

Lesson Notes:

Pillars of Faithfulness

If we do not guard against complacency it is easy to drift away from God's Love and his plan for our life. In order to keep focused and live in the fullness of the Lord we need to build our relationship with Christ on solid pillars. Below is a discussion of pillars of faithfulness that we need in our life:

Scriptural Principles

- 1) **Faith** – An example of faith is Ezra when he returned to Jerusalem to offer gold and silver to the Lord. He was permitted to do this by the Assyrian King Artaxerxes and Artaxerxes actually gave him an offering for the temple. Even though he was traveling a path filled with thieves and tribal warlords Ezra relied on God for protection rather than asking King Artaxerxes for protection. (**Ezra 8:22; 31-38**). We need to have the same faith in the promises of **God (Romans 10:13; John 3:16)**.
- 2) **Obedience** – Obedience is our way to receive blessings from God (**Psalm 119:2**). It cleanses our way **in Psalm 119:9**. The greatest lesson of Obedience is the story of when Jesus first met Peter. In **Luke 5:1-3** Jesus asks to use his boat; Then in **Luke 5:4-5** he asks Peter to Obey him a second time and cast out his nets. Finally, Jesus asks Peter in **Luke 5:9-11** to abandon his way of life and follow him. Each time he asked Peter to obey him in a matter of greater significance. God works this way in our lives as well.
- 3) **Humility** – God loves humility! God desires us to be humble. In **Matthew 18:1-5** Jesus told the disciples that the one who is most humble will be the greatest in Heaven. In **Matthew 23:11-13** Jesus chastises the Pharisees for their lack of humility.
- 4) **Love** – We are told in **Proverbs 8:21** that we will receive treasures in heaven if we Love Christ. When you think of Christ's ultimate demonstration of Love and Courage on the cross for our sins how can you not love him!? Paul tells us in **Romans 13:8** to love one another.
- 5) **Forgiveness** – Jesus tells us in **Matthew 6:14-16** that if we do not forgive the trespasses of others he will not forgive our trespasses. In **Matthew 18:20-22** Jesus tells Peter that we are to forgive others 70 times 7.
- 6) **Joy** – God loves a cheerful servant. Moses tells us in **Deuteronomy 28:46-48** that if we fail to serve God with a joyful heart we will be in want of all things.

- 7) **Thankfulness** –In **Psalm 105:1-5** David teaches us the importance of Thanksgiving. In **Philippians 4:6-7** Paul tells us to be thankful and it will give us a peace that surpasses all understanding.
- 8) **Compassion** – God wants us to have compassion for people and a passion for Christ. **Proverbs 22:9** tells us to be compassionate towards the less fortunate. And **Proverbs 17:17** tells us to be willing to share someone’s adversity.
- 9) **Contentment** – Paul is the example of contentment in **Philippians 4:10-13**. Paul was stoned and left for dead, beaten by the Jewish leaders, thrown overboard and left to drown and jailed on numerous occasions. Even though he writes this epistle from a Roman prison he has found that no matter what hardship he faces he is content because Christ Jesus strengthens him.