

THE NARROW ROAD

Contending for the Holiness of God

While on the narrow road, in our journey to becoming the Bride of Messiah, we discover that developing faithfulness into our soul is a slow, and sometimes painful process.

BE FOUND FAITHFUL

REVELATION 17:12-14

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

Proving of Our Hearts

In His faithfulness to help us become faithful sons and daughters, He determines the relationships that we are to have on this earth before we are ever formed in our mother's womb. And He uses those relationships to prove our hearts to see if we will remain faithful to them. For if we are to become a pure and spotless Bride, we must be found faithful to persevere to the end of our life's circumstances, by overcoming them with the grace He gives us.

But becoming faithful, whether as a: friend, spouse, employee, caretaker, guardian, business partner, or any other roles that we may steward, does not happen overnight, as it can only be proven over time. While on the narrow road, in our journey to becoming the Bride of Messiah, we discover that developing faithfulness into our soul is a slow, and sometimes painful process.

For that process will reveal what is really in our hearts, whether good or bad. It will reveal our weaknesses, fears, vulnerabilities and often a heart

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that is hard, for whatever the reasons, that has not yet come to that place, where it is putty in the Master Potter's trustworthy hands.

Faithfulness is a character attribute that we all need, if we are to know the Lord, intimately. For when faithfulness is forged into our souls, by enduring years of difficult, painful and unpleasant situations, especially when staying faithful to those who have not been faithful to us—nor deserving of our faithfulness, we develop an attribute in our soul that causes the Lord to draw even closer yet to us.

When we choose to remain faithful, when it can be much easier to walk away or look for false comfort, we are becoming more like Him in our words, thoughts and deeds—more compatible with His nature. We are developing a more intimate, mature, selfless relationship with the only One called Faithful and True, as we learn to see the faults of others filtered through His eyes of Light, His lens of love and His heart of mercy.

Being faithful does not mean that we have been perfect in all that we have done. We would be a liar if we said that was true, and the truth would not be in us. We all have made regrettable mistakes in the process to becoming faithful—being perfected in His perfect love, a love that calls us to walk in selfless, unoffended love. Yet, being faithful does not mean that we co-partner with or condone unrighteousness. Or walk in compromise and mixture. Instead, it demands the very opposite.

Pain of Unfaithfulness

So in that place of relationship, which is often developed in the Refiner's fire, we become aware intimately of our need to surrender our will, for His. We learn just how vital faithfulness is to Him. For, at some point, as we travel the narrow road, we will feel the pain of what our unfaithfulness had caused His noble heart, when we chose other lovers—our ways, above Him. When we experience that pain, I promise you, you will never want to be unfaithful to the Lover of your soul again! For that pain will break you to a billion pieces. It will make you realise just how faithful He is to those so undeserving—those whom He has bought with His blood.

And when we have that heart knowledge—not head knowledge, we will be able to endure to the

end and overcome the disappointments, betrayals, disillusion, and what can feel like endless defeats or setbacks. Yet, at the same time, we will know all things are working together for our good, according to His eternal purposes for our lives, for we will have shown, over and over again, our faithfulness to Him—His Word, and that we truly love Him.

How could we define faithfulness? Reliable and consistent, unwavering in devotion, consistent with fact or reality; not false, true to one's word, promise or vows regardless of extenuating circumstances.

I do not know anyone who wants to be in a relationship with someone who is not faithful to them or to the purpose of that relationship. No one likes being betrayed or thrown under the bus, yet we do it to others often, whether we realise it or not.

How could we define betrayal? The breaking or violation of a presumptive contract, trust, or confidence that produces moral and psychological conflict within a relationship amongst individuals or groups. In other words, when someone you trust breaks that trust by doing something that hurts you, often by failing to keep or honor a promise.

Several years ago, I had received this word: *"Few are willing in this hour to be refined. Few walk in integrity of heart before Me. Even fewer walk in the holiness that is required to see My face. As the shakings increase in the days, months and years to come, when My people have seen how they have put their hope, faith and trust in princes of this earth and man-made chariots and how they have failed them—then and only then will they be willing to be cleansed from the Babylonian system that they have loved. Keep calling My people out of Babylon."*

That word broke me, while provoking me to another layer of intercession for a pure and spotless Bride to come forth, who would have integrity of heart before Him. As I pondered that word, I sought a deeper understanding of what it meant to have integrity. And I somehow knew, at the time, to be faithful meant we must have integrity of heart before Him, at all times.

How could we define integrity? Quality of being **honest**, having strong moral principles. State of being whole (spirit, soul and body) and undivided.

How could we define honest? Freedom from **deceit** or fraud.

How could we define deceit? Practice to conceal or **misrepresent the truth** for the purpose to mislead.

When we look deeper at what it means to have integrity of heart before Him, we can see if we are to be found faithful that we must be found before Him: honest, free from all deceit and not misrepresent the truth, that leads others astray. As the purging and cleansing of His Bride continues, I can now see why the Lord said, few walk in integrity of heart before Him. And especially by those in leadership, who have misrepresented the truth leading the masses astray with their whitewashed walls of data mining, false prophetic words, utterances, lying signs and wonders, refusing to repent, and take accountability. Instead, they have wanted to silence the lambs—whom they had fleeced, who are now crying out for accountability and for a standard of righteousness: truth, purity, transparency and holiness to be restored back to His Church.

JEREMIAH 9:6-7

Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me," says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and try them; for how shall I deal with the daughter of My people?

Eternal Relationships

Beloved, faithfulness is greatly to be desired in our relationships. Yet often it is lacking. When things do not turn out as we had hoped, many walk away from the very ones who are meant to help refine their soul to become like Him in this area of faithfulness. When scorching trials come and because roots are shallow, many run from the source of their pain, sorrow, rejection, disillusionments or disappointments. They convince themselves it is the right thing to do. They look for false comfort in the wrong places by surrounding themselves with those who will tell their broken hearts, bruised egos and itching ears what they want to hear.

It is why we must know the eternal relationships God has for our lives. When we do, we will not abandon them when they go through seasons of pruning. Those relationships are not always known to us from

the beginning. Some are easier to identify: parents, children, siblings or marriage partners. And He proves our faithfulness through our earthly relationships to see if we can be found faithful to be the Bride of Messiah, one who will steward the gifts, anointings and resources that are needed to complete the works we have been sent to this earth to do, His way.

LUKE 16:10-12

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

Our eternal relationships will mature over time and produce His character in us—the fruit of the Spirit, if we do not abort them prematurely. They will mature if we learn to die to our preconceived ideas of what we ever thought our lives are to look like or feel like, while in those relationships. And especially when those in our lives are not faithful to us or very lovable. It is easier to be faithful to those who treat us well, but can be quite difficult when the opposite is true. We need His ways and thoughts to be our own, if we are to understand how important faithfulness is to Yeshua and to the Father.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Without faithfulness, we will live a selfish, self-absorbed life, waiting for an apology that may never come. And while doing so, we will miss the greatest opportunity, not to only die to our worthless ways of doing things, but to bring forth resurrection life into those things that only He can raise from the dead in other people's lives!

If we are to be found faithful, we need compassion. For compassion compels us to help set captives free. It causes our needs to fade into the background, while the needs of others become our focus. Compassion fuels our prayers and without it, it is impossible to touch the heart of God and be His Bride. Often, we can learn compassion in our seasons of being faithful to those who are incapable of loving us for whatever the reasons.

Beauty for Ashes

Being found faithful does not mean that we will not get hurt, become angry or rejected at times. It can look like everything in our life is being destroyed. But we do not give up on others, especially when they have given up on us. When we walk in unoffended love and not out of bitterness, unforgiveness or false humility, the Lord can only bless the works of our hands and give us beauty for ashes, all the while qualifying us to be His Bride. We see that with David and the men who were with him when the Amalekites invaded and burned Ziklag with fire.

1 SAMUEL 30:6

Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

The Amalekites had taken their wives, sons and daughters into captivity. It looked like everything was lost and destroyed. David's men turned against him and were going to stone him. But David did not give up on them. When everything was falling apart all around him, he did not focus on their reactions. He did not have a pity party. Instead, He knew that God was faithful to those who are faithful to Him, and strengthened himself in the Lord. When He did, the Lord was faithful to recover all that seemed lost [1 Samuel 30:1-8].

How do we strengthen ourselves in the Lord? We remind ourselves of God's Word and promises to us. Both His written Word and the *rhema* words, which are words spoken into our lives that are to guide us and impart life. It means we do not let go of His promises. Instead, we remain patient in battle, waiting for strategies from heaven to come forth to move us forward.

Again, being found faithful does not mean that we are perfect, but that we remain faithful to the call. David was faithful to his call to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord, despite committing adultery and murder. He was faithful to repent and bring the Lord the burnt offerings that were due to Him. That speaks of laying aside our fleshly ways of doing things on the altar of sacrifice, so His ways can become our ways. To contend for the holiness of God to permeate every area of our lives, is costly. It will cost us everything in our lives that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

Being found faithful means that we keep showing up, doing what the Lord has asked of us, especially when there is nothing in our weak flesh that wants to do so. It means that we honour our word to those who are not honourable. We love a friend at all times, whether we are in favor or out of favor with them. It means we are reliable, consistent, trustworthy, such that others will know that if we say we are going to do something, we will do it.

PROVERBS 20:6

Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?

Too often, we tell others that we are going to do something, but then we never do it. To make matters worse, often we do not tell the person that we are not going to be able to keep our word to them. There are very understandable circumstances for why, at times, we are not able to honour our words to one another. But if we are to be found faithful, we must learn to treat others, as we would want to be treated, and communicate to them. For we must realise that when we treat them with our undeserved silence, for whatever the reason, that is how we are treating the Lord—with an undeserved silence, which is not helping our relationship with Him, or with others.

Remain Faithful

Faithfulness is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Therefore, He will prove His Bride's heart to see if we will remain faithful. And especially when betrayed, rejected and forsaken by the very ones who should love us the most. A servant is not greater than his or her Master. And if He was rejected, betrayed, mocked, scorned and forsaken by man, we can be certain that His Bride—those called and chosen, will go through similar situations to sift through the layers of our hearts, to purge out our unfaithfulness. For He is going to marry a Bride who is faithful to Him.

Traveling the narrow road and striving to enter through the narrow gate is not easy. It can be easy to fall into discouragement or disillusionment when contending to complete the works our Father has for us to do. But self-pity—our pity parties, will do nothing to promote God's plans in our lives. Instead, if we walk in it, it will only promote Satan's plans against our lives. It will stop us from moving forward in God's plans and hurt those around us. We must learn how to encourage ourselves in the Lord, like

David. It is a key to being found faithful to Him, to the Word and to the call that is upon our lives to be formed into His likeness—His character.

We must have the Word of God buried deep within our souls, so when facing opposition, hardships, disappointments, delays and the depths of deception that we must wade through in the coming days, we will hold onto what is truth and not believe the lies, that the enemy tries to whisper into our ears. We will not forget that He Who is in us, is far greater than the hordes of hell that are against us. Nor, how the Lord opened Elisha's spiritual eyes and he saw the countless host of heaven's army fighting for him. So too, is it for us, when we remain faithful to the only One called Faithful and True [1 John 4:4, 2 Kings 6:16].

Will We Be Found Faithful?

In difficult times, the Lord proves our hearts to see if we will remain faithful, or if we will take offense with Him, or with others, when everything is falling apart. He will also prove our hearts in the simple things that He asks of us. For example, will we pray every day for the amount of time He sets? Or, maybe it is to meet with Him every day at the same time in the early morning hours—are we willing, will we be found faithful to show up every day?

The Lord will prove our hearts because He wants to know if we will walk away from our first love and look to other lovers to meet our needs, especially when we are in the wilderness? He wants to know if we will be faithful, when we think no one else sees what we are doing? We will be found faithful to come before Him with integrity of heart: honest, without deceit, and not using the gifts for our selfish gain? Will we be known as someone who keeps our word, reliable, consistent, trustworthy—a person that others can count on?

MATTHEW 24:45-47

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

As the modern-day tower of Babel is rapidly being built in the nations with AI, He wants to know will we be faithful to come out of Babylon—from all pagan worship that was birthed through Popery,

that was never His ways for us? Will we come back to undivided devotion, where we will love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength? For if we are not in pursuit of doing so, how will we ever be able to resist an anti-Christ system that is rooted in harlot Babylon, if Babylon is still attached to our souls?

PSALM 119:28-31 AMP.

My life dissolves and weeps itself away for heaviness; raise me up and strengthen me according to [the promises of] Your word. Remove from me the way of falsehood and unfaithfulness [to You], and graciously impart Your law to me. I have chosen the way of truth and faithfulness; Your ordinances have I set before me. I cleave to Your testimonies; O Lord, put me not to shame!

If we are to be a testimony of His name—to bear His name—a vessel of mercy who will display His glory in these last days, we must be found faithful—have integrity of heart, in the small things, in order for Him to entrust us to Reign with Him during the Millennium Reign.

May the cries of our heart be, in this late hour as never before, “Lord, remove the way of all falsehood and unfaithfulness from every area of our lives, that we may be found faithful.” That we can be a testimony of His faithfulness to those who are in darkness and without hope. AMEN!

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