



Maranatha Baptist Church
Equip University
Christian Living Track
Fearing and Following God

Class 10 – Pursuing Faithfulness

Introduction

1. What is faithfulness?

Faithfulness is living to please the Lord.

What are some examples of things the Bible says are God's will for our lives?

God wants you to be like Jesus (Ephesians 4:12-15, 20-24; Colossians 1:28; 1 Peter 2:21).

Jesus lived to please the Father (John 8:28-29).

2. How can we live faithful lives?

God works in you so you can please Him (Philippian 2:1-13).

1. It matters what we do.

2. It matters how we do it.

3. It matters why we do it.

If you know what God wants you to do, but you don't want to do it, what should you do?

3. What do faithful decisions look like?

Faithful decisions - decisions that please Him, will have these marks:

1) Focus: The revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:21).

2) Goal: Glorify God – Please Him (1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:9).

3) Extent: All of life (Romans 12:1).

4. Faithfulness Brings Freedom and Protection

| | Outcome-focused | Faithfulness-focused |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Whom do we trust? | Ourselves | God |
| Who gets credit? | Ourselves | God |
| Success is... | Seen by people | Seen by God |

Freedoms and protections that come from faithful decisions:

1. Freedom from perfectionism.
2. Freedom from regret.
3. Freedom from pride.
4. Protection from burnout (Mark 6:30-32; Ephesians 2:10).
5. Protection from people-pleasing (Matthew 12:46-50; John 6:15).
6. Protection from wastefulness (Luke 12:13-21; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

5. Faithfulness brings responsibility

Conclusion

The goal of our decision-making is faithfulness – living to please the Lord.

Additional Resources:

- Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*
- Lou Priolo, *Pleasing People: How not to be an Approval Junkie*
- Ed Welch, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest*
- John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something*
- Tony Payne & Philip Jensen, *Guidance and the Voice of God*
- James Petty, *Step By Step*

Class Outline:

1. What is the fear of man?
2. What is the fear of God?
3. How do we fear man? We fear that people will expose us.
4. How do we fear man? We fear that people will reject us.
5. How do we fear man? We fear that people will harm us.
6. A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor
7. Anxious or Restful?
8. God's Providence
9. God's Will
10. Faithfulness
11. Tools of the Trade Part 1: God's Word, Prayer, Counsel
12. Tools of the Trade Part 2: Circumstances and Feelings
13. Panel Discussion—Fearing and Following the Lord