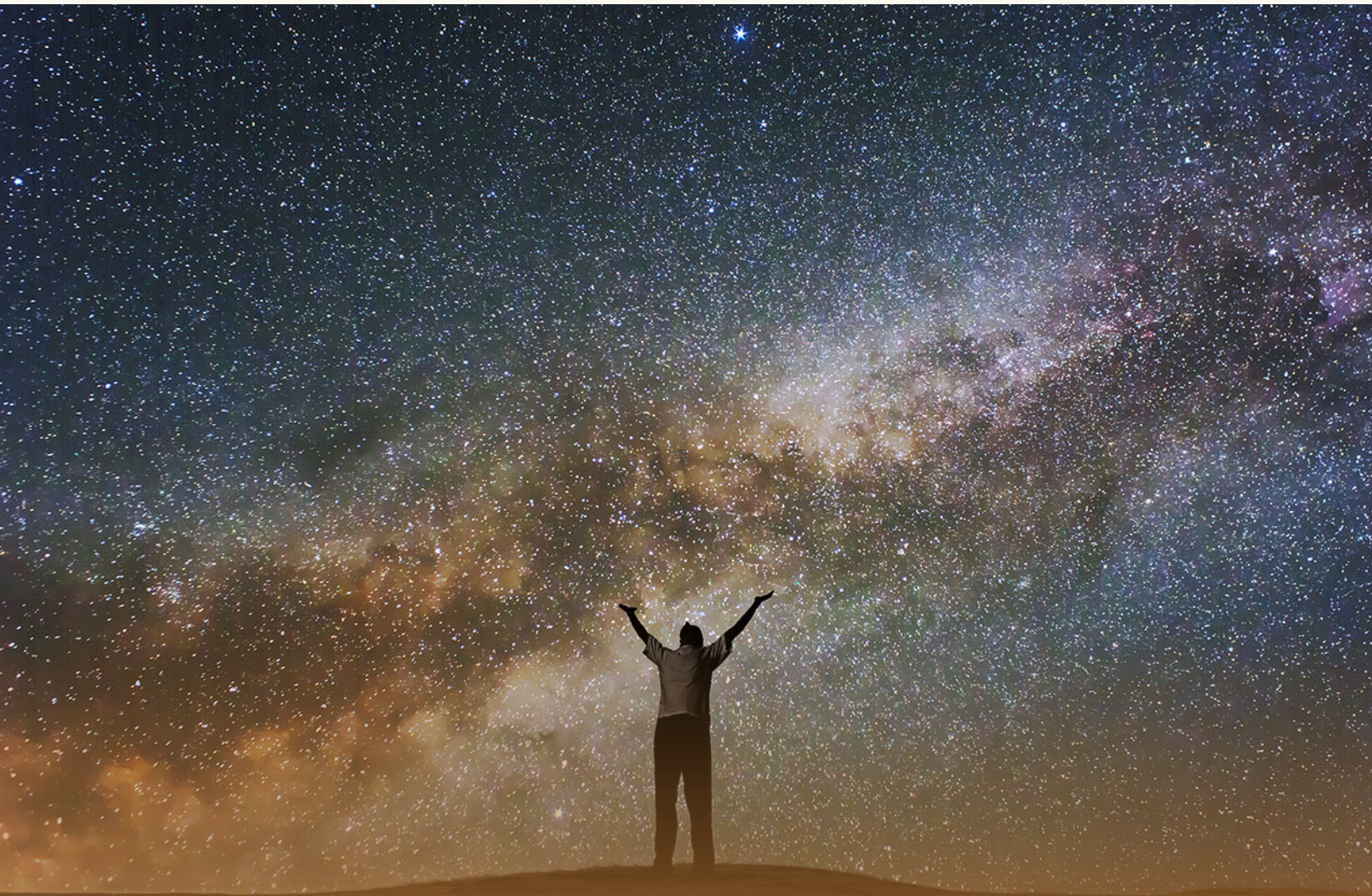




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FOCUS ON FAITHFULNESS



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Key Verse:

Galatians 5:22 *"The fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness"*

Introduction:

- Faith speaks of the basis for belief, the root.
- Faithfulness is the evidence of the Spirit's control in a life of faith. It is the fruit.
- Faithfulness flows from faith in God.
- Our society is in the throes of an epidemic of unfaithfulness. We see it in government, in business, in marriages and, sadly, in churches.
- Faithfulness is the paramount quality of Christian stewardship.
- God's Word speaks with clarity on this vital subject, calling us to the priority of faithfulness as servants, students and stewards.

I. We Must Be Faithful Servants.

A. We must faithfully serve God.

1. Freed from the penalty of sin, we are to become servants to God. Rom. 6:22
2. To turn from idols is to turn to God to serve Him. 1 Thess. 1:9
3. We are to have the attitude of a slave. Psalm 40:6

B. We must faithfully serve other believers.

1. One of Our central purposes is to serve one another. Eph. 4:12
2. Our service to one another is to be motivated by love. Gal. 5:13

C. We must faithfully serve those who are without Christ.

1. Our primary service to unbelievers is to win them to Christ. 1 Cor. 9:19
2. We are debtors to those who are without the Savior. Rom. 1:14-16

II. We Must Be Faithful Students. 2 Timothy 2:15

A. A faithful student searches the Scriptures.

1. Jesus said to do this. John 5:29
2. Christians at Berea matured in Christ by searching the Scriptures. Acts 17:11

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B. A faithful student meditates in the Scriptures.

1. Joshua meditated in the Word. Joshua 1:8
2. David testified to the value of meditation. Psalm 1:2

C. A faithful student obeys the Scriptures.

1. The Word must be obeyed and activated in the believer's life. Joshua 1:9
2. In making disciples, the goal is to teach them "to observe" Matt. 28:19-20

III. We Must Be Faithful Stewards. 1 Corinthians 4:2

A. We are to be faithful stewards of our abilities.

1. Responsibility is relative to the extent of the ability. Luke 12:41-48
2. God is the one who gives ability or the capacity for it.

B. We are to be faithful stewards of our opportunities.

1. Abilities vary, but all of us have the same number of hours in each day.
2. We are responsible before God to redeem the time given to us. Eph. 5:15-16

C. We are to be faithful stewards of our resources.

1. Everything belongs to God in the first place. Matt. 25:14-30
2. We are the executors of a divine trust.

Conclusion:

- Just as He has always done, God is calling His people to faithfulness.
- In Revelation 2 is a message to the church of Ephesus, urging them to repent.
- The Ephesians did not ignore God's warning, and they prospered greatly after returning to God.
- In Revelation 3 is a message to the church of Laodicea, calling them to be faithful to God. The Laodiceans, however, ignored the word from God, and history reveals the result.
- Invaders swept into Laodicea and utterly destroyed it. The once-rich church lay in ruins and death came to those who were unfaithful.
- Just as God sent a message to the church at Laodicea and the church at Ephesus, so He does to us. How will we respond to Him? When He comes again will He find us faithful? When we stand before Him will He say, "well done, good and faithful servant"?