

Monday, 04 – Sunday, 10 August 2025

August 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
32	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
34	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
35	25	26	27	28	29	30	31


St Wale

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A Note for the Church

This devotional is for *every generation*—but we're speaking the way young adults *talk*. No religious jargon. No performative piety. Just real, raw exploration of biblical faithfulness in language that resonates with today's culture.

What to Expect:

 **Truth, not fluff** – We're tackling faithfulness where it hits hardest: in private struggles, messy relationships, and daily choices.

 **God-talk that sounds like life-talk** – Prayers as conversations. Theology as street-level wisdom.

 **Designed for the IG generation** – Punchy, visual, and to-the-point (but with depth beneath the surface).

For Older Generations:

You'll find the *same timeless truth*—just wrapped in fresh language. Consider this a chance to:

- Hear Scripture through a new generational lens
- Understand the struggles young adults face
- Find common ground in what faithfulness really means

For Young Adults:

This is *your* devotional—no pretending, no filters. We're talking:

- How to trust God when life burns you
- Why "showing up" matters more than hype
- What faithfulness looks like in a cancel culture world

Let's get into it—because faithfulness isn't about age, but about a love that won't let go.

Agape-Shaped Faithfulness

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love...faithfulness." — Galatians 5:22

Faithfulness (*pistis*) isn't just about being good or ticking religious boxes—it's about relationship. It's what happens when God's love changes us from the inside out. In Galatians 5:22, Paul isn't listing separate "fruits" like a spiritual shopping list. It's one fruit with different flavours—like a single apple with sweetness, crispness, and juiciness all working together. The core flavour? *Agape* love—the kind that sticks around no matter what. Everything else (joy, peace, patience—even faithfulness) flows from that.



So, what exactly is this "faithfulness"? It's *agape* love that doesn't quit. Love that stays loyal when things get tough, when feelings fade, or when no one's watching. The Greek word *pistis* comes from *peithō* ("to persuade")—which tells us something cool: Real faithfulness starts with God persuading us He's trustworthy. It's like when a mate consistently has your back until you *know* they're reliable—that's God with us. But then it changes us too, making *us* more dependable in return. Some Bibles translate it as "faith" (KJV), others "faithfulness" (NIV)—because it's both: trusting God *and* becoming someone, others can trust.

This isn't flashy stuff. *Agape*-shaped faithfulness is what keeps you praying when it feels pointless, forgiving others when you'd rather not, and showing up when it's inconvenient. It's not a one-off grand gesture but a daily, quiet consistency—like a candle that won't blow out. In a world where everything shifts (relationships, trends, even your feelings), this kind of faithfulness anchors you.

Living this way means moving to the Spirit's rhythm:

1. Letting God convince you He's reliable (*peithō*—that persuasion bit)
2. Being reshaped by His no-strings-attached love (*agape*)
3. Paying it forward through steady, no-drama loyalty

This week we're exploring how this works in real life—how God's stubborn love makes us people who keep our word, stay true, and reflect Him even when it's hard. Ready to dig in?

Get connected
and join the IIC
WhatsApp
community
announcements.



Regular announcements,
take part in polls and get
event reminders.

Tap to
connect

Please be aware that mobile numbers are hidden from other community members and
on community admins can send messages.

You will on average receive 2 messages a week.

A banner for the Limitless Festival 2025. On the left, the text 'LIMITLESS Festival 2025' is written in a stylized font, with '9-13 August' and 'STAFFORD SHOWGROUND' below it. The website 'LIMITLESSFESTIVAL.CO.UK' is at the bottom. On the right, there is a black and white photo of three young people (two women and one man) jumping and celebrating, with white lightning bolt graphics overlaid. A purple circle on the right contains the text 'Give £25'.

Baptism Service Sunday 31st August 11am

If you're interested in being baptised
then please sign up for the baptismal
class (zoom) on Tues 26th August
7.30pm by scanning the QR Code



Ipswich International
Church
Barrack Corner
Portman Rd IP1 2NB



Faithfulness Starts with God

Galatians 5:22; Deuteronomy 7:9

...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...faithfulness..." — *Galatians 5:22* (BSB)

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps His covenant of loving devotion for a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments." — Deuteronomy 7:9 (BSB)



Before faithfulness shows up in *our* lives, it starts with God convincing *us*—not with arguments, but with His rock-solid track record.

Deuteronomy 7:9 doesn't say "*Just believe harder!*" It says, "*Know therefore*"—like when you've seen enough proof to trust someone completely. God is like that mate who's *always* kept their word:

- **Not just "able" but committed** – He doesn't bail when it gets messy (covenantal, not just capable).
- **Not a flash-in-the-pan love** – His loyalty outlasts generations (your grandparents' God is still your God).
- **Not moody** – No "off days" with Him (same yesterday, today, forever).

That's *pistis* (the "faithfulness" in Galatians 5:22) in action. The word comes from *peithō*—meaning "*to persuade*." God isn't asking for blind faith; He's saying:

"Look at what I've done. Listen to stories of My faithfulness. Then let that truth sink in until you know I'm trustworthy."



(a) What's one way God's shown He's reliable in your life or someone else's? (b) How does knowing God *never* changes shift how you trust Him?

Faithfulness isn't a character trait we strive to develop; it's a divine persuasion we open our heart to receive.



Father God, today I'm choosing to trust You—not because I have all the answers, but because You do. Help me to:

See the ways You've been faithful before (even when I didn't notice).

Remember that You're the same God today as You were for insert [Abraham/*my parents/that story in Scripture*].

I have stopped trying to 'figure it all out' and just know—deep down—that You're reliable. When doubts creep in, pull me back to this truth: You've never broken a promise yet. Amen.



Action Point _____



Faithfulness = Trusting What God Says

Romans 4:19-21

"He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead... No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised." (ESV)



Yesterday we saw that real faithfulness starts with knowing *who God is*. Today's lesson? It's about staking your life on *what God says*—even when it sounds crazy. **Enter Abraham:**

- **Promise:** 100 years old + barren wife = baby? Yeah, right!
- **Reality check:** Every biological fact screamed **"IMPOSSIBLE!"**
- **But...** *"He grew strong in his faith, totally convinced God would do what He promised"* (Romans 4:20-21).

Key phrase: *"Fully convinced"* (Greek: *plērophoreō*). This isn't blind optimism—it's **unshakeable trust** built on:

1. **God's covenant** (God had cut a covenant with Abraham before)
2. **God's character** (He doesn't lie or forget)

Abraham's faith wasn't a passive *"hope so"*—it was an active *"know so"* that made him **keep walking, waiting, and obeying** for 25 years. That's *agape*-shaped faithfulness: **love that sticks to God's word like glue**, even when life looks nothing like the promise.

Our turn: God's promises to *us* can sound just as wild:

"Peace in chaos?" | "Strength when I'm exhausted?" | "Life after death?"

Faithfulness means responding like Abraham: not with *"But how?"* but with *"I know You've got this."*



- (a) What's one God-promise that feels impossible for you right now?
(b) How can Abraham's example encourage you? The same Spirit who formed faith in Abraham lives in you. (c) What practical step can you take to strengthen your trust today?



Father God, I'm holding onto Your promises—even when they seem wild right now. Like Abraham, I choose to:

- ✓ Trust Your timing (even if it takes 25 years... ugh).
- ✓ Focus on Who said it, not how impossible it looks.
- ✓ Keep walking forward, even when I can't see the next step.

When my brain screams 'This makes no sense!', shout louder: 'I've got this.'
Amen.



Action Point _____

Do You Think Prayer Is Trying To Convince A Hostile, Unwilling And High-handed God To Do Something He Doesn't Want To Do?

THEN YOU SHOULD READ

The Paternoster Code

A Novel On Prayer



"The book illustrates God's mysterious ways, like His ability to draw straight with crooked lines. It calls attention to all to appreciate that God is everywhere and meets us irrespective of time, space, or agency. A compelling read."

Bishop Matthew Kukah

The picture of God as a loving and caring Father, and not a hostile, unwilling and high-handed Judge, is well-painted in the book. A number of other fundamental matters about prayer have been succinctly captured and aptly illustrated.

Pastor Tony Akinyemi

"A succinctly written book on prayer that is one-of-a-kind.

"A great book with many revelations. I'd say it's more than a book on prayer; it's about developing a relationship with God."

**Available in electronic formats and
paperback on**

Roving Heights

amazon.com



Faithfulness is Built in the Small Stuff

Luke 16:10 & Matthew 25:21



Forget superhero moments—real faithfulness is forged in the *daily grind*. Jesus said it straight: if you can't be trusted with little things (homework, texts, how you treat your family), why would God give you bigger responsibilities?

The Parable of the Talents Remix:

- The boss didn't care about *how much* profit his team made
- He cared about *how they handled* what they'd been given
- The guy with two coins got the same praise as the guy with five, suggesting that effort is valued as much as, if not more than, results.

This changes everything:

- Your "boring" daily choices (honesty when no one's watching, patience with annoying siblings) *are* your faithfulness CV
- God's not waiting for you to go viral—He's watching how you handle the ordinary

Agape-shaped faithfulness looks like:

- ✓ Showing up when you don't feel like it
- ✓ Doing the right thing when it costs you
- ✓ Staying kind even when you're tired

Feeling unrecognised? Good news:

- God sees every unnoticed act of loyalty
- The "small" stuff is actually your training ground
- Want God to trust you with more? Nail the little things first



(a) What's one "small" area where you can practice faithfulness today? (Consider your words, daily habits, or unseen responsibilities) (b) Who's someone you know who models this daily consistency well?

Faithfulness in the small is not preparation for the big—it is the big.



Father God, help me nail the small stuff when nobody's watching.

Give me strength to: (a) Show up even when I don't feel like it (b) Do right even when it's inconvenient (c) Stay faithful in the boring, everyday things
Remind me that:



My 'hidden' obedience is training for what's ahead



You see every single faithful choice I make

Turn my ordinary into extraordinary. Amen.



Real Faithfulness Happens Off-Camera

Matthew 6:3-4 & 2 Chronicles 16:9



Let's be real – anyone can put on a show when they've got an audience. But the *real* test? What you do when:

✓ No one's watching

✓ No one's clapping

✓ No one's gonna find out

Jesus called this the "*secret stuff*" (Matthew 6:4, MSG version). He said:

- "*When you pray... go low-key*"
- "*When you help others... don't post about it*"
- "*When you fast... keep it between you and God*"

Why? Because **God's the only audience that actually matters.**

Spotlight on Two Legends:

1 Daniel – Kept praying even when it meant death-by-lions (no Instagram stories, just raw faith)

2 Joseph – Said no to temptation when it would've been easier to say yes (and *nobody* was around to see it)

Here's the truth:

- Your *private* prayer time? That's your power source.
- That kind act you *didn't* post about? That's real gold.
- That temptation you walked away from? That's next-level strength.

Feeling unseen? That's your superpower.

God's building your faithfulness muscle in the shadows – so when your moment comes, you'll be unshakeable.



(a) What's one "secret" area where you can go all-in with God this week? (b) What would it look like to live more fully for the eyes of God alone? (c) How does knowing that God sees everything change your motivation for faithfulness?



Father, thank You that You see in secret. When *no one's watching* - *help me choose You no matter what*. Give me courage to:

Pray when it's not trendy | Do good when no one posts about it | Say no to what's wrong - even in secret.

Remind me that:

Your opinion is the only one that truly matters | My private faithfulness is building unshakeable strength. *When I'm tempted to fake it for likes, remind me: You are the ultimate follower.* Help me find joy in serving an audience of One. Amen.



Mirroring God's faithfulness in Relationships

Proverbs 28:20 & Proverbs 3:3

"A faithful man will abound with blessings, but one eager to be rich will not go unpunished." Proverbs 28:20 (BSB)

"Never let loving devotion or faithfulness leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart." Proverbs 3:3 (BSB)

Let's cut to the chase: real faithfulness isn't just a "you and God" thing—it's how you *show up* for others when it matters. In a world where ghosting, half-truths and fair-weather friends are the norm, being *actually* dependable is revolutionary.

God-Level Faithfulness Looks Like:

- ✓ **Keeping promises** – Even when you're tired/bored/annoyed
- ✓ **Telling the truth** – Especially when lying would save your skin
- ✓ **Sticking around** – Not just when it's fun, but when it's hard
- ✓ **Praying for people** – Even if they'll never know you did
- ✓ **Letting go of grudges** – Because God's done it for you 100x over

This isn't about being perfect—it's about mirroring **God's no-matter-what love** (the kind that stuck with us even when we messed up).

Why Bother?

- Proverbs says faithful people "*radiate blessings*" – because trust is the glue that holds relationships together
- You become someone's *safe place* in a chaotic world
- It's how ordinary people reveal an extraordinary God



(1) Which relationship in your life most needs an infusion of Christlike faithfulness today? (2) Is there a broken commitment you need to make right? (3) How can God's faithfulness to you shape how you respond to others?



Father, thank You for Your faithful love toward me. *Make me the kind of friend who actually shows up.* Help me to:

- 100 Keep my word** - even when it's inconvenient
- 🗨️ Speak truth with love** - especially when it's hard
- 👤 Pray for others** - even if they never know
- 💔 Let go of grudges** - like You've done for me

Turn my relationships into reflections of Your never-give-up love. Amen.



Action Point: Contact one person you've been neglecting and schedule time to reconnect. If needed, have an honest conversation to restore trust.



Faithfulness in the Fire

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 & 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Now it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.—1 Corinthians 4:2 (BSB)

"We are hard pressed on all sides, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." — 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (BSB)



Let's be honest – anyone can talk big when life's easy. But **real faithfulness shows up in the fire** – literally.

🔥 *Shadrach & Co. faced a furnace and said: "Even if God doesn't rescue us – no regrets"* (Daniel 3:16-18)

💔 *Job lost everything and still worshipped: "God gives, God takes – blessed be God"* (Job 1:20-21)

✚ *Jesus stayed faithful all the way to the cross* (Hebrews 12:2)

This is next-level faithfulness:

- When saying "no" to compromise costs you
- When worship comes through tears
- When you stand alone and get mocked for it

Paul called it *"pressed but not crushed"* (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

Translation? **Faithfulness isn't about never struggling – it's about refusing to quit in the struggle.**

Why It Matters:

- 1 Pressure doesn't break faith – it *proves* faith
 - 2 God's silence is not God's absence (He was *in* the furnace with them)
 - 3 Your hardest season might be your most powerful testimony
-



(a) What's one situation where you need *furnace-level faithfulness* right now? (b) **Who inspires you by how they've handled tough times?** (c)

How can past examples of God's faithfulness strengthen you today?

Pressure doesn't break you—it shows the strength within you as you walk with God.



Jesus, You're the fourth Man in the fire—thank You for never leaving us. *When life turns up the heat - keep me faithful.* When I'm:

🔥 **Pressed** - Remind me You're shaping something strong

❓ **Perplexed** - Anchor me to what I *know* about You

👊 **Persecuted** - Be my unshakable defender

Like the furnace crew, I'm declaring:

"Even if You don't rescue me - no regrets!"

Give me backbone, not bailouts. Amen.

PAUSE

OBSERVE

REFLECT

Sunday

10 August 2025

Faithfulness That Responds – Pausing to Reflect and Obey

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." — James 1:22

The one who is faithful in little things is also faithful in much. Luke 16:10a (BSB)

This week, we've explored **agape-shaped faithfulness**—how God's relentless love fuels our trust, steadies us in trials, and calls us to show up for others.

Now, it's **response time**.

Kairos Moment:

What stuck with you? Maybe:

- A nudge about **half-hearted habits** (like skipping prayer)?
- A call to **stand firm** in a tough situation?
- A challenge to **repair a relationship** you've neglected?

Don't just *agree*—*act*. Faithfulness isn't grown in theory, but in **daily, practical obedience**.

Your Move:

- Feeling convicted? **Start small** (e.g., 5 minutes with Scripture).
- Wrestling with doubt? **Name it and bring it to God** (He can handle it).
- Tempted to quit? **Text someone to pray for you today**.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank You for speaking this week. Help me do what You've shown me—not out of guilt, but because I trust Your way is best. Give me courage to take one step today. Amen.
