**A Faithful Saint is Hard to Find** (c) 2018 WF Cobb Truthbase.net  ***DailyTruthbase.blogspot***

**I A Saint Is Holy; S**eparate (Belief, Know,V-F, Do), **A**lways acts in Love, **I**ndwelt by HS (and it shows), **N**ot limited, **T**ruths it in love

**II. What do you believe** about Jesus? Historical figure, Sin-bearer, Savior, Coming King & Judge, Lord God? How do you Respond?

**L**ead me, leave me, or launch me wherever He wants (let's go...sent out disciples...don't go) *Pr 3:5-6 Trust in ;the LORD ack/submit* **O**rder my every step, thought, value, desire and feeling; *Lk 9:23-26 desire to follow...deny self*

**R**emove or add anything to my life, Rearrange the furniture, Reverse my expectations & experience *Lk 22:42 not my will, but Your*s

**D**emand the difficult, even my death (but more commonly my life) *Rm 12:1-2; Rev 2:10 faithful to death*

**III. Faithfulness** is a consistent sacrificial loyalty with obvious results: NIDNTT 2:594 dependability of those bound thru an agreement; conduct that honored a bond; Stoics: man's fidelity to his moral destiny leads to fidelity toward others; Mystery: abandonment to the deity by following his instruction/teaching, and by putting oneself under his protection; "Besides Judaism and Christianity, the mystery religions stand out in their demand of faith in their divinities, and the revelations and teachings delivered by them. In this way salvation, (which in the mystery religions was equated with divinization) was promised to the believer."; All had the same demand "Believe if you would be saved, or begone" Origen, (Contra Cels,6,11); Qumran: "God will save them from the house of judgment on account of their suffering and their faithfulness to the teacher of righteousness. The doing of the law is the supreme and decisive idea. Faithfulness to the teacher, on the other hand, means holding to the knowledge revealed to him."; The revelation of eschatological truth was at the same time the requital of obedience and disobedience. "For assuredly he who believes will receive reward." (Syr. Bar. 54:16)

**IV. Faithfulness** develops from a conviction that:

 1. Jesus is who He said He is and will do what He said He'll do *Heb 11:6*

 2. He has saved my life and I owe it all to Him *1Cor 6:20 bought...glorify with body and spirit which are God's*

 3. There is no better "system or approach" to enjoying this life and the next *Rm 12:1-2 perfect will*

 4. I have a responsibility to His: *Lk 10:27 (not) ashamed* Person (reputation, loyalty, time) Precepts (specific),

 Principles (general-what would Jesus do or want me to do), Power (not trusting in anything else), Perspective (Vision)

**V. Faithfulness** is enhanced by: 1. The experience of God's protection and power toward me *Ps 116:12 all His benefits towards me*

2. Enjoyment of abandoning myself to Him and finding Him faithful *Ps 9:10 know...trust...never abandoned/forsaken*

3. Exhortation *Heb 3:12 Take heed...evil heart of unfaithfulness, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another*

4. Stewardship: *1Cor 4:2* Time, Money, Strength, Talent, Truth, Experience, Education, Entrusted/Self, Liberty, Opportunities,

**VI. Faithfulness** diminishes/decreases due to: 1. Satan and immersion in his world system *1Jn 2:16 all that is in the world*

2. Forgetfulness/ingratitude *Ps 103:2 Forget not His benefits; 106:13 they soon forgot His works*

3. Pride - we think we know better than God or can do a better job of managing our lives than God can *Ps 14:1 fool says no God*

4. Sin/Rebellion - breaks fellowship, begets shame, builds independence *Gen 3:9 Adam, where are you?*

**VII. In order to be faithful I must:**

**F**ix my heart (mind, values, will, emotions) to Follow regardless of the cost  *Isa 50:7 face like flint; Phil 2:8 obedient to death*

**A**bandon and Avoid anything or anyone that will hold me back or trip me up  *Lk 9*

**I**nquire into Jesus' expectations and desires for me in all things *Mk 8:38 ashamed of Me*

**T**rust that if I do my part, He'll do His part in providing all that I need to do His will *2Cor 9:8 grace...all sufficiency...abound*

**H**elp others along the way as I seek their help and encouragement  *Eph 4; Phil 2; 2Tim 2:2*

**F**ulfill all His commands and expectations for me  *Mt 25 Parable of the Talents*

**U**nabashedly brag about how good my Lord is *Lk 10:27 (not) ashamed*

**L**ook to the future payoff *Pr 28:20 faithful abound with blessings...1Sm 26:23 LORD render...righteousness and his faithfulness..*.

Mt 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant...46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing.

Mt 25:21 Well done, good & faithful servant...faithful over few things...ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Loss of reward Heb 3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unfaithfulness.

Defilement Titus 1:15...but to them that are defiled and unfaithful nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Mt 16:26 what profit to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Questions for Reflection/Discussion/Response:**

1. What has God entrusted to you,, and why? How does he expect you to use it for His glory, the benefit of others, and your sainthood?

2. Why is being faithful difficult? What helps you be faithful? When and how are you tempted to use what God's entrusted to you for yourself?

3. How does fitfulness require submission to God's value system? What to do if we don't see the benefit of embracing God's values?

4. How can you grow in faithfulness? Where start? What do you have to lose/gain? Will you hear: Well done good and faithful servant?