

Faithfulness:

The state of being faithful; allegiance; loyalty; fidelity.



God has always required faithfulness from His people. Israel derailed time after time through unfaithfulness; chasing after other gods. A healthy, *fortified* marriage also requires faithfulness; it requires that one's spouse comes first before all others. Biblically, marriage is not something we add to our lives - it is an institution that should become our life. Yes, marriage cannot supplant our devotion to God; yes, we have to work, and take care of the children and so on and so on. The question is are we faithful? Where is our allegiance, loyalty, fidelity? Is the focus on our spouse? Or do all the other things come first? Friends, I get it; it is not easy living in today's world with all the demands we face and still maintain a strong marriage.

It seems that faithfulness has just been set aside in relationships today. People are faithful until their needs aren't being met, or their spouse doesn't measure up to their expectations, or if something better comes along. People are committed to marriage as long as satisfaction level is high and there aren't what appears to be better alternatives available. This can be expected in the world, but in the church of Jesus Christ? What happened to the promises, the commitment made on the wedding day? How are those invalidated if we are not happy in our marriage? God expects His people to be faithful to Him and He expects He people to be faithful in their marriage relationships.

Jesus set a high bar regarding faithfulness as recorded in Matthew, Chapter 5; saying that if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has committed adultery. Faithfulness begins in the mind - being faithful in our thoughts. It also requires being deliberate - making choices that will keep us from being a situation that might even hint at impropriety. Matthew 19 records Jesus saying that when married, a husband and wife are *one*. Oneness *is* an allegiance, being loyal and being faithful to the person you are closest to on the planet. Plan for faithfulness, be faithful and loyal to your spouse in every way - every day.

Helpful Resources: *Fortified Marriages Resource page:* www.fortifiedmarriages.com

Articles to check out:

Marriage: The Power of FAITHFULNESS by Dr. Dave Currie - doingfamilyright.com

5 Powerful Precautions for Faithfulness in Marriage by Matt Jacobson - forthefamily.org