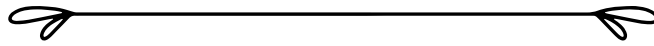


faithfulness



Faithfulness. It's something I've been struggling with and will most likely continue to struggle with throughout my life. How do I stay faithful in Him? Specifically, how do I remain faithful in Him during the dry seasons? Spiritually, it's been at an all-time low for me. Not wanting to open the Bible, not going to church, succumbing to sinful temptations, rarely praying, and the list goes on. In the midst of all this, when motivation is at an all-time low, how do I stay faithful? This is something that I've been reflecting on and trying to fight to answer.

When asking myself this question in the past, it would be easy to answer. Read the Bible often, pray often, go to church, and just don't do anything that a "Christian" wouldn't do. Simple, right? But these days it's been a reflection of whether these "solutions" are the end-all be-all answer to staying faithful.

After a bit more time of reflecting, I came to the realization that there's absolutely nothing I can do myself to stay faithful. We see that even the 12 disciples were capable of betraying and abandoning Jesus. The 12 disciples, the ones closest to Jesus's teachings, betrayed him or abandoned him during His arrest. And here I thought I could stay faithful through my own sheer force.

It is always humbling, as someone who likes to have things under control and is very stubborn, to be reminded of my weakness and sinfulness being human. If I don't rely on God's strength and rely on my own, the outcome seems pretty clear to what will eventually happen. It's no surprise that I've been in a drought for such a long period repetitively. It's the epitome of "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (v.41).

So what was my conclusion to how do I stay faithful in Him? Realizing that only through God's strength am I able to remain faithful. To say that I have everything figured out regarding this question is far from the truth. But one thing I know and keep in mind on a regular basis is that my heart needs to be aligned toward God for me to stay faithful; otherwise, I will fall back into my sinful nature at some point again.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Let's not rely on our own strength, which tends to be full of weaknesses and sin. Let's keep God close, focus on Him, and continue to ask for the strength to do His will as a faithful servant and not our own.