



***“SOW FOR YOURSELVES
 RIGHTEOUSNESS; REAP FAITHFUL
 LOVE; BREAK UP YOUR UNPLANTED
 GROUND, FOR IT IS TIME TO SEEK
 THE LORD,” HOS.10:12 (CEB).***

“Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap faithful love; break up your unplanted ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, that he [He] may come and rain righteousness upon you.”¹

We have spent some time examining the issue of Faithfulness as a Principle of Christian living in the past few weeks. Let us look at some concluding summary remarks as we close the discussion on the Principle. ‘Faithful Love’ is also translated ‘Unfailing Love’ in some translations, communicating the type of Love that the Almighty God has towards His children. It is about God’s Faithfulness or the Faithfulness of His Love towards His children. For as the Scripture says, even when we are unfaithful, God remains faithful, because He cannot deny Himself, and this is how the universe is maintained and sustained, even though human beings continue to disobey God, even to the point of disdaining Him.² This alludes to the fact that faithfulness is part of God’s Nature just as is Love. Faithfulness is therefore, also required of Christians, who in addition to being made in His Image and Likeness, have been redeemed, given His Holy Spirit, given everything we need for life and godliness by His divine Power, and made partakers of His Divine Nature through the ‘*His Precious and Magnificent Promises*.’³ This is an equipping which makes faithfulness as a way of life possible, because a road map and steps to follow are provided, and these graces provide the power for accomplishment. Every excuse and permissiveness fails and falls to insignificance. Not to be faithful to God and Jesus Christ, which is same as not living a truly Christian life in every sense of the word is a failure, and should not be excused.

The passage for our meditation this week directs us to: ‘***Sow for yourselves righteousness***’ in order for us to ‘***reap faithful love***’ or ‘***Unfailing Love.***’ The context of the passage is a call to return to faithfulness with the Almighty God, so that it will be well with the people of God. But the Christian knows that he has no righteousness that is acceptable to God.⁴ So, left to the Christian, he cannot attain or receive this faithful love or unfailing love, which like Mercy, is a Major factor that keeps the Christian in the faith and makes him acceptable to God, and have the hope of eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one aspect of the beauty and uniqueness of the Christian life that even some Christians do not know or understand that make them not to enjoy and fully appreciate the Christian life. **We need righteousness – Right Standing before God, but we on our own cannot attain it, and so we will not have mercy and love, which brings salvation, redemption, and atonement, and so we will ordinarily be lost. This is the reason many in the world today are lost to the Kingdom of God. But the wonderful News and the undeserved Blessing of Christianity is that God, out of His Heart of Love gave us the needed righteousness, through the sacrificial and finished work of redemption and atonement by Jesus Christ,⁵ and with this, the Faithful Love or Unfailing Love of God. And because we were put in right standing or the right position with God by Jesus Christ, we are required to remain in this right standing - be faithful to God and Jesus Christ. This is a call to faithfulness on the part of the Christian, such that it characterizes his life and becomes his life-style. The whole of Christian life boils down to faithfulness, because we become Christians by faith, remain Christians by faith, and living by faith is living true to the faith we profess - Faithfulness. Therefore, living true to the faith we profess, which is same as being faithful to the faith we profess, is not like having a tool in our tool-kit which we use only when it is needed, rather it is the means of living.⁶ And being faithful, makes us to remain in right standing with God – ‘***that he [He] may come and rain righteousness upon you.***’**

Another important point is that faithfulness is an Act of Obedience. Our passage directs, ‘***Sow, ...; break up your unplanted ground, for it is time ...***,’ Obedience demands that appropriate steps are taken to fulfil the dictates of the direction in order to get the benefits attached to it. To Sow Righteousness is to engage in things approved and acceptable to God. It is to do righteous deeds as outcome of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in the Christian’s life. Righteous deeds should be characterized by truth, purity, honesty, excellence, things that are praise-worthy, and things that build up a fellow Christian.⁷ This is how to live as salt and light in a world darkened by corruption and every form of evil. This is about Christian distinctiveness which points the way to salvation and redemption to people, which does not wait for Sunday or special days of evangelism. The examples of the servants considered in previous studies reveal that obedience brought rich blessings, while disobedience brought punishment. If Christians are obedient, then these works of righteousness should characterize their life. There is so



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much that the Lord would want to do with the Christian, but lack of faithfulness and Obedience is one major hindrance. Apostle Paul wrote that eyes have not seen, or ears hear, neither do we have the understanding, of what God wants to do with Christians.⁸ So, as directed, we must break up our unplanted ground without further delays of excuses, and receive the rain of blessings and God’s love.

Furthermore, faithfulness is a disposition of the heart towards a person, and also towards a duty or responsibility. Christian faithfulness is towards God through Jesus Christ and by the help of the Holy Spirit. It is a focus on the Will and Purpose of God for human beings. Christians know these from God’s documented Will, the Bible, and by Inspiration and Revelation through the Holy Spirit. The Disposition of the heart of the Christian must therefore be, ‘what will God have me do in this or that situation?’ or ‘What will Jesus do?’ It is therefore, about Consecration and Sanctification, which Jesus Christ displayed through His earthly sojourn, climax at Gethsemane. **As both God and Man, He could have rejected the Cup of Suffering and Death. However, He stated, Not My will but Your [the Almighty God, the Father’s] Will be done.**⁹ In so doing He left us the pattern to follow, so that in any and every decision, the Christian must seek to do the revealed Will of God. The claim of, or appeal to ‘permissive will’ or rationalization, or liberalism by which we intentionally satisfy our own will and lusts, does not measure up to the standard and requirement of God for us!¹⁰ Jesus said I must do My Father’s Will and Work; Daniel and the three Hebrew Children at the risk of death, committed to do the Will of God, and so did Stephen. Let Christians and the Church of Christ return to the demand and requirement to do God’s Will at whatever the cost, and cleanse our lives and Church of pervading sin and evil.¹¹ We can no longer live carelessly, or live for our own goals, after becoming Christians. Our lives were bought at a great price.

A final remark is that faithfulness is about steadfastness. It is about staying at our duty post and performing the duties required of us even in the face of danger. God always backs up His people! Military people go into battle aware of the possibility of casualties, and it is only those who stay through the battle that are decorated for their bravery, and not the deserters. Jesus also exemplified this steadfastness in ministry. Towards the close of His earthly ministry, the Greeks came to ask for Him, but the conversation with Philip, and the other disciples led to this statement: ***“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? No, it is for this purpose that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify Your Name!”***¹² Several years later, Apostle Paul followed the same pattern when he refused to be discouraged from going to Jerusalem even though it was clear that imprisonment and troubles were going to happen to him. Like His Master, Jesus Christ, he stated: ***“But nothing, not even my life, is more important than my completing my mission. This is nothing other than the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus: to testify about the good news of God’s grace.”*** No wonder he was able to declare that he successfully completed the mission Jesus Christ had given to him, and looked forward to his reward of a crown.¹³ Many other examples abound in the Bible, and in contemporary times. Those in contemporary times who give their lives in service to the Lord will reign with Jesus Christ a thousand years, just like those recorded in the Bible.¹⁴ The recourse to sin and scandalous behaviours which has become common place in the Church, because of Greed and the aversion to sufferings, is a disservice to the pattern left by Jesus Christ, and the heroic examples of the past and present. Christians need to think and focus more on what it cost Jesus to save us, and the weight of glory that awaits faithfulness, which far out-weighs any sufferings, deprivations, or pains of the present time.¹⁵

So, Faithfulness is a very important Principle of the Christian life and walk. Jesus demands it. He commanded that we be faithful to His cause before He returns, when He stated, ***‘Occupy Till I come.’***¹⁶ He addressed the same issue when He asked if He will find faith on His return to the earth.¹⁷ It is time to ***“break up your unplanted ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, that he [He] may come and rain righteousness upon you.”*** There is reward for living true to the faith we profess – Faithfulness. **It is those who are faithful to the end that will be rewarded by the Lord Jesus Christ.**¹⁸

Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.

Further & Daily Readings: Hosea 10:1-12. 1.Hos.10:12; 2. 2Tim. 2:13; 3. Col. 1:12-14; 2Pet.1:3-4; 4. Isaiah 64:4; 5. 2Cor. 5:21; 6. Col.3:1-3; 7. Gal. 5:22-23; Phil.4:8-9; 8. 1Cor.2:9; 9. Luke 22:41-42; 10. 2Tim.3:2-7; 11.1Cor.4:1-2; Heb.12:1; 12. John 12:23, 27-28; 13. Acts 20:22-24; 14. Rev. 20:4; 15. John 18: 22; 19:1-3, 17-18, 34; Rom.8:18; 2Cor.4:17-18; 16. Luke 19:13; 17. Luke 18:8; 18. Heb.3:14; Rev.2:10.