

Trans
~~CONFORM~~
TRANSFORMING FAITHFULNESS

Romans 8:28-29: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:

God's fundamental goal is to make us more like Christ. Once you know Jesus, the process of transformation begins, and we can look to the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) as our benchmark. The Holy Spirit works within us to convict us of our sin, convince us of our need for a savior, and to convert us into the saving knowledge of Jesus. This week we look at the Fruit of Faithfulness. God cannot fail us, and by fellowshipping with Him we can use His faithfulness within us to work through us and bring others to know Christ.

1A) Pastor Bill describes faith as belief, and faithfulness as a behavior. Using a dictionary, look up the two words, noting your findings.

1B) PERSONAL: Record your thoughts as you process this distinction and the definitions.

2A) Review the key verses for this series. Detail any new insights you have or parts that are particularly meaningful to you.

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 3:18

Galatians 5:22-23

Read Luke 6:35-36:

3A) It is by grace you have been saved through your _____.

3B) The following is The Message translation of Ephesians 2:7-10. Highlight what speaks to you.

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

4) What do you learn about God's faithfulness from the following?

Romans 5:8

2 Timothy 2:13

2 Peter 3:9

1 Thessalonians 4:14

5) PERSONAL: Recall a time when you felt God's faithfulness to you. Write a prayer of thanks.

6) PERSONAL: Describe how you are faithful to God.

7) PERSONAL: How are you allowing God's faithfulness to shine through you in regard to your relationships, your resources and your responsibilities?

ACT: God's purpose for humankind was not an afterthought. If you believe in Christ, you can celebrate that God has always known you. His love is eternal, and His wisdom and power are supreme. He wants to transform you into the best you that you can be, guiding you and protecting you along the way. For this transformation to take place you need to foster your relationship with God throughout each day, accepting nudges from the Holy Spirit. This helps the Fruit of the Spirit to grow within you and spread to others around you.

Daily Devotional: It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- This week let's explore passages that describe the faithfulness of God.

Monday:

Deuteronomy 7:9 NLT

Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.

Tuesday:

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 NLT

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Wednesday:

Hebrews 10:23 NKJV

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Thursday:

1 Peter 4:19 NIV

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Friday:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NIV

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Saturday:

Psalms 36:5 NIV

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

Sunday:

Exodus 34:6 NLT

The Lord passed in front of Moses, calling out, "Yahweh! The Lord! The God of compassion and mercy! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

