

A crisis of confidence : - scams, cheats, frauds,
empty promises

There's nothing new under the sun Ecclesiastes 1:9

These verses were written over a period of 300 years from 1000 BC

Help, LORD, for no one is faithful anymore; those who are loyal have vanished from the human race.

Psalm 12:1



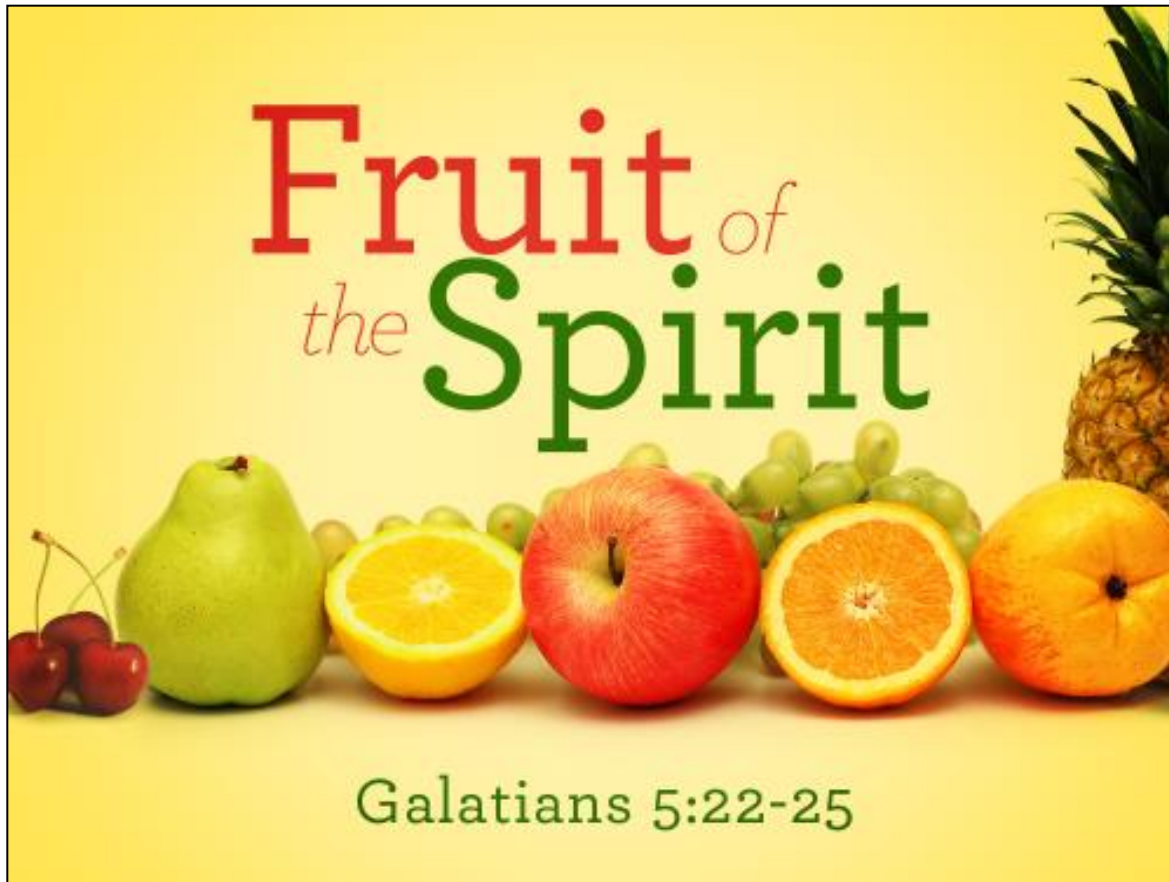
Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.

Hosea 4:1

A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

Isaiah 40:6

The fruit of the Spirit is ... faithfulness



Why not 'fruits' ? Whole package

Why of the 'Spirit' ? We co-operate with Him
"Your fruitfulness comes from me." Hosea 14:8

Faithfulness is one attribute of God's character - Everything depends on this

If God doesn't mean what he says, and cannot be relied upon
– we are lost

But because he is trustworthy we can have faith in him.



A good foundation needed !

for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and
have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. Psalm 26:3

What did Jacob discover ? :-

I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two camps. Genesis 32:10

The Lord stayed with him



Cf. Jesus' promise "I will never ..."

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1Corinthians4:2



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

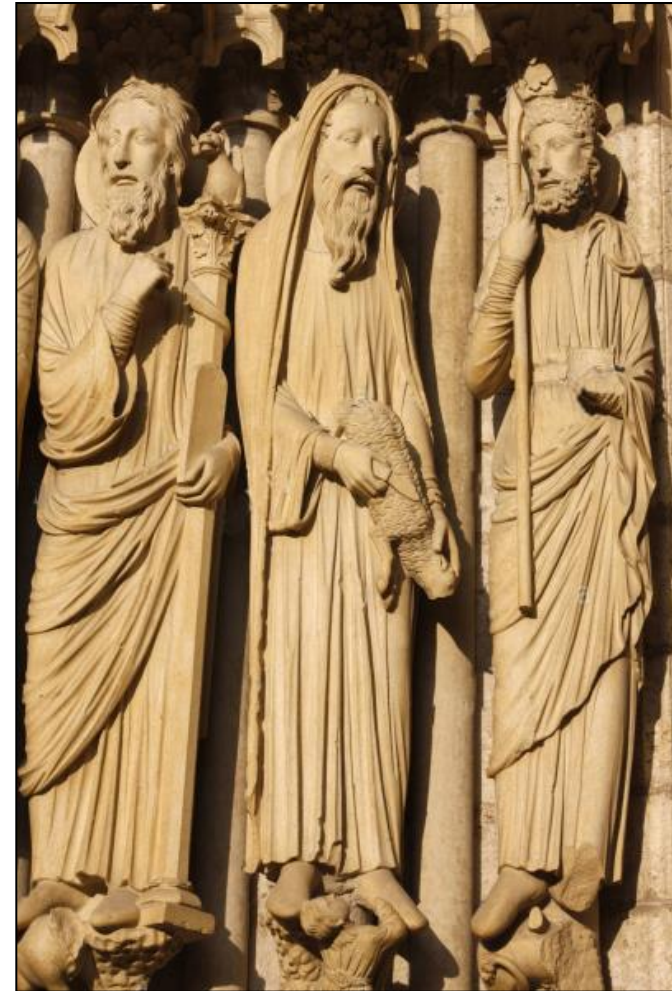
2 Timothy 4:7

More tributes of faithful people :-

.. my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. Numbers 12:7

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always. 1 Samuel 2:35

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. 1 Kings 3:6



North gate sculpture of Moses, Aaron, Samuel or King David, Notre-Dame de Chartres Cathedral,

Faithfulness may sound boring



Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?

Matthew 24:45

but

It is the bedrock of real deep relationships

Faithfulness (on one side)

=

Dependable (on the other)



Where is it needed in the church ?

In **ALL** of us

Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1Timothy 3:2

A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.

1Timothy 3:12

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1Peter 4:10



Why is it needed in the church ?

As a **WITNESS** in an unreliable world.

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:12

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 1:1



It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. 3 John 1:3

Why is it needed in the church ?

To help you **cope with setbacks**, disappointments –
eg. I have decided to

It is related to perseverance

"If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

Revelation 13:10



It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.

3 John 1:3

Why is it needed in the church ?

In order to **receive the rewards**

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2:7

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:23



Faithfulness is part of the Messiah's reign

In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it-- one from the house of David-- one who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness.

Isaiah 16:5



This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain."

Zechariah 8:3

Faithfulness is part of the Messiah's reign

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. Revelation 19:11



Why is it needed in the church ?

God desires a **PURE** relationship with you

"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.
Joshua 24:14

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.
2 Corinthians 11:2

