

 **friendship** 45 Days of Faithfulness Introduction
community church 2 Peter 1:3-11

A short review of the last couple of weeks –
Luke 4 - Temptation of Jesus was in these 3 areas – Appetite, Ambition, Affirmation

Remember the truth of God's faithfulness over all temptations.

A great reminder - There are no shortcuts to faithfulness.

Why would we even explore faithfulness?

Because God is faithful. - He keeps His promises. - He provides a way out. *1 Corinthians 10:13*
The Son was faithful to submit to the Father and be faithful.
The Holy Spirit was faithful to lead the Son out to be tempted.

Take time to read 2 Peter 1:3-1.

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:3-11 ESV

Are we loving from a selfish love?

The pyramid of faith that ends with love and begins with faith. Too many times we flip this and try to start from a position of selfish love. It sounds right to start with love, but our love has to be grounded in the truth of God's faithfulness. God is Who He says He is.

The pyramid of faith as found in these verses - faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love (the capstone, not the foundation).

We are instructed to practice these qualities. These are things we do and actions that we intentionally take predicated on our surrender and belief in God's faithfulness.

Pyramid diagram.

The only way that we can really love is because "He first loved us." – 1 John 4:19

What about our faithfulness?

Individually and collectively as a church. There are no shortcuts to faithfulness.

What are some areas where you can tend to take shortcuts?

Marin Luther is quoted here – There is a need of “Conversion of the head, heart, and pocketbook.”

Money is the main subject of nearly half of the parables – there are over 2000 verses on money; 15% of the red words was on money and possessions

Finances of the church -

Good News, No So Good News and Good News

Good News

- Clemmons property closes
- Net proceeds go to Solomon Foundation in an account for us

Not So Good News

130 actively attending who have given

- 30 give faithfully
- 70 no predictable giving pattern
- 30 no giving record
- currently we are \$7200/week under budget
- We would meet budget if every family gave \$45/week more

A lack of giving is not the disease but a symptom of our lack of belief in God’s faithfulness of provision.

Read Proverbs 3:9-10 - Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

Good News

God’s faithfulness can fuel our faithfulness.

A leap of faith . . . 45 Days of Faithfulness

- Faithfully give - be more faithful in giving
- Faithfully grow - 45 min/day in prayer and God’s Word
- Faithfully invite - 4-5 households to come to church
- Faithfully gather - 45 new members in community groups (4-5 new groups)
- Faithfully share - 4-5 conversations about Jesus w/ friends and neighbors
- Faithfully fast - 45 days of sacrifice or abstinence
- Faithfully serve - 4-5 instances of serving through the church

Easter is the culmination of stories of God’s faithfulness.

How has God stretched you?

How has God blessed you?

How has God changed you?

What will your next 45 days look like?

How is God challenging you to rely solely on Him?

Daily devotional begins March 7th.

Take time for members to share their prayer concerns and pray for one another.