

# FAITHFULNESS:

**More Than A Word**

HEBREWS 3:1-19

# Faithfulness is More than a Word

## 1) Jesus' faithfulness as Apostle, High Priest, and Son (v. 1–6)

Brothers and Sisters, think carefully about Jesus! He is faithful [in all things] and forever worthy of more glory than Moses (v. 3):

- Moses was faithful in all God's house (v. 2, 5, Num. 12:7, Ex. 40:16).
  - As a servant (v. 5, Ex. 14:31)
  - God raised up Moses for a testimony (Deut. 18:18) to those things which were to be spoken of later (v. 5, Heb. 1:1).

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But by contrast, Jesus was faithful as a Son over God's household of which Moses was a part (Hebrews 1:2, 3:6)

- Jesus *is God* and Lord, by whom all things were created (including Moses), (Heb. 1:2, 1:8, 3:4, Col. 1:16, Ro. 11:36, 1 Cor. 8:6, Jn. 10:30, 33, 8:58, Jn. 1:1, 14)
- Jesus supremely represents God to humans as an Apostle. Jesus represents humans to God the father as High Priest (v. 1).
- God the Father appointed Jesus the Son to the task (v. 2)

Those truly in God's house faithfully hold firmly to our confidence in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (individually and corporately in the church). (See 3:6, 4:14, 4:16, 6:11, 7:19, 10:23, 11:1, 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19, Jn. 2:21, 1 Tim. 3:15, 1 Pet. 1:3).

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## APPLICATION (v. 1-6):

- ✓ As Creator, Jesus has greater authority than Moses; faithfully believe in Jesus; trust and obey His Word!
- ✓ Consider how Jesus (the new covenant) is superior to Moses (the old covenant of law); faithfully fix your thoughts on Him!
- ✓ Jesus is the perfect picture of faithful commitment; faithfully model and imitate Him! Do others see Jesus' Spirit in you?
- ✓ Christian Brothers and Sisters, you partake in a heavenly calling; you are part of the House of God. O' faithful, *"Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (1 Cor. 3:16)

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## 2.) Jewish unfaithfulness in the desert (v. 7–11)

- Hebrews 3:7–11 references Psalm 95:7–11, which recalls the Exodus generation's unwillingness to trust God in the desert (Ex. 17:1–7, Nm. 20:13, Dt. 6:16).
- Hardhearted, God's people were not faithful to Him (Heb. 3:8 refers to Ps. 95:8–9). Ps. 95:8 (ref. Heb. 3:8) mentions two places of rebellion which had become synonyms for wrong attitudes toward God:
  - *Meribah* (place of “quarreling/complaining”) [Ps. 95:8]
  - *Massah* (place of “putting someone to the test or tempting”) [Ps. 95:8]

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- Moses records many instances of rebellion, but four instances directly provoked God in the wilderness because they attacked His character by questioning God's faithfulness to His people (Heb. 3:8–10):
  1. At Massah & Meribah when the people were thirsty (Ex. 17, Ps. 95, Heb. 3)
  2. At the report of the spies re: the promise land (Nm. 14)
  3. Again over the lack of water in the desert (Num. 20)
  4. Adversity of desert wandering plus food/water (Num. 21)

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## APPLICATION (v. 7-11):

- ✓ Do not be unfaithful like the Israelite wanderers in the desert.
- ✓ Do not quarrel or test God. God expects faithful obedience.
- ✓ Do not harden your heart to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ True Worship is 1) Hearing the Word of God, 2) Obeying the Word of God, and 3) Praising God for it (as He is faithful).

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## 3.) Joint Duty of the Faithful: Spiritual Integrity and Community (v. 12–13)

- Guard Against Evil / Unfaithfulness! (v. 12)
  - Watch out brothers and sisters! (v. 1, 12, and 1 Jn 2:19)
- Keep on “encouraging one another” is a command! Do not live life apart from other Christians in the church. This is ongoing action that is not optional (v. 13, also 10:25).
  - Continually day after day, while it is still possible, so that none of you become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.



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## APPLICATION (v. 12-13):

- ✓ A warning exists for those who have heard the Gospel but have not responded to it; if you were to die this moment, are you confident in your destination?
- ✓ A strong focus on Christ encourages one to faithfulness
- ✓ God's House (church) should guard against impurity and grow in Christ (individually and corporately).
- ✓ Faithfulness to Christ also occurs in community: ***encouraging others implies participating in spiritual fellowship***; comfort the discouraged, help the weak, warn those who are idle, be patient with everyone (1 Thess. 5:12-19). We have Christ's Spirit as our Paraclete and as our helper.
  - Study Scripture with other believers, meditate upon it
  - Join a Sunday school class
  - Seek / Receive discipleship from a "bosom" friend
  - Join a prayer group that meets regularly
  - Spend time with other Christians
  - Serve God within His house (the Church body); pray about how best to get involved

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## 4.) Joy of the Faithful versus Jeopardy of the Unfaithful (14–19)

- The *Faithful*: Partake in Christ and Enter His Rest (v. 14, 18–19)
  - They persevere in commitment until the end. (v. 14)
- The *Unfaithful*: Partake in death because of their unbelief (v. 17-19)
- Unbelievers, more specifically:
  - Fall away from the living God (v. 12)
  - Provoke and anger the living God (v. 15–17)
  - Die separated from God and the faithful ones (v. 17)
  - Do not enter God's rest (v. 18–19)

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## APPLICATION (v. 14-19):

- ✓ “To become” in 3:14 implies a new state of existence. *The Faithful* should fully participate in the community of Christ (e.g., a local church).

Note: We serve God, Christ our Lord, when we serve in His House through a local church. Do not squash His calling to serve. Do you participate? Has your life in union with Christ become one in communion with other Christians? How do you get involved or serve?

- ✓ Believe in Jesus Christ while it is still “today!” Do not harden your heart in unbelief (v. 15, 19)
- ✓ *O’ Doubters*: Hear the LORD this day, cry out to God for mercy, and:
  - **Admit** you are a sinner who needs salvation and recognize that you live in rebellion against God
  - **Believe** by faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; only Jesus can make atonement for your sins.
  - **Confess** Jesus as Lord and Savior, that He is God incarnate, and submit your ways to His Word