

March 2009

From the Pastor



Being Faithful

Being Faithful How faithful are you? I am not very faithful, but I'd like to be. The Galatians weren't very faithful. Look at what Paul wrote to them.

1 You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. 2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? 4 Have you suffered so much for nothing-- if it really was for nothing? 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? Galatians 3:1-5 NIV

When I talk about being faithful I'm talking about living a life of faith in God. We become Christians by faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus saved us; it was not because of anything we have done. Just as we have begun our Christian life with faith in Jesus we need to continue our Christian life by faith in Jesus.

Now what does this mean? When you have faith in God you completely trust Him. Faith is trust. There is an absolute dependence on God. To be faithful we should be "full of faith."

How do we become unfaithful? Look again at Galatians 3:1-5. We become unfaithful when we stop trusting God for our Christian life. This happens when we start to look at doing things for God so that we can be better Christians instead of trusting in God to make us better Christians.

This is easy for me to fall into. I sometimes think that I have to do good things so that my relationship with God is active. I fall into the trap of thinking that I need to do good things so that I keep growing as a Christian. But the truth is that I am still a sinner saved by grace and my

ability to keep my relationship with God vital is weak. My hard work to be a better Christian falls apart on a daily basis because of sin.

Our guidebook for living good lives is the bible. We try to do what God commands. We try to follow God's law. But if we are to be faithful, does that mean that we should no longer follow the law of God? So does that mean we just give up being good when we become Christians? What good are all the rules in the bible?

24 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. ²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, Galatians 3:24-26 NIV

What we need to understand is that the law is important. It leads us to Christ. We come to realize how we cannot live the kind of life God calls us to live without trusting in Christ.

But the law is also important for the believer. Because it continues to show us the kind of life God commands us to live. But again as we study the law we come to realize how we need to continue to live by faith to live out the life commanded to us as believers.

So obedience to the law is surrender to God's command; not a way to win God's favor. We already are loved deeply by God. We already have eternal life with God. We are already part of the family of God. We just need to know what the family rules are and then with the Father's help live as a member of the family.

So let's all live faithful lives; trusting in God to be the man or woman of God that we have been called to be.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The word "Pastor" is written in a cursive style, and "Art" is written in a more stylized, blocky cursive.