

Faithful in and out of season

After the wave of COVID and seeing schools and work shift from on campus to online, some slacked and backed off. Some gave excuses, saying they need to have physical presence to be touched and have their lives changed. I think there is a lot of truth in that. They cried, "It is not the same." True, it is not the same, but a difference or an impact is not made by just the physical presence of a person. Andrew Wommack is one teacher that I know whom God has used to change the lives of many people, including mine; yet many have never met him in person. Apostle Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Covenant, which has changed my life, yet I have never met him physically, and lastly, Jesus has had an impact on people second to none, yet we have never met Him physically. I believe you do not have to have a physical presence to cause an impact or make a difference. One can be physically present and still be no good. You can't claim that you will be faithful when you are physically present or get physical presence. Faithfulness starts now, where you are with whatever you have.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

- a) Paul writes this passage encouraging Timothy to continue being faithful in preaching the Word. Regardless of how people respond, he was to keep up and remain faithful.
- b) Timothy was to be instant in season and out of season, meaning all the time. This means when we feel like it or not. When they respond positively or not. Whether we get support or not.

We can't take a vacation from seeking God, hearing from Him, walking by faith, trusting Him, or being faithful.

There is no season where we aren't called to be faithful. No matter what it is. I always encourage my staff not to come up with excuses but to go the extra mile.

1. Found Faithful

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

- a) 2 Corinthians 3:6 He has made us able ministers.
- b) Can you be found faithful even in this season (COVID lockdown)? Faithfulness is found.
- c) In times like these, it is where faithful people are identified.
- d) The season we were living in (COVID) is an example of a season to be faithful. You need to be found faithful, not only act faithful. As you are about your daily life and so forth, you should do everything from the heart and place of faithfulness.
- e) Faithfulness is a requirement.

2. Faithful in the least

Luke 16:10 *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

- a) How do you know that someone will be faithful if they were given more? Look at their **faithfulness in the least record**.
- b) Notice that "faithful is used interchangeably with "just" and unfaithful with unjust. In other words, if you are not faithful, you are unjust.

Matthew 25:21 *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a **few things**, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (context is the parable of the Talents a master gave to three of his servants).*

- a) Faithfulness leads us into the joy of our Lord. If you are not faithful, you will not experience or enter into joy as you ought to.

Luke 19:17 *And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a **very little**, have thou authority over ten cities.*

- a) The key to having authority over much or many cities is not education, expertise, looks, charisma, eloquence, sex, skin color, family background—**It is being faithful IN THE LITTLE.**
- b) A very little
- c) Being faithful opens up a door for promotion to much and a door to authority.

Example of David

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. — 1 Samuel 16:11 (underline mine)

- a) David started out as a **sheep keeper**. **He did not start at the top** as king.
 - i) Start from the bottom and rise through the ranks. They want to be hired today and get promoted tomorrow.
 - ii) They want to be paid as someone who has been with the company for years. Most people are not realistic at all.
- b) **David's greatest call on his life found him while being faithful in the little.**
- c) **We must first be faithful in the very little, and God will promote us to the bigger (Psalms 75:6).** It is a process.
 - i) First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear (Mark 4:28).
 - **No one climbs a ladder from the top!**
- d) As David was being faithful in the least,
 - i) God was creating in him the heart of a leader. **He was preparing him for the throne**, although David may not have known that.
 - ii) **God does not prepare us at the top for the top** but prepares us for the top at the bottom.

- iii) **Character, commitment, and hard work of a person are formed at the bottom.**
- iv) If we cannot be faithful in the very little, we will not be faithful in much. We must do things with excellence and faithfulness; however small they are.
- e) While David was in the bush keeping sheep, **he grew in his relationship with God** and came to the knowledge of God's covenant with the nation of Israel.
- f) He was faithful in the bush (secret) but was promoted before every eye (public).
 - i) God surely sees in secret. Be faithful in the little.
 - ii) One may say, "I have been faithful in this and that, but I have waited and waited, and I have seen nothing come through for me."
 - iii) If people will not **promote you where you are**, God will have someone take you away and promote you. **God will promote you somewhere else.**
 - iv) Do not kick down doors. Do not promote yourself.
- h) David, Joseph (Genesis 39:3-5), Gideon (Judges 6:11-12), Samuel (1 Samuel 2:18), Paul (Acts 8).
- i) Spouses came to them as they were being faithful in their "fields"—call, job, ministry, destiny, or purpose.
 - o Genesis 2:8, 15, 22—Adam. Adam was in the field being faithful. He was given a job before a wife. Why? Because the wife was to be a helpmeet in that field or call.
 - o Genesis 24:63—Jacob. God gave Jacob a field, and he was in the field meditating in the evening.
 - o Genesis 29:1-10—Rachel.
 - o Ruth 2:3—Boaz.
 - o Ester 2:16—King Ahasuerus.

As we are faithful in that which God has called us to do, many other doors will begin to open in our lives.

3. Counted me Faithful

1 Timothy 1:12 *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

- a) If we were to count faithful people, would you be among them? How many times have you been faithful?
- b) When you are counted faithful, you will be enabled and equipped and then put into the ministry. A lack of enabling and being put into the ministry comes down to not being faithful.
- c) You have to be counted faithful before you are put in the ministry.

4. Faithful in all things

1 Timothy 3:11 *Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.*

- a) In all seasons—2 Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*
- b) Faithfulness is not just in a few things. It has to be in all things. If God is a faithful God and lives on the inside of us, then we can be faithful.
- c) Faithfulness is required in all seasons.
 - i) Hebrews 13:18 *Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.*
 - ii) Colossians 3:22 *Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*

- iii) 2 Corinthians 2:9 *For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.*

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*

- d) 1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

- i) Notice this is saying "always abounding in the work of the Lord." This is speaking of being faithful.

5. Faithfulness needs to be proven.

- a) Prove people

We are to prove ourselves (Galatians 6:4; 2 Corinthians 8:8; 13:5) and also prove others.

- i) Luke 16:10 *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."*
- ii) Daniel 1:12 *"Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink."*
- iii) 1 Thessalonians 5:21 *"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*
- iv) 1 Timothy 3:10 *"And let these also **first be proved**; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless."*

- b) How do you prove people?

- i) Start someone in a service role.
 - o Start someone in a service role. Faithfulness is the basis on which to select leaders (1 Corinthians 4:2).

- This is a time to prove their faithfulness and grow in character. While serving in a service role, the heart of a servant is nurtured and developed.
- ii) Give them assignments and homework. Are they volunteering already and serving in some capacity?
- iii) Test (prove) people first in the very small things (least) before you choose or put them into a position of leadership ministry.
 - Servanthood test: Genesis 24:10-21.

Are they willing to help with cleaning? Are they willing to help do the very menial tasks?
 - Loyalty and commitment test—Ruth 1:15-18.
- iv) Watch for growth
- v) Character and attitude.
- vi) Willingness to serve without a quest or gain.
- c) Hire or commit on an interim basis:
 - i) As you check out a person if he is fit for a certain position, do so on an interim basis (60 days, 90 days).
 - ii) Potential leaders have to be proven/tested. This can be done by giving assignments and tasks in the little things and observing how they do.
 - iii) Try people out before a long-term commitment.

6. Commit to faithful men

One of the continuous temptations we will all face is to see a great need and be tempted to promote ability, talent, looks, and so forth. Although these things are great, they should not be the reason we promote those that we do promote.

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

- a) Faithfulness precedes ability.
- b) We should not be committing to people just because they are famous, talented, charismatic, charming, gifted, beautiful, eloquent, rich, or wealthy, of a particular sex or color. **They must be faithful first.**
- c) Leaders have been burned by committing to able, gifted, and talented people who are not faithful yet. If you do not have faithful people, do not commit things. You will cause more damage than good. Do not sacrifice faithfulness for a temporary pleasure and satisfaction.
 - i) Commit only to faithful people. It did not say commit to men, period, but rather to those who are faithful. Why? Because not all men are faithful. This is very specific.
 - ii) **God adds "ability" to "faithfulness," not faithfulness to ability.**
- d) Identify faithful people, then promote and build with those.
- e) Faithful people are usually busy people, and you have to reach out to them. Faithful people get things committed to them, which makes them busy. The reward for a job well done is more work. If you have no work, tasks, or assignments, chances are you are not faithful.

7. Faithful to the Word of God.

- a) John 8:31-32 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
- b) Titus 1:9 *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

When someone is faithful to the Word, they are faithful to the Lord. They are unchangeable and unmovable.

8. Faithful God lives on the inside of us.

The Faithful One is in us, and we should stop all the excuses. You cannot define faithful and not mention the Lord. He is the very definition of what faithful is. God is a faithful God, and this faithful God moved in with us. He resides in our hearts always.

a) 2 Timothy 2:13 *If we believe not, yet **he abideth faithful**: he cannot deny himself.*

i) God abides faithful.

b) 1 Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

i) God is Faithful

a) 1 Thessalonians 5:24 *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

b) 2 Thessalonians 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.*

i) The Lord is faithful

We all can be faithful if we are born again. It's not hard, and neither is it by personal effort. This is reachable and achievable through the power of the Holy Spirit.