

“MOSTLY FAITHFUL”?

It might be that some have a mighty strange view of *faithful*. Have you ever heard a brother described as “mostly faithful,” or a congregation as “fairly faithful”? How about this—“he is pretty faithful...most of the time.”

The Bible records that Moses was faithful (Num. 12:7), as were Timothy (1 Cor. 4:17) and Tychicus (Eph. 6:21). Jesus used *faithful* to describe the five- and two-talent men in a parable who were prepared to give account to their Lord:

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord (Mat. 25:23).

Paul, through inspiration, set forth, “Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). Research the word *faithful* and you will see that it carries the idea of those who are

... trusty... who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties... one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust... that can be relied on (Thayer).

In light of the meaning, how can one be **mostly**, **pretty**, or **fairly** faithful? Either one is, or is not, faithful to God. (Of course we are not arguing for sinlessness—it must be understood that faithfulness in God’s children is demanded of God; 1 Cor. 4:2. This faithful condition is synonymous with walking in the light—1 John 1:7, as we humbly bring our hearts and deeds into harmony with the dictates of heaven.) What ambiguous spiritual condition is represented by the term *mostly faithful*? Could it be a term employed to represent a person, or a congregation, that does some, or even most of what God directs— but not all? Here are some examples of those who fit in the category of being **mostly**, **fairly**, or **pretty** faithful:

1. The brother or sister who attends 9 out of 10 Sunday and Wednesday assemblies but forsakes one “every now and then” for TV, shopping, Boy Scouts, walk-a-thons, the Super Bowl, vacation, company at home, or because he or she is disgruntled with someone or something in the church, is probably the person some have in mind when they say, “He’s mostly faithful.”
2. The brother who preaches the Truth on the fundamental matters of salvation, the distinctive nature of the church, and the errors of denominations, but teaches that baptism makes an adulterous marriage into a sanctified one, is labeled by some misguided brethren as “mostly faithful.”
3. A congregation that demands soundness from its preachers and teachers refuses to budge an inch in the face of new and novel doctrines, but neglects to do what God commanded in the matter of restoring the erring and church discipline, is one that many would call “mostly faithful.”

The “mostly faithful” are “mostly sound” and “mostly obedient.” They pick and choose when and where they will obey God. They will all, on the Day of Judgment, give answer for their lack of complete submission to Christ’s Will. *Mostly faithful* sounds “pretty good” until you realize that the “mostly faithful” will be “mostly lost.” “Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2).

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