

Devotion.
19 January 2017

Faith and faithfulness.

Do you trust God completely? So much so that you live according to your faith, to the point that the Lord is able to trust you too? When Jesus Christ returns, it will be the most wonderful of mercies to hear him say to us appreciatively: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

God is always faithful, and we should learn to take him at his Word. But do we trust in him unconditionally?

Proverbs 20: 6 says: "*Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?*" It is difficult to find someone whose love and loyalty can be counted on. Too many people are unpredictable and unreliable, to the extent that we rather expect people to break their word than keep it.

Paul's list of shameful attitudes and habits "in the last days" (2 Timothy 3:1) is disturbing, when we think that he is talking about God's people in his Church: "*For people will be lovers of themselves...blasphemers... unloving...slanderers...traitors...*" (verses 2-4). The consequences of these ungodly behaviours to society, and to the ability of the Church to do God's work, are catastrophic. It creates a loss of faith in the message of God's Word/

God hates any form of unfaithfulness. All significant relationships are built on the foundation of faith and faithfulness, in other words on trust born out of trustworthiness. Also our relationships with the Lord and with his people are incomprehensible without faith and faithfulness.

According to 2 Timothy 1: 13 - 14, to truly "hold fast" spiritually, we must have *God's Spirit* dwelling within us. And the "fruit" that God's Spirit gives us is composed of wonderful qualities. The apostle Paul listed some of the most important ones: "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*" (Galatians 5:22-23)