First Things 2020
The Benefits Of Faithfulness

FEBRUARY 2, 2020
The Benefits of Faithfulness

■ 1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV) (2) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

■ Faithful = Trustworthy, Reliable, True, Dependable, Unfailing

■ The Thing God Looks For In Those That He Uses is Faithfulness
The Benefits of Faithfulness

A Great Example Of Faithfulness: Daniel

Daniel Met God’s Requirements For Revelation & Use:

1. A Separated Life
2. An All-Consuming Conviction Of Truth
3. A Life Of Faithfulness
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- **Stephen Was Used By The Lord Because Of His Faithfulness:**

- **Acts 7:55-56 (NIV)** (55) But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (56) "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
The Benefits of Faithfulness

Stephen’s Faith Has Three Main Qualities:

- **He Received Christ**
- **He Obeyed Christ**
- **Trust: He Left The Results In The Lord’s Hands**
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- Stephen Lived & Died In Faithfulness
- With Courage – An Inner Strength – And An Undefeatable Love – Which Said "Lord Do Not Hold This Sin Against Them"

The impression made by Stephen's death was even greater than that made by his life. Though it marks the beginning of the first great persecution of Christians, the death of the first Christian martyr resulted in the greatest acquisition Christianity has probably ever made, the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. ISBE Encyclopedia
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- Heb 11: 1-12; Those Commended For Their Faithfulness

  *Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac, Jacob*

- Hebrews 11:13-16 (NIV)

  (13) All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

  (14) People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

  (15) If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

  (16) Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- We Think In Terms Of Immediacy – God Thinks In Terms Of Eternity
- Their Faith Was A Vision-based – Eternity Shaped – Faith
- Their Faith Was A Forward Based – Not Going Back

The Result: The Two-Fold Blessing Of The Lord
- 1. The Approval Of God
- 2. The Prepared Place
The Benefits of Faithfulness

There Are Many Benefits Of Faithfulness:

- Faithfulness Helps You To Be Decisive
- Faithfulness Helps You To Serve The Lord
- Faithfulness Helps You To Stand For The Lord
- Faithfulness Prevents You From Being Sidetracked
- Faithfulness Helps You To Be Steadfast
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- Stephen – A Man Filled With The Holy Spirit Who Preached The Uncompromising Gospel Of Truth – Even To His Own Death

- His Faithfulness Helped Him To Be Decisive
- His Faithfulness Helped Him To Serve The Lord
- His Faithfulness Helped Him To Stand For The Lord
- His Faithfulness Prevented Him From Being Sidetracked
- His Faithfulness Helped Him To Be Steadfast
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- **Acts 7:55 (NIV)** (55) But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

- *He Saw the Glory of God*

- *His Faithfulness Brought The Cheering Approval Of Jesus*
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- Jesus Stands To Cheer The Faithful On To Their Eternal Destination

- First Things Faithfulness Means: We Will Be Trustworthy And Reliable In Order That We Might Bring Glory To God!
The Benefits of Faithfulness

- **We Must Be Faithful In Living For The Lord.**
- We Must Stand Fast And Not Give In To The Seduction Of Sin
- **We Must Take A Strong Stand For The Lord**
- **We Must Purpose In Our Hearts That We Will Not Defile Ourselves**
- **We Will Listen To What God’s Holy Word Says About Persevering And Being Faithful To The Lord, Standing Fast For Him**