

Living a Life of  
**Faithful**  
Presence



## **Paul, Galatians 5:22-25 NIV**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

**Faithfulness** according to Webster:

loyal, constant, steadfast, resolute, unswerving adherence to a person, contract, commitments, oaths, and allegiances; true to one's word or promises, reliable and trustworthy

The biblical idea of “faithfulness” fits this description. The Bible tells us that God is faithful and wants us to be faithful. God isn't looking for a single act or display of great faith.

As Jesus shows us, God desires a life-long pattern of faithfulness—a moment-by-moment display of *consistent* belief, commitment, and character that reflects his own.

This is what it looks like to be a **Faithful Presence**.

# A Culture of Unfaithful Presence

- High divorce rate & break up of families
- Sexual “hook-up” culture (friends with benefits)
- Refusal to take ownership and responsibility
- Loving self more than God and your neighbor
- Practice of a poor work ethic
- Quitting when things get hard or challenging
- Abandoning beliefs when they become inconvenient
- The false notion that you’re a “committed” Christian if you show up at least once or twice a month to church

## **Paul, Ephesians 5:8-11 NIV**

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

## **Jesus, Matthew 5:13-16 NIV**

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

# Being Salt & Light: A Faithful Presence in All Things

How is your “faithful presence” in these three areas of life?

- 1. Personal Relationships**  
(e.g. God, family, friends, etc.)
- 2. The Church**  
(e.g. worship, ministry, giving, etc.)
- 3. The World**  
(e.g. job, work, witness, etc.)

## **Paul, Colossians 3:23-24 NLT**

<sup>23</sup> Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>24</sup> Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:11-13 NIV**

<sup>11</sup> We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. <sup>12</sup> Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. <sup>13</sup> And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is right.



## Genesis 17:1-5 NIV

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

# Biblical Characters & Their Faithful Presence

## Old Testament

- Abraham
- Joseph
- David
- Jeremiah
- Daniel

## New Testament

- Mary (mother of Jesus)
- Mary Magdalene
- John (disciple)
- Jesus
- Paul

“What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in the ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness. Buffeted by the fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into a far country. Yet, they kept coming back to Jesus.”

Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

## **Daniel 3:13-14, 16-18 NIV**

<sup>13</sup> Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, <sup>14</sup> and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?”

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.

<sup>18</sup> But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

# Living a Life of Faithful Presence

- Faithfulness is fruit (evidence) of the Holy Spirit; faithful presence will increase and grow with disciples
- Being a faithful presence in all areas of life will in time transform us and put on display the beauty of God
- In a culture of unfaithfulness, the consistency of our beliefs, commitment, and character will be salt and light
- Jesus calls out disciples first to counter the infidelity of culture through faithfulness to him and the local church
- How is the Spirit inviting you to respond?

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**[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)**