

# The Fruit of the Spirit is FAITHFULNESS

What is a hero? A dictionary definition states that a hero is a person who is admired for brave deeds, courage, or noble qualities. Can you think of any heroes in our world today? What makes these people heroes in your opinion?

Can you think of any people in the Bible who might be considered to be heroes? What makes these people heroes?

Did you know that there is a whole chapter in the New Testament book of Hebrews which names some heroes from the Bible? Each person is considered to be a "hero of the faith" because of something he or she did differently from all the others. But there is one thing about each hero that is the same. Let's read some verses about these people. Listen for what is the same about each one.

- *Hebrews 11:7 – "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family."*
- *Hebrews 11:8 – "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."*
- *Hebrews 11:17-18 – "By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.'"*
- *Hebrews 11:23 – "By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict."*
- *Hebrews 11:29 – "By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned."*

What one thing was the same about each biblical hero? Each of these people lived by faith. Each one listened to God, trusted him, and obeyed him. Why would they do this? They had noticed that God was faithful to them in their lives. They wanted to be faithful like God is faithful.

God's faithfulness is often talked about in the Bible. When God says he will do something, he does it. God always remains loyal. Check out these verses that describe the faithfulness of God:

- *Psalm 117:2 – “For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.”*
- *Deuteronomy 7:9 – “The Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.”*
- *2 Thessalonians 3:3 – “The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.”*

God's faithfulness is found in so many stories of people in the Bible. We read these stories and know that we can count on him to be faithful to us, too. The Holy Spirit works in our lives to help us develop that same characteristic of God. If we learn how to trust God, obey God, and always walk with God, then we are heroes of the faith!

Prayer:

Dear faithful God, it is amazing to think about how you have kept your promises for so many years. It is awesome to read about the people in the Bible who experienced your faithfulness, and then were faithful in their actions back to you. Thank you for being faithful to us as well. As we grow to be more like you, please develop the fruit of faithfulness in each of us. In your name we pray, amen.