

# Spirit Fruit: Faithfulness

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“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”  
Galatians 5:22–23 (NIV).

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## What About the Small Stuff?

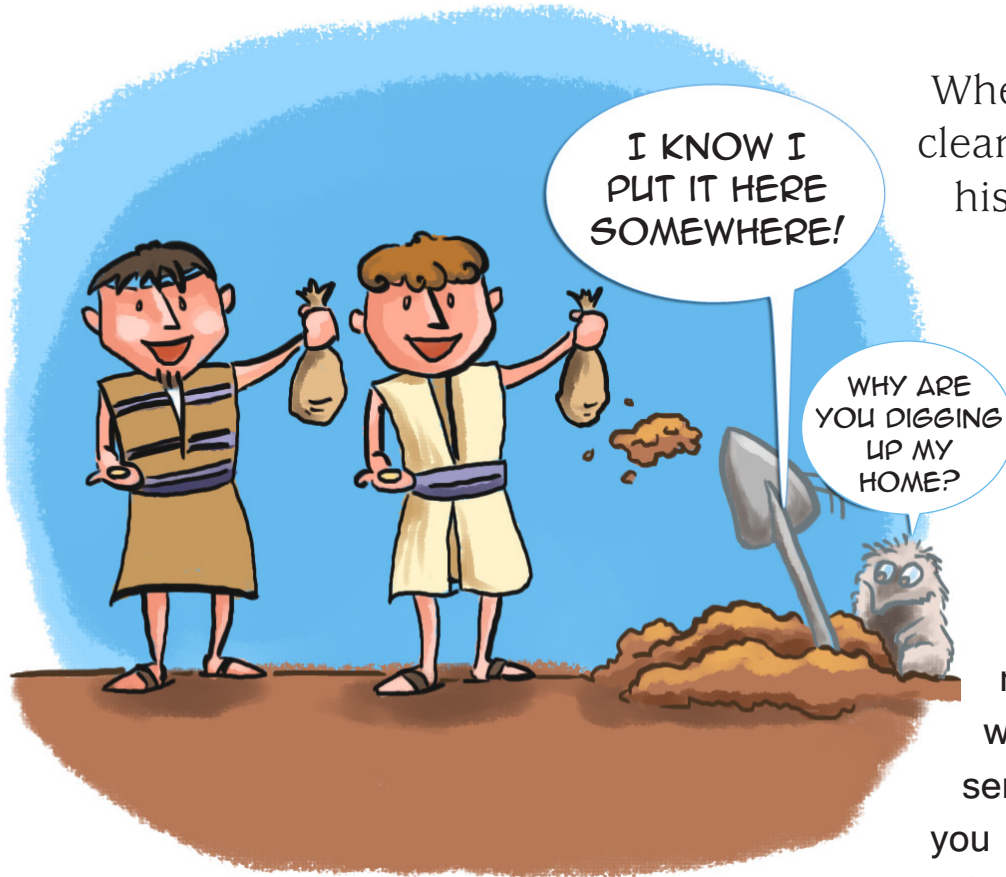
Mario pressed play on his MP3 player and began to rock to the music from his headphones as he pushed the vacuum cleaner around the living room. Every now and again he would lift the hose and cradle it like an electric guitar. He'd swing his arm in large circles and then continue to vacuum. After completing a particularly good rock star move, his song finished and he turned off the vacuum cleaner. It was then that he spotted some dirt around the base of the plant pot.

Should he pretend he didn't see it? After all, his favorite song was done. Maybe Mom wouldn't notice.



After five seconds of internal debate, Mario turned the vacuum cleaner on and cleaned the dirt from around the plant pot.

When he was finished, he put the vacuum cleaner in the cleaning closet and grooved his way out the door to meet his friends.



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In Matthew 25:14–29, we hear Jesus tell the story of a rich man who was preparing to go on a long journey. He gave money to three of his servants to invest and care for in his absence. Two of the servants invested the money well and doubled its value, while the other servant only hid the money. When the rich man returned, he said to the servants who invested his money well, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:21 NIV).

**The story about Mario and the parable Jesus told are both about faithfulness.**

“Faithfulness” means trustworthiness, or being dependable and loyal; it is putting into action what you know is the right thing to do—even if it seems to be a small thing, like cleaning up a little extra dirt around a plant pot.

**Faithfulness is one of the fruits of Jesus’ Spirit as mentioned in Galatians 5:22–23.**

Jesus is faithful. When He says something in His Word He means it, and He will do what He has promised. His faithfulness is shown through the promises that He fulfills for us.







Here are some promises from the Bible that talk of God's faithfulness toward us:

- But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3 NIV).
- Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:9 NIV).

## You can practice faithfulness in your interactions with people...

- *by not gossiping about your friends.* “A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret” (Proverbs 11:13 NIV).
- *by doing the things people are relying on you to do.* “Like a snow-cooled drink at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to the one who sends him; he refreshes the spirit of his master” (Proverbs 25:13 NIV).
- *by telling your friends the truth even if it’s not easy.* “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (Proverbs 27:6 KJV).
- ...and many other ways!

Faithfulness is something we do because of the example Jesus has given us of His faithfulness in keeping His promises.



**Bite-sized:** Faithfulness is showing your loyalty through being dependable and trustworthy.

**Memorize it:** A faithful man will abound with blessings.  
(Proverbs 28:20 ESV)



**Action:** More examples of loyalty and dependability that you can study in the Bible: **David and Jonathan** were faithful to their friendship and protected one another's families (1 Samuel 18:1–4; 1 Samuel 19:1–7; 1 Samuel 20; 2 Samuel 9). **Ruth** was faithful to her widowed mother-in-law and took care of her (Ruth 1). **Job** was faithful to God even in times of extreme hardship. He said, "Though he (God) slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15 KJV), and in the end, God gave him many times over what he had lost. Joseph was a faithful steward and an honest man even though his master was unfair to him (Genesis 39). Can you think of other examples of loyalty and faithfulness?

See: "Bible Space Trek: The Parable of the Talents" for an activity that goes with this parable of Matthew 25:14–29.

**S&S link:** Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: The Fruits of the Spirit-2j

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