

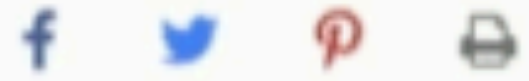


Faithfulness

The Fruit of the Spirit

Gal. 5:22-23a; Hebrews 3:1-2

JetBlue flight attendant quits job via escape slide



On this day in 2010, JetBlue flight attendant Steven Slater quits his job in dramatic style by sliding down his plane's emergency-escape chute while the aircraft is stopped near the terminal gate at New York's [John F. Kennedy](#) International Airport. Slater, who claimed his actions were prompted by the behavior of a rude passenger, quickly became a media sensation and national folk hero.





The
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love,
joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control...”

(Galatians 5:22,23a, NIV)

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Faithfulness:

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- Day to day dependability

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- Day to day dependability
- Long-term commitment

“The word *commitment*
strikes fear in the hearts
of men and women today!”

A CASE STUDY IN FAITHFULNESS

“Fix your thoughts on Jesus ...He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house.”

(Hebrews 3:1a,2, NIV)

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Problems Moses faced:

- Critical food shortage

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- Grumbling
- Death threats
- Mutiny of key leaders

**FOUR KEYS TO
FAITHFULNESS WHEN
I WANT TO QUIT**

1. Reveal **my frustrations...**
to a trusted advisor

“What have I done to displease
you that you put the burden of
all these people on me?”

(Numbers 11:11b, NIV)

“Did I conceive all these people?
Did I give them birth? Why do
you tell me to carry them in my
arms, as a nurse carries an
infant, to the land you promised
on oath to their ancestors?”

(Numbers 11:12, NIV)

“Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’”

(Numbers 11:13, NIV)

“I cannot carry all these people
by myself; the burden is too
heavy for me.”

(Numbers 11:14, NIV)

“If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me — if I have found favor in your eyes!”

(Numbers 11:15, NIV)

“What have I done to displease
you that you put the burden of
all **these people** on me?”

(Numbers 11:11b, NIV)

**This fights enemy of
faithfulness #1: Self-pity**

**2. Release my need to
control everything**

“The Lord said to Moses: “Bring me seventy of Israel’s elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them.”

(Numbers 11:16, NIV)

“They will share the burden of
the people with you so that you
will not have to carry it alone.”

(Numbers 11:17b, NIV)

- **Delegate** responsibilities

“A young man ran and told
Moses, “Eldad and Medad are
prophesying in the camp.”

(Numbers 11:27, NIV)

“Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ aide since youth, spoke up and said, ‘Moses, my lord, stop them!’”

(Numbers 11:28, NIV)

“But Moses replied, ‘Are you
jealous for my sake? I wish that
all the Lord’s people were
prophets and that the Lord
would put his Spirit on them!’”

(Numbers 11:29, NIV)

- Don't **try to control**
what you can't control

This fights enemy of
faithfulness #2: **Self-effort**

**3. Refocus on God's work
instead of my work**

(The LORD said) “I will disown them ...I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are!”

(Numbers 14:12, NIV)

(Moses said) “The LORD is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion...”

(Numbers 14:18a, NIV)

“In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt.”

(Numbers 14:19, NIV)

**This fights enemy of
faithfulness #3:
Selfish ambition**

4. Remember
God's faithfulness

“I will proclaim the name of the
Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of
our God!”

(Deuteronomy 32:3, NIV)

“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just.”

(Deuteronomy 32:4a, NIV)

“A faithful God who does no
wrong, upright and just is he.”

(Deuteronomy 32:4b, NIV)

“He will cover you with his
feathers, and under his wings
you will find refuge; his
faithfulness will be your shield
and rampart.”

(Psalm 91:4, NIV)

This fights enemy of
faithfulness #4: **Self-focus**

“Fix your thoughts on Jesus ...He
was faithful...”

(Hebrews 3:1,2a, NIV)

THE KEY QUESTION:

**What will I choose
to focus on?**



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