



Day 5 *Faithfulness*

Silence (2 minutes) Take some time to be quiet, to calm down, and to listen. What has God been teaching you? What are the next steps He wants you to take? How is your spirit doing?

Scripture *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Romans 12:12

Discussion While Paul is describing how the Romans are to live their lives for God, he tells them to be faithful in prayer. How can we exercise faithfulness in prayer? Consistency is certainly one major part. We need to make sure our relationship with God is prioritized so that the busyness of our lives doesn't interfere. Honesty is another key component of a faithful prayer life. We need to talk with God about our joys and fears, our plans, relationships, temptations and sins. God created us to know Him; to be in relationship with Him. What sort of relationship is it if we hardly spend time together in deep conversation?

A faithful prayer life will also be marked by prayer as a reaction. When we are confronted with a stressful or painful problem, how often is our first reaction to pray? Praying for these situations is not only a way for us to cultivate our relationship with God, it also acknowledges God's sovereignty in every situation. The Bible has a lot to say about how to pray and we should search it out and live it. It tells us to pray with thanksgiving, to pray for those who persecute us, and to be persistent in prayer. Abraham, Daniel, and others prayed acknowledging God's character as judge and His steadfast love. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray. We can pray through the Lord's Prayer, pausing after each phrase, and tell God in more detail how that phrase relates to our lives. Prayer is the communication of our relationship with God. As communication matures, so does the relationship.

Application What problems do you anticipate running into today? What about blessings you haven't yet praised God for giving you? Plan ahead to pray for whatever situations you might encounter today, and invite the Lord into everything you do as you begin to pray faithfully.

Prayer Lord God, thank You that You want me to know You and talk with You. That is such a blessing; such a privilege. Please continue to teach me how to pray to You; how to honor You in prayer. Help me to grow in listening to Your voice as I pray, to pray about what You desire. Please change me so that my thoughts are more like Yours. Thank You that I know You and belong to You; that I am your child forever. Amen.

Silence (2 minutes) Talk to God about what you are learning. What are your fears? Where are your hangups? Pray for direction.

Scripture memory for the week:

*"Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.
Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning: great is Your faithfulness."*

Lamentations 3:21-23

