

The Faithful Few

How to stay devoted when others drift

Time:
10-15 minutes

Focus:
Faithfulness, Conviction,
Destiny

Scriptures

Matthew 5:16
Malachi 3:14
Malachi 3:16-18
Hebrews 2:1
Hebrews 5:11-12
Hebrews 6:10
James 5:19-20
Matthew 25:1-13

Parking lot

Write down distracting thoughts here:

Settle in

Take a deep breath. Turn off notifications on your phone if you can. Ask God to quiet your heart and help you be devoted to him, no matter what.

Thought starter

How do you respond when serving God doesn't seem to pay off, or when things seem easier for those who don't follow him?

Faith whispers, "I'll trust you anyway."

Devotion says, "Even if no one else does, I will."

God honors those who stay true to him, even when it's unpopular. Here's what we'll learn in this Quick Quiet Time:

- God values and remembers those who remain devoted to him.
- When we stay close to God and keep trusting him, we become part of the amazing story he's destined for us.
- By keeping our connection to God strong, we can stay faithful no matter what comes our way.

Am I blending in or standing out?

Matthew 5:16 NCV

... You should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.



- Being faithful to God means our light is shining brightly; we are standing out from the world around us because of our love and kindness.
- Can people tell by the way you live that you're following God, or are you just going along with what the world does? Is there a distinction?
- Do your choices, your attitude, and how you treat others show that your life is guided by faith—or do you blend in with everyone else who doesn't really care about God?
- Faithfulness isn't perfection; it's a choice to be real and consistent in how we live.



View on web ↗

Notes:

🤔 Am I faithful or quitting?

Malachi 3:14 NCV

"You have said, 'It is useless to serve God. It did no good to obey his laws and to show the LORD All-Powerful that we were sorry for what we did.'"



Scripture snapshot: The book of Malachi was written during a time when many Israelites had grown spiritually apathetic.

- Worship had become routine, priests were corrupt, and people questioned whether serving God was even worth it.
- The people in this verse were basically saying, "Why bother serving God? What's the point of following his rules or being humble and serious about our faith if we don't see any rewards?"
- They felt like they did everything right—went to all the services, prayed, followed the rules—and yet, life still felt hard.
- Meanwhile, people who ignored God seemed to be doing just fine.



In the real world: Imagine studying hard for a test, being kind to others, and doing what's right—but then watching someone who cheats or acts selfishly get ahead.

- It's easy to feel like doing the right thing doesn't pay off. That's exactly what the people in Malachi were feeling.
- This sets the stage for verses 16-18, where a faithful remnant responds differently...

💡 God hears faithful hearts.

Malachi 3:16–18 NIV

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. [17] "On the day when I act," says the LORD Almighty, "they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him. [18] And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

- This passage shows how much God cares about people who stay loyal to him, even when others around them stop believing.
- They fear the Lord, speak with one another, and God listens.
- It's a turning point: while many complain, a few quietly remain devoted—and God honors them.



Lightbulb moment: God listens to those who fear him. He calls them his treasured possession.

- Faithfulness is not about being perfect, but about being real and consistent in how we live.
- Even when things feel dark or unfair, this passage reminds us that God sees the difference between those who follow him and those who don't. He won't forget the ones who stay faithful.

Notes:

 Reflect

- Do you ever find yourself wondering whether serving God is worth it?
- Do you get tempted to quit or do less than God expects?
- What circumstances or feelings lead you to that place—and what truth can you hold onto when you do?


 How to keep a faithful heart Watch out for spiritual drifting**Hebrews 2:1 ESV**

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

Ask yourself: Have I been drifting away from prayer, Bible study, or spiritual friendships lately?

 Avoid spiritual dullness**Hebrews 5:11-12 ESV**

About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. [12] For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food ...

 **Truth bomb:** “Dullness” means lacking in force, intensity, or sharpness. When we are spiritually “dull of hearing,” God’s Word is lacking impact in our lives.

Ask yourself: How can my listening to God be dull? What stops me from hearing God’s truth?

 Keep your spiritual perspective**Hebrews 6:10 NLT**

For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.

Ask yourself: Do I believe God sees what I do? How would this belief help me keep fighting to stay faithful?

Notes:

 Fight for spiritual devotion

James 5:19-20 NCV


My brothers and sisters, if one of you wanders away from the truth, and someone helps that person come back, [20] remember this: Anyone who brings a sinner back from the wrong way will save that sinner's soul from death and will cause many sins to be forgiven.

Ask myself: Is there anyone around me who's drifted? How can I help them come back to God?

 **Parable reflection: The ten bridesmaids**

Before continuing, read this full passage and circle, underline, or highlight any words that stand out to you: [Matthew 25:1-13 NLT](#).

Jesus tells of ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom. Five were wise and brought extra oil for their lamps; five were foolish and unprepared. When the bridegroom arrived after a delay, only the prepared ones entered the wedding feast. The others were shut out. The parable concludes with a warning to "be on the alert" because no one knows the day or hour when Jesus will return.

 **Truth bomb:** Faithfulness isn't flashy—it's steady. It's being ready when others aren't.

- This parable is a vivid picture of spiritual readiness. The oil represents devotion, preparation, and faithfulness.
- The wise women stayed ready, spiritually sharp. The foolish ones were unprepared; they did not have enough oil for an unexpected delay, so they missed the moment.

 What does this story have to do with me?

- **Be ready:** In Jesus's parable, the wise women knew they couldn't just show up; they had to be ready for the long run.
- **Keep your lamp full with...**
 - ... **prayer:** Talking with God regularly keeps your connection strong.
 - ... **reading the Bible:** Learn more about who God is and what he wants for your life.
 - ... **doing good:** Practice living out your faith by showing kindness and love to others.
- **Don't just depend on people:** The foolish bridesmaids tried to rely on other people to fill their lamps for them, but it didn't work. Our relationship with God is personal. We can't rely on our friends or family to do the spiritual work for us to be faithful; we have to build our own strong connection with God.

By staying prepared and keeping our faith strong, we can be ready for whatever comes our way.



Notes:

**Closing reflection**

- Am I spiritually ready to take on everything God's asking me to do?
- Where am I tempted to give up on spiritual devotion?
- Who do I know who lives out their faith? How can I learn from their faithfulness to God?

**Write it down**

- Write down one way you've stayed faithful recently.
- Write down one person you can encourage in their walk with God today.

Share the inspiration!

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