

## Loyalty

### ➤ Lesson:

#### Loyal

- 1. Faithful to one's sovereign, government, or state: a loyal subject.*
- 2. Faithful to one's oath, commitments, or obligations: to be loyal to a vow.*
- 3. Faithful to any leader, party, or cause, or to any person or thing conceived as deserving fidelity: a loyal friend.*
- 4. Characterized by or showing faithfulness to commitments, vows, allegiance, obligations, etc.: loyal conduct.*

Loyalty and faithfulness are truly synonyms. They are interchangeable.

**Genesis 22** records the testing of Abraham in offering his “only son” Isaac on the altar as a sacrifice to God. Isaac meant everything to Abraham. Isaac was the promise from God, but being loyal to his God meant doing whatever God instructed him to do.

According to **Genesis 39**, Joseph was loyal to Potiphar who bought him as a slave from his brothers. God blessed him in his slavery, and Potiphar put him over his entire house. Of course, when things were going great, Potiphar’s wife decided she wanted him for her evil pleasure. Joseph went to great lengths to avoid her, but she finally cornered him, and tore off his jacket as he ran away from her. He was Potiphar’s loyal servant, and would not betray him. She said that he tried to rape her, and he was thrown into prison. He did not try to stand up for himself, but protected Potiphar to the end. Then, he ended up in the Pharaoh’s house, taking care of his entire kingdom. He was also loyal to Pharaoh until his death.

Many of the first century Christians were loyal to God unto death.

#### **Hebrews 11:32-40**

*32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

*33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

*34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

*35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

*36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

*37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

*38(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

*39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

***40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.***

The folks in this scripture setting did not receive the Holy Ghost. They trusted God without the power of the Holy Ghost.

It is not a problem to be loyal when everything is going great. But when trouble and persecution come at us is when we should prove our loyalty. Being loyal to God, when it is not “cool” to do so, is sometimes very difficult. Peer pressure can really test our loyalty. When the entire youth group decides to not worship God during worship service, how does that affect you? Do you succumb to the pressure, or do you stand up for your Lord and worship anyway? If the fashion of this world tells you that wearing our “Pentecostal” styles is so old-fashioned and ugly, would you buy things that He wouldn’t approve of?

Jesus died on the cross for our sins because He wanted us to love Him willingly. He has many subjects that worship Him because they have to, but humans have a choice. They don’t ***have*** to love Him! He longs for our love. ***Ephesians 5*** compares the relationship between a husband and wife, and The Lord and His Bride (the Church). No one wants an unfaithful spouse. Most marriage vows even state that we will love each other for richer or poorer, sickness and in health, etc. No matter what, we will be loyal to our spouse. The lack of loyalty leads to most divorces. Lives are torn to shreds when people are unfaithful to each other. The lack of loyalty to our Lord will lead to spiritual separation.

Most of the time, loyal and faithful can be intertwined, but you can be faithful out of duty, where loyalty comes from the heart. An employee may be faithful to come to work on time, but they may not be loyal.

King David’s mighty men were very loyal followers. They would, and some did, die for him. It didn’t matter to those men if David was losing or winning against the enemy; they would follow him to the end. He had other followers that came and went as troubles came and went, but the loyal ones stuck it out through every trial. They fought the enemy with great odds against them because they did not want David hurt. There were times when they didn’t agree with some of David’s decisions, but that didn’t stop them from doing everything they could for him.

**2 Samuel 23:14-17**

***14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.***

***15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!***

***16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.***

***17 And he said, Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it. These things did these three mighty men.***

When we repent of our sins, we tell God how much we are sorry for our sins. We tell Him that we will live for Him. We tell Him that we love Him.

**John 14:15**

***If ye love me, keep my commandments.***

Wow!!!! It is one thing to **say** you love Him, it is another to **prove** it.

**Numbers 30:2**

***If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.***

We must be careful to remember, and follow through with the promises that we make to God.

We make promises every day to others. Do we always follow through? Are we dependable? Can we be counted on?

Everyone wants a loyal friend. One who will not talk about you behind your back, or do you wrong when things don't go their way. It is very disappointing to find out that someone you trusted let you down.

We know that God never lets us down. We are the problem in our relationship with Him.

***It would be good to make a list of things that you appreciate about the loyalty of God, and then a list of things that you appreciate about others that have shown loyalty.***

Then, we can make a list of things that we need to work on in our own lives. In fact, maybe it would be good to list things that have happened with people that you feel were disloyal to you. Then, pray and forgive these disloyalties, if you haven't already. After thinking about these things, we can find a good start to working on our ***loyal*** lifestyle.