



## 25 June 2017 – Ps Mike de Vetter Faithfulness

### 1. Full of Faith

When we read through the Bible God seems to be far more impressed and interested in people's faithfulness than in their talents and abilities. God has given us spiritual gifts and all the things that we need to fulfill his plans and purposes for our lives. However, if we are not faithful in using those gifts for his glory, they are of little effect in our spiritual journey.

Faithfulness can sometimes be perceived as being boring, inward focused or conservative. While our salvation is clearly a free gift, paid for by the blood of Jesus on the cross, it is interesting to see that in various stories in the Bible it is implied that faithfulness is the thing that we will be judged on when it comes to our eternal destination.

What does faithfulness look like?

1. **Faithfulness requires risk taking:** The word "faithfulness" carries the most powerful word in the Bible - Faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God because faith unlocks the miraculous in the gifts God has given us, it releases the kingdom promises over our lives and strengthens us in our Christian walk.
2. **Faithfulness is total commitment:** The greatest thing we can do is to discover our purpose and do everything within our resources to achieve that mission. Jesus did this to the point of giving up his life out of faithfulness to the mission his father gave him.
3. **Faithfulness builds a legacy:** Our gifts and talents were never given to us to make our lives better but to bless others and build a legacy for future generations. It is said that when God blesses us he has someone else in mind – but it takes faithfulness to God to act this out in our lives.

### 2. Discussion Points

- Ask your LifeGroup members to share any stories of where they have seen God's blessing from their faithfulness in their walk with God. Ask the "older" members of your group to talk about the things that have kept them faithful to God over many years.
- In what way does faithfulness require risk-taking (think about the story of the talents)?
- Why does the Lord test us in this way i.e. give us talents and then go away and see what we will do with them?
- Why was the Master so severe on the servant who hid his talent away and did not try to multiply and grow it? What are the implications for us with the gifts and talents God has given us? Are we using our gifts for our own desires or to be a blessing to others?

### 3. Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to be faithful and wise in the ways that I use the gifts, talents and resources that you have given me. Amen