

CONTINUING THE FIGHT OF FAITH

The Fight of Faith: Round 6

August 5, 2018

Pastor Gordon

*“When the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”
(Luke 18:8, NLT)*

WHY IS FAITHFULNESS IMPORTANT?

God is **LOOKING** for faithful people

*“For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for people whose hearts are perfect toward him, so that he can show his great power in helping them.”
(2 Chronicles 16:9, The Living Bible)*

Faithful people are **HARD** to find

*“Everyone talks about how loyal and faithful he is, but just try to find someone who really is!”
(Proverbs 20:6, TEV)*

“God looks down from heaven at the children of Adam, to see if a single one is wise, a single one seeks God. All have proved faithless, all alike turned sour, not one of them does right, not a single one.” (Psalm 53:2–3, NJB)

Faithfulness is the **KEY** to victory

“Every child of God can defeat the world, and our faith is what gives us this victory. No one can defeat the world without having faith in Jesus as the Son of God.” (1 John 5:4–5, CEV)

THE TESTS OF FAITHFULNESS

1. God uses little things to test my TRUSTWORTHINESS

“Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones.” (Luke 16:10, TEV)

“And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what belongs to you?” (Luke 16:12, TEV)

2. God uses my talents to test my UNSELFISHNESS

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10, NIV84)

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

(1 Corinthians 4:2, NIV84)

3. God uses tough times to test my **PERSISTENCE**

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” (2 Corinthians 4:16–18, NLT)

“Don’t get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don’t give up.” (Galatians 6:9, CEV)

4. God uses shortages to test my **GENEROSITY**

“I tell you, use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends for eternity. In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven.... But if you are unfaithful with your worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?... You cannot serve both God and money.” Luke 16:9-14 (NLT)

Two actions faithful people continue to perform

BRING people to Jesus

“Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven.”” (Matthew 9:2, NLT)

BUILD the faith of others

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.” (2 Timothy 2:2, NLT)

“Peter, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith will not completely fail. So after you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen and build up the faith of your brothers.” Luke 22:31-32 (LB)

ACTION STEP:
INVITE AND INVEST