

FAITHFULNESS AND LOYALTY

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:19, NIV)

¹⁹ Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.

INTRODUCTION

1. "It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes" (Psalm 118:8-9, NIV).
2. "Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, for the LORD will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared" (Proverbs 3:25-26, NIV).

I. EVERYDAY TRUST

A. Faithful to the Voice of God

1. "By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country...For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:9-10, NIV).

B. Faithful When Rebuked

1. "Elijah was a man just like us" (James 5:17, NIV).
2. "For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10, NIV).
3. "Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised" (Romans 4:19-21, NIV).

C. In Times of Trouble

1. "Four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom" (Genesis 14:11-12, NIV).
2. "When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them.... He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people" (Genesis 14:14-16, NIV).
3. "You can count on me! If you ever need anything, don't hesitate to call. I'll be there for you."
4. "Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is truly reliable?" (Proverbs 20:6, NLT).

II. LOYALTY

A. Willing to Be Proven

1. "Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons" (1 Timothy 3:10, NLT).
2. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, KJV).

B. Loyal to Friends

1. "A friend loveth at all times" (Proverbs 17:17, KJV).
2. "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24, NIV).
3. "Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family" (Proverbs 18:24, MSG).
4. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13, NIV).

C. Loyalty to the Word of God

1. "Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness" (I Timothy 6:20-21, NLT).
2. "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (II Timothy 4:10, KJV).

II. SOME IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT LOYALTY

A. You Cannot Have Loyalty without Liberty

1. "'Look,' said Naomi, 'your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her'" (Ruth 1:15, NIV).
2. "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" (Judges 21:25, NIV).

B. You Cannot Put Conditions on Loyalty

1. "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16, NIV).

C. You Cannot Put an Expiration Date on Loyalty.

1. "Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried" (Ruth 1:17, NIV).

CONCLUSION:

1. "Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot" (Proverbs 25:19, NLT).