

# Holy Spirit: Spirit Fruit of Faithfulness

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The next few Sundays, we will be focusing on the fruit of the Spirit we find in the final three listing; faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. We will take two Sundays on faithfulness. Faithfulness comes from the Greek work “pistis” meaning faith, belief or trust. This word represents both the trust we can place in another as well as the resulting loyalty or reliability of the one in whom we place our trust. Let’s begin our focus on the spirit fruit of faithfulness by first considering the faithfulness of God shown to us through Christ Jesus.

The Lord Jesus Christ is indeed worthy of our trust. We can be confident of this because of the following:

1. The character of Jesus is unchanging. His message during his earthly ministry was consistent (stressing love, mercy, and grace) and he remains the same as he abides in us now and we abide in him. This abiding makes it possible for us to bear the fruit of faithfulness. (John 15:5) We are also reminded that scripture says, ***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*** (Hebrews 13:8) Jesus Christ can be counted on in every way imaginable.
  - Consider the times in your life when you counted on the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ. What was most meaningful to you as you trusted Jesus and what were the circumstances?
2. Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate, keeps his promises. Because the promises of God are true, so are the promises of Christ. Be reminded of what the prophet Jeremiah said about God and God’s faithfulness during the darkest times of his life. Jeremiah proclaims that in remembering God’s faithfulness, he has hope. (Lamentations 3:21) Jeremiah is convinced, ***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*** (Lam. 3:22-23) Jesus knew that he too could count on the faithfulness of his heavenly father and gave us the example so that we too would trust in that faithfulness.
  - In what ways did Jesus give evidence that he was trusting in his heavenly father during his earthly ministry?