

Transcript:

you came to [Music] take all [Music] a reading from Galatians 5 22 to 23 but the fruit of the spirit is love joy peace forbearance kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control against such things there is no law an additional reading Psalm 105 for the Lord is good and his love endures forever his faithfulness continues through all generations a final reading 2 Timothy 2:13 if we are faithless he remains faithful for he cannot disown himself the word of the Lord all right how's everyone today good

good good um how awesome is Brendan I'm so thankful he's here he's such a good addition to our staff so great grateful for him and his heart for students um when he came back from camp and told me about some of the stuff that had happened and that he and Hannah planned like I kid you not on that that night where they prayed over students they were students who just shared some of the hardest things that they've ever been through in their life um Hannah and Brendan just prayed over them spoke truth over them and you could just see

visible change in some of these students lives coming back uh from Camp so awesome we love what's happening in our student Ministry it's so cool and may it just continue and increase and may the spirit keep moving in that space um as we continue with our series and renewal today I actually want to pause as we start the message I want to take a moment uh to pray for our nation um I'm sure many of you saw the news last night um about the assassination attempt on President Trump's life um I was actually

getting ready to come up and preach when a friend came up to me and said hey did you hear what happened and I was like not at all what's going on and they and they told me um and my immediate thought was this this is why the series on renewal is so absolutely critical in this cultural moment um we live in a time of hatred and despair and anxiety and fear and when people don't know what to do with that they resort to Violent actions and so we want to take a moment to pray for our nation and our church

and just lift up um Stephie and I were talking last night and we were like it's July like it's not we've have months until November and this is just July so we just want to take a moment pause pray for a nation because here's what I believe a nation in disarray needs a church in Revival right and a nation that is in despair needs a church and a

people of renewal and that's what we here to do today so if you would please pray with me heavenly father as followers of Jesus we uniquely understand that human kingdoms rise and

fall but the Kingdom of Heaven alone is eternal god with that in mind help us to be people committed to peace may we be people whose language is seasoned with peace in times of volatility and violence God as citizens of the kingdom of heaven we pray that our partisan commitments and convictions would always take a backseat to our identification as followers of Jesus we know that Jesus had no political home he has no Rivals for power in his kingdom he alone is Our Hope in this life and the next and to

him alone we swear Allegiance the church has seen political violence from its very first days and so father we pray that that as the church Encounters this cultural moment that we would be a people committed to peace that our language would be seasoned with peace and that we would speak the name of Jesus before any other name Jesus we ask that you're that you would bring healing to our nation that you would bind up the broken that you would restore goodness we ask for your guidance and your mercy to protect our

leaders we pray for the families of those who were killed and harmed God may you comfort them in the way that only you can Lord Jesus we ask that you uh come to us come Lord Jesus in our hearts in our lives in our community and in our nation amen thank you um so we are continuing our series on renewal and today I'd like to take a little bit of time to talk with you about uh renewal around the area of faithfulness and a culture of compromise believe we live in a moment where when we see the things that are happening in

the world and the culture around us there are many Temptations and many ways the church is drawn into areas of compromise and to let go of faithfulness to scripture and to who Jesus is and so what I want to talk about today and the question I have for you is how do we remain faithful as a church and a community and as individuals in a time of compromise when the culture around us is tempting us and maybe pressuring us to abandon the faith in certain areas how do we remain faithful a few years

ago Stephie and I we were shopping for a house is that what you call shopping for a house we were looking for a house I don't know we were we were trying to buy a home okay people don't judge me I didn't sleep a lot last night we were trying to buy a home and uh we visited this one house with our Realtor and it was a house that is Southwest Littleton and it was built on Bentonite anybody ever seen a house built on Bentonite okay it's a thing that goes on in Colorado there are veins that run through our part of the world and it

just causes the ground to be completely um unconducive to like building a home and so we walked into this home and felt like one of those like circus Funhouse places you know what I'm talking about like you walked in it's like the door's kind of like a little crooked and then you'd be walking down the hall and suddenly you would just feel yourself kind of like moving this way and you're like what just happened we literally we were at the top of the stairs and we looked down to the like floor below and

the chandelier was just like hanging like this and we're like that's not that's not how gravity works that's not what's supposed to happen in this place and so it was just completely the foundation was all messed up there were so many cracks in the walls and it felt like you were in this like it felt like one of those rooms where you walk and you walk away from someone it's like why are they smaller in that corner over there it was just Madness and so of course we didn't buy that house but

here's the thing when we were coming up with our list with our Realtor of what we wanted in a house we did not put anything about foundation on the home right and if you're looking for a home I promise you that one of your top five things you're looking for is not a solid foundation when you have a conversation with your family or friends and you're looking to buy a home you're thinking like oh I really hope that like it's got a good kitchen with like a lot of space and good countertops and functional

cabinets or I really hope there's like a bathroom for our kids and for us so we don't have to share all that space or you're thinking like maybe there's even a place for a man cave and you've got your list right you want a fireplace a patio a big yard whatever it might be no one's thinking I really hope the foundation is just awesome like that's not exciting that's not sexy that's not why you're looking for a home but the moment that you are in a home that you see has a bad Foundation you recognize immediately how critical a

foundation is to the home you want to purchase foundations are critical and so what I want to talk with you today about is how we can build foundations of faithfulness I want to give you a couple things that I think can help build a foundation of faithfulness in your life as we cultivate the fruit of the spirit faithfulness so that when things get difficult when we encounter challenges when we are tempted to compromise our faith we can remain faithful and I'll just be upfront with you that I don't

think this list is particularly exciting it's a little bit like the foundation of a home it's critical um but it's not necessarily exciting how's that for a for a pitch for a sermon and trying to ask you to keep listening to me so we're going to talk about foundations of faithfulness because foundations are critical in a time of compromise so the First Foundation of faithfulness that I want to talk with you about today is the foundation of Allegiance part of remaining faithful to Jesus in a time of compromise is all

about Allegiance the word faith or faithfulness is used over 700 times in the New Testament and often when we hear that word we think something about belief that faith is like I have faith in Jesus so I believe he's the son of God I believe that he died and rose again for my sins and that's what we kind of think faith is and there's truth to that absolutely but in the New Testament authors like Paul and other people who were following Jesus they had a very distinct understanding that faith in someone was not just an

intellectual exercise it actually had very much to do with commitment and Allegiance and so people would talk about having faith in Caesar and it's not just that they believe something about Caesar it was that they had given him their allegiance they had committed to honor and follow him and so when Jesus and other authors talk about having faith in him really one of the core tenants of this idea of faith is giving our allegiance to Jesus and we understand this this commitment inherently it's one of the reasons why

we pledge allegiance to the flag we're saying that that we are choosing to commit to our country our nation to serve and honor our country we're not committed to China or Australia or Russia or anywhere else we're committed to America first and foremost of any other Nation it's the exact same thing when it comes to pledging allegiance to Jesus to Faith expressed as Allegiance in Jesus we are committing to honor and follow him

with above everything else in our lives it's one of the reasons Jesus said this in the gospels

when someone ask him what the most important thing about a relationship with him is in Matthew 22 he says this love the Lord your God with all of your heart with all of your soul with all of your mind this is the first and greatest commandment and the second is like it love your neighbor as yourself all of the law and Prophets hang on these two Commandments it's about wholehearted allegiance to Jesus when we Proclaim that we have faith in Jesus that he is King and what we are saying is that the

gospel we believe is that our whole heart our whole being our Mind Body Soul spirit is all committed to following him not just in in some cognitive Ascent but an embodied loyalty let's go back to the illustration of the foundations for a moment because what Jesus is essentially saying in this teaching is that that he wants to be the foundation of your life he wants to be the center of what your life is built on he doesn't want to just be the butler in your home right like he's not someone you just ring the bell

for and hope that they come and kind of do whatever you want and take care of your needs and make sure you have what you need that's not the role Jesus wants in your life but I think sometimes that's how we treat him I think some of us have this relationship with Jesus instead of wholehearted allegiance to him we just kind of think yeah I think you're actually kind of here to make sure my life goes okay and that's not the role that Jesus wants to play in your life he wants to be the foundation I think others of us we kind

of treat Jesus like he's the added bonus like maybe the addition to the home we always really wanted or maybe he's the shed in the back you don't really need it but it's really nice to have and Jesus kind of plays that role in her life like I could get along fine without him but man it's good that he's here too and the problem with that and what I see so many times in conversations with people is that they come to me and they say I've been following Jesus I I've came to Jesus when I was little kid

walked away a little bit in college but everybody kind of does that right and then I came back to the faith when I had kids and I'm trying to get back into the church and figure things out and it's not working I want to follow Jesus but it just feels like he's not working

for me and that almost immediately leads me to a conversation about well okay tell me about your priorities in life where are you spending your time what does your money habits look like what are the things that you're giving yourself

to what are the things that are most important in your life and very quickly through that conversation what we begin to realize together is that that Jesus Christ has not been the foundation of their life that they have so many other priorities and initiatives and things that they are living for their career their family whatever it might be and Jesus has a backseat and you will never be content in your relationship with Jesus if you do not have wholehearted allegiance to him as your king and Lord and

Savior see faithfulness to God is Not Just about deciding for Jesus it's about being disciplined by him and faithfulness to God involves whole person alliance to God the reason Faith doesn't work so many times in our Lives is because honestly we're holding our chips back we're not willing to go all in I'm not I'm not sure if I'm allowed to use a poker illustration or not in church but I just did okay I'm not sure if that's allowed but we have to go all in if we want a faith that will not be compromised

then we have to have allegiance to Jesus above everything and everyone else including political parties including the different areas of Our Lives where we are looking for answers to the issue of what is purpose in life Jesus has to has to has to be our first priority and Allegiance with our whole selves okay so Foundation number one is Allegiance Foundation number two I think comes down to trust if we want to remain faithful in a time of compromise it means not only giving our allegiance to

God but also trusting his character God is faithful and he is worthy of your trust he is reliable and even when we are Unfaithful God is faithful to us Psalm 105 says this and this is echoed literally hundreds of times in Scripture for the Lord is good and his love endures forever his faithfulness continues through all generations think about that statement for a moment through all generations it means that there is never a time in history there has never been a moment where God has not been

faithful now can I be really honest with you for just one moment um does anybody know the term Christian okay like the kind of language where Christians say stuff and it's kind of like Christians speak and no one really else knows what we mean when we say that

kind of thing but um but we kind of all say that thing one of the places in my life and this some of you probably judged me for it and I'm very sorry one of the places in my life where I really kind of like am uh I don't know what the

right word is disillusioned with Christian don't like Christian is this statement um the Lord is faithful now I absolutely believe 100% that the Lord is faithful I believe the scripture that I just read that the Lord is faithful through all generations you're like good job Paul you're a pastor like that's kind of 101 you should agree with scripture right here's why I have trouble with that statement is I see it all over social media and it is so easy for me and I'm going to sound so bitter here I don't want to sound bitter but it

is so easy to say the Lord is faithful when you are on vacation in the Italian Countryside right like it just doesn't it doesn't ring true it like the rest of social media it feels like a lie like it is one thing to say the Lord is faithful when everything is going well in your life when you're putting this picture out of all of the good things that have happened to you and good things absolutely come from Jesus that is one of the things about his faithfulness but true faithfulness to Jesus

true faithfulness to Jesus is trusting him not in the mountaintops but in The Valleys in the moments of life when things are falling apart when it feels like your circumstances are screaming at you that God is Not faithful that is when true faithfulness is revealed that is when true faithfulness is revealed you see God's faithfulness is based on his character and not our circumstances and one of the fears I have with that phrase of the Lord is faithful when you're in the the French Riviera or wherever you are

at is that if you think God is faithful in the high points of life it can be setting you up for a space where when life gets hard you begin to question and doubt his faithfulness because your understanding of his faithfulness may be based more on your circumstances than what God has done and what he has said it's based on his character and the oldest lie in scripture the very first lie that we were told as Humanity was that God is not good it was when the snake came to the woman said did God

really say and that lie has been whispered in the ears of every single one of us at different times when we go through hardship it's that same Lie Is God really good is he really faithful and if your understanding of God's faithfulness is based on your

circumstances then it will be incredibly difficult for you to remain faithful in the challenges and hardships of Life Jesus actually told a story about this in the gospels when he told the parable of a few servants and some of you are probably familiar with this

story we're not going to go too deep into it but I want to just hit the high points because I think it connects the idea for us that faithfulness is tied to our understanding of God's character so Jesus tells a story and it goes like this he says there were three servants two of them were given immense amounts of money and as the master left these servants he said I want you to take care of this I'm entrusting you with this and do with this what you will but I'll come back and I want to see what you've done with

it and the first two servants who were given this amount of money they invest that money and so when the master comes back they show him all that they've earned and all that they've done with it and do you remember what the master says to them well done good and faithful servant there's something about what they did in the space that God had entrusted them with that they were faithful in that the master entrusted them with that they were faithful in and so the Master's response to them is that you've been faithful in the little

things now I will put you in charge of more things but there was a third servant and this servant was given a pretty insignificant amount of money but but still something to do with and he decided not to invest in fact it tells us that he bar carried it in the ground and just waited for his master to return and didn't do anything with what the master had given him and do you remember what he says when the master comes back and asks him why he didn't do anything with what he'd been given this

is what he says then the man who had received one bag of gold came Master he said I knew that you were a hard man harvesting where you have not sown and Gathering where you have not scattered seed so I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground see here is what belongs to you and what the master says to this person is you unfaithful and lazy servant and we read that and we're like what in the world like that feels like such a hard response what's going on here what is Jesus getting at well you

can see from this passage that that the reason what led this servant to unfaithfulness was he misunderstood the character of the master he thought he was a hard difficult challenging man he was afraid of him he didn't trust the goodness and the faithfulness of the master and because he did not trust the character of his master it led him to a place of unfaithfulness see the master sees him as Unfaithful and faithfulness flows out of trusting and understanding the goodness of God do we really really

believe that God is worthy of our trust is he really at the heart of it faithful to us can we trust God despite our circumstances despite the obstacles we face can we believe God is good even when our circumstances seem to tell us otherwise some of you are going to go through incredibly hard things in your life some of you are in those season and those moments right now and I think one of the ways that you can remain faithful is in those seasons of difficulty trusting and believing the faithfulness of God it doesn't mean that

there aren't moments of doubt it doesn't mean there isn't struggle in the midst of those Seasons but we have to build a foundation of Understanding God's faithfulness I think one of the ways that we can the best word pictures I've ever seen of how to understand God's faithfulness is that so many times we want to know God is faithful in what's coming next and so we're let's say you're in a car and you're driving through life and you see the challenges ahead you see the things that you're going through you the anxieties

the worries the things that you are struggling with and it's in those moments that you want to know is God going to be faithful with that thing is God going to be faithful in that season and that's usually the place where we have so much anxiety in trepidation and fear and worry because what if he doesn't hold us in those spaces but that is actually not the place we see and understand God's goodness and faithfulness we actually understand God's faithfulness not through the windshield but through the rearview

mirror because it's when we look back on the things that we have been going through when we look back at the moments in our life where we felt like everything was falling apart and in that moment we did not know if God was faithful it's when we get past that block that that that struggle that stumbling space that we can look back and say I don't know how but God redeemed God showed up did his thing and led me through that season and was faithful we can always look back and see God's fa he's been faithful through the

generations that we look back on the stories of faithfulness of what God has done and how he has shown up it doesn't mean that he answers every prayer it doesn't mean that it will always be easy but it does mean he is with you and he is always working to redeem every situation and Circumstance so do we believe that God is trustworthy and faithful can we build a foundation of faithfulness that that stands when the storms of life blow can we build a foundation of faithfulness that even in the moments of

life when it seems like God is not with us we understand and Trust his character so foundations of faithfulness Allegiance trust and the third is perseverance now I get you can look at that list it's not super exciting like it's kind of the basics right like it's probably stuff we all know but the foundation is so critical in times of compromise and so much of the key to faithfulness is persevering through the challenges and obstacles of Life That's My Son talking in the back I think he's with me I think he's that was him he's

he's on it he's like preach Dad but he doesn't speak English yet so that's what you just have to assume he's saying and that's where perseverance is most important perseverance is the steady one foot in front of the other despite obstacles and challenges and circumstances Eugene Peterson calls it a long obedience in the same direction you see faithfulness is not just a one-time thing it's not a thing that just happens occasionally it is a continual discipline and exercise that we have to continually pursue and be aware of in

our lives if we want to remain faithful uh as I Was preparing for this message it reminded me of a story uh that I heard from a person that actually goes to this church he's not here today he's joining us online some of you know him probably I'm not going to say his name today um but he is an ultra-Runner does anyone know what an ultra-Runner is okay they run literally like thousands of miles a year I had a friend in in seminary who was an ultra-Runner and he literally he described it as a disease he's like there's something

wrong with me I don't know how else to do it like I just I run all the time forever it's like force Gump where they're just like running and running and running and they never stop and this person in our church he um he's an ultra-Runner and he sees it not as a disease but as a discipline and as I was talking with him about this it was just it was so

encouraging and so challenging to me because he's an Ultra run so he literally runs like thousands of miles a year um and he does these races he

was telling me a particular story about the Tahoe 200 which is a 200 mile race for context that means you are running for four to five days like four to five days of just continually running and you don't really sleep at all and you sometimes eat meals here or there and you're just running continually and when he told me this I was like yeah we're not the same like we're just not like we're not the same at all like that I don't have any desire to like good for you that's amazing like tell me more I want to hear

more and so he tells me about this particular race it's 100 miles out and 100 miles back and there are over 36,000 ft in elevation gain on this R it is brutal and what he tells me is that as he is racing he gets to the halfway point and he doesn't really know it but he's making he can feel good he he's making good time he's actually in 18th Place out of like 200 Runners I mean he is he's crushing it he's feeling so good he's making he's on a good pace and his body's feeling great

and he hits the 100 mile Mark turns around to go back and he says somewhere between 130 miles and 135 miles which again like just not the same at all like 130 mil and that you don't even know but it's somewhere in there because it's so many miles like most of us if we run five miles we're like I did awesome but somewhere in those five miles what he tells me is that his leg blew up which doesn't sound very good like it sounds like that's probably a problem when you're trying to run that far and I was

like what do you mean your leg blew up he said essentially he was wearing the wrong pair of shoes um for this race and it caused um some aggravation and a tendon in his foot that caused his foot to swell up uh like a balloon and I saw pictures of him and you can be thankful because I did not put the pictures on the screen for you but his foot blew up and he pulled over into a medical tent and they kind of it took multiple people to get the shoe off of his foot and then they looked at it and it was

very swollen and the medic said essentially uh this problem in your foot has caused three stress fractures in your leg um and he was kind of like your races is probably over and my friend his response was well if I keep going is there more damage the and I was like not the same like what are you talking about you've already run 130 miles like you

don't need to keep going and he's like no if keep going will there be any long-term damage for my body and the medic is like no but it's going to be incredibly

painful and so he had multiple people it took multiple people to get this shoe back on his foot and they strapped it in and he ran 70 more miles on a broken leg not the same like we're not the same at all and as he was telling me this story I just kept thinking like why in the world like I don't have any desire to run 200 miles I definitely don't have any desire to run 70 Miles on a broken leg like it's just none of it is I don't understand tell me why and it was a fascinating conversation this is

why it made me think of this message and because my first question was how in the world did you do that like what is it what is that kind of discipline to get you there and he said it came down to two things he said first is that throughout the race there are people he runs with called Pacers and that they will stick with him running for several like miles like one of them was supposed to run 50 miles with him and he went 70 cause he could tell that he was struggling again I'm not even the I'm not those

people I'm not a Pacer like I'm not going to do that either but the reason he was able to finish the race is because who he had surrounded himself with that's what he told me it was the people around him that encouraged him that prayed over him on this race that challenged him to keep going and if he hadn't had those people around him he would not have finished the race and then the second reason he gave is he simply called it the why and I was like what do you mean the why that's what

I asked you like why and he said every runner in this community knows that if you do not have a solid why you will not finish if you were just running the race to say you did it or if you're just running the race to try to win something like you will not finish you have to have a y that is bigger than yourself and that keeps your eye on a prize bigger than just running this grueling race and it was the why and it reminded me so much of this idea of perseverance one because it's just an incredible story like his

perseverance like physically it's just an incredible feat but there is something so critical in our spiritual perseverance that I think we can learn from that it made me think of this passage from Hebrews 12 where it says this it says therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses and what he's talking about here goes back to

Hebrews chapter 11 where he lists out the people who have remained faithful to the faith to God despite incredible circumstances and he says since you have seen their examples

since you have seen those Pacers this is a part of the foundation for endurance he says let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the races marked out for us fixing our Eyes On Jesus the why the P the Pioneer and the perfecter of our faith for the joy set before him he endured the cross scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the Throne of God there's two things I think as we kind of wrap up this message on faithfulness perseverance comes down to

who you surround yourself with it is looking back at the examples of the legacy of faith that have come before you it's surrounding yourself with people currently that you can point to and say they are the ones who will keep me going when I think of my own life there are several different people I think of and I could tell you story after story after story about people who I have seen the legacy of their faithfulness that has encouraged me and inspired me to continue in the race when I am struggling and just zero I'll just

zero in on my mother's family for just a moment when I think of faithfulness I think of my Grandma Lois her mom who when I was spending the night at her house in the summertime I would be so excited to come down the stairs cause I wanted cinnamon rolls and Saturday morning cartoons and every morning when I came down into the kitchen I would see her with her Bible open and I kid you not a coffee in one hand and a cigarette in the other the Bible took the cigarette didn't um and it was just this constant

faithfulness now I promise you in the moment I was not thinking like wow my grandma's so cool she's reading her Bible I just wanted send in rolls in Saturday morning cartoons but it is an image that has been burned into my soul I I can't forget the beauty that I witnessed in her faithfulness in her life I think of her husband we called him Papa Pete his name was Raymond no one like that name so we all called him Papa Pete and he was a a really quiet strong Soul he was a truck driver for over 40 years working long

hours hard hours and he remained so faithful to my grandma and his family working hard and what I remember the most about him and his faithfulness is we could go

fishing for hours and he may not say two words to me he was very quiet he was one of those people that just liked the quality time and uh what I do remember though is that the time he was least quiet was in their little Country Church singing hymns and he would just sing those hymns like his life depended on it with

everything that he had and it was such an example of this hardworking steadfast person who just loved Jesus with everything that he did I think of their daughter my mom who was a missionary and a faithful mother for most of her life her whole life and I think of when she was diagnosed with cancer with her oldest son who was 18 and her youngest child who was eight and I remember her battle with cancer and I remember her faithfulness her unwavering faithfulness and who Jesus was despite

the circumstances around her all the way up to the end where she lost that battle her faith never wavered in who Jesus was there were absolutely moments of doubt and struggle and why God but it was this persistent perseverance you see I'm sure that you could point to different people in your life that that you can point to and say it was their example of faithfulness it was their legacy of faithfulness which is why I am still here today that's why all of us are in this room is because along the way we encountered

people who pointed us to what it means to be faithful to Jesus and if we want to remain faithful we have to surround ourselves with those kinds of people and I want to take a moment really quick very brief moment to talk specifically to the elderly in the room now I'm not going to point you out that would be rude and I'm not going to say what age are cause I don't want to offend anyone but if you think this maybe applies to you you're maybe in a season of life where a lot of your life is

in the rearview mirror you have a lot to look back on and you're seeing that the future years are just are shorter and shorter and shorter you don't know how long you don't know what's next you don't know maybe even you're retired whatever it might be you have such an opportunity as you finished the race to leave a legacy of faithfulness to the Generations coming behind you may think no one is watching you may think no one has any idea or sees you show up on a Sunday morning you may think no one sees the way that you love

your spouse at the end of their life or through dementia you may think that nobody recognizes what it looks like to live a faithful life at the end of your days but I promise you there are people who are watching you I promise you so don't give up don't give up remain faithful give us an example and a legacy to look forward to I promise you my grandma did not think that she was leaving a legacy of faithfulness with her cigarette and coffee and Bible but like I said I cannot get that image out

of my head that's what I want to be towards the end of my life is just faithful perseverance continuing to seek and learn from the Lord you can leave that Legacy for the people who are coming behind so don't quit stay faithful keep going show us how to endure and help us build a foundation of faithfulness and then I want to talk very briefly as we close about the why we remain faithful and very simply it's this I think the why is Jesus and the why for us if we fix our eyes on him and we persevere through

challenges and we remain faithful because of who he is in 2 Timothy 3:13 it says this if we are faithless if we are faithless if we fail to remain faithful if we do not hold up our end of the bargain he remains faithful because he cannot disown himself he cannot disown himself what that means is if you are in Christ Jesus if you have given your life and allegiance to him even in the moments where you stumble where you fail where you falter even in the moments where you want to let go of the Rope he will not

let go of you he will remain faithful even when you are faithless and I think there might be some of you in this room and you're thinking right now yeah but yeah but you don't know what I've done yeah but you don't know what I've been through yeah but you don't know what I've endured and you're right I do not know all of your stories but I do know the story of Jesus Christ and he is always faithful think even of the end of his life think of the end of his life where he spent three years of his life

walking discipling praying over living with 12 different men who were his closest friends and then it comes to the end they can't even stay awake to pray with him before he's about to be killed one of them that was a follower of him just betrays him to his it didn't even want to fall and wanted him to Die the other 11 completely abandoned him and one of the 11 actually denies knowing him three different times as he is on trial for his life and do you know what happens to our Savior and to those men

when Jesus raises from the dead and comes back to be with them he says you're in charge of my bride you were Unfaithful and I truly if I had a friend that was unfaithful I am not trusting him with my bride that's not going to happen Jesus is faithful even when we are Unfaithful he is the why Jesus is faithful in spite of he is reliable regardless he is steadfast when we waver he holds on when we try to let go he is faithful and if we want to remain faithful if we want to run the race with endurance then we fix our eyes on him

because he is the inspiration for our faithfulness CU he already ran the race and so can we remain faith faithful in a time of compromise because he has gone before us and always been faithful will you pray with me Heavenly Father we come before you now and I know father that there are some in this room who they their minds their Spirits their hearts are filled with the yah but right now that maybe the idea of whole person allegiance to you just feels like too high a calling that maybe

there are circumstances in their life that feel like I'm just not sure if God is faithful in this God I pray that In This Moment by the power of your spirit you would be cultivating the fruit of faithfulness in each and every one of our hearts God we understand that the fruit is not something we produce in and of ourselves but something you produce in us and so when we come to the end of our rope when we feel like we have not the strength for one more step I pray that our prayer would be God fill

me with your faithfulness cultivate that fruit of faithfulness within me when I feel like I can't keep going and it's in the name of Jesus we pray amen