

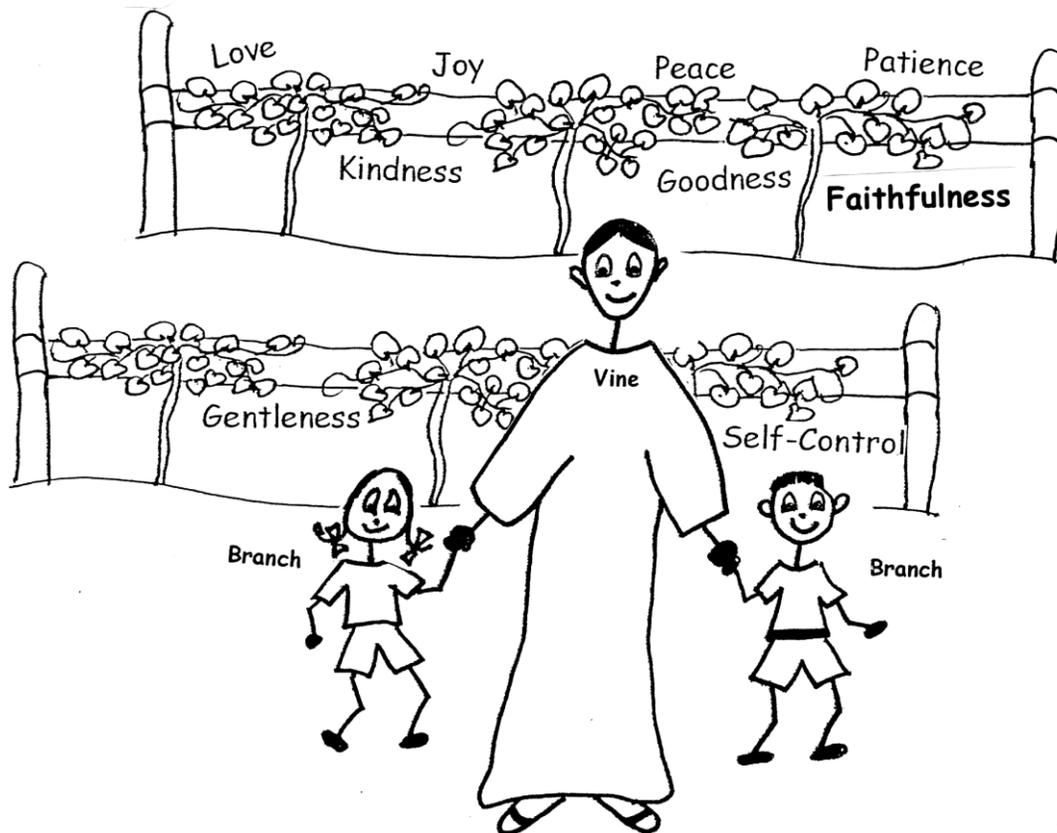
# Fruit of the Spirit

## FAITHFULNESS

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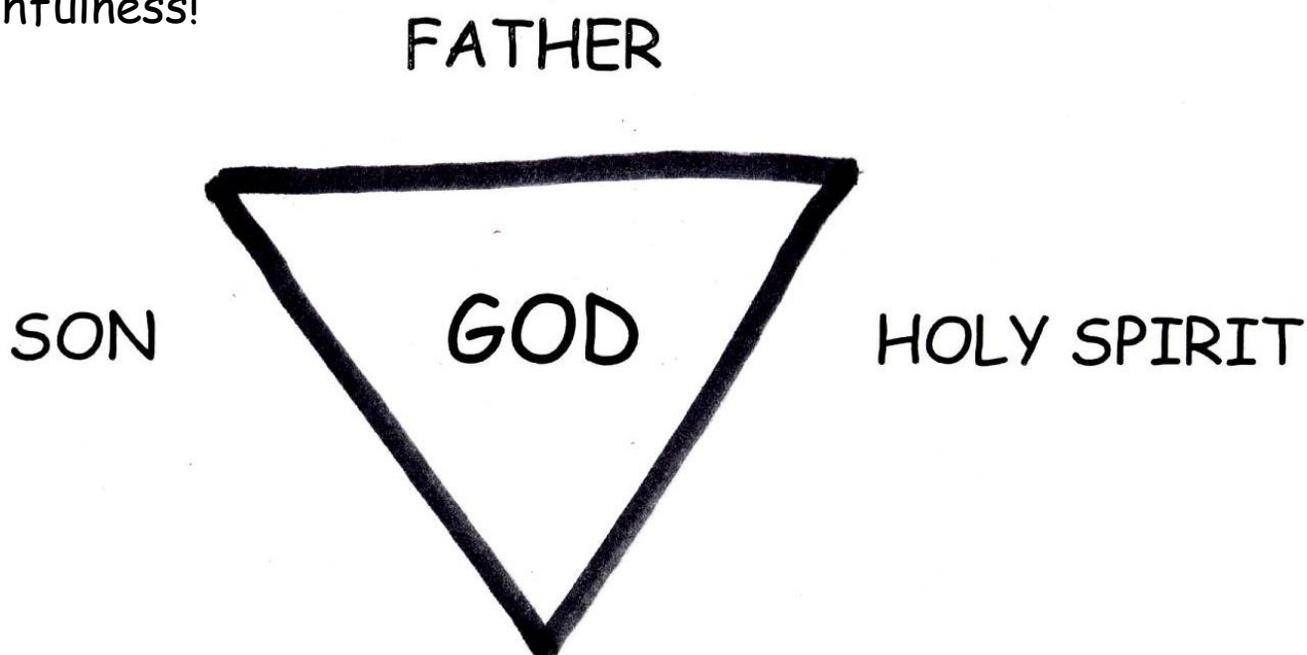
Fruit of the Holy Spirit



Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law [we can't do works to gain them; we study and the Holy Spirit changes us].

**Faithfulness** is being supportive, loyal; **faithful** means worthy of trust or belief.

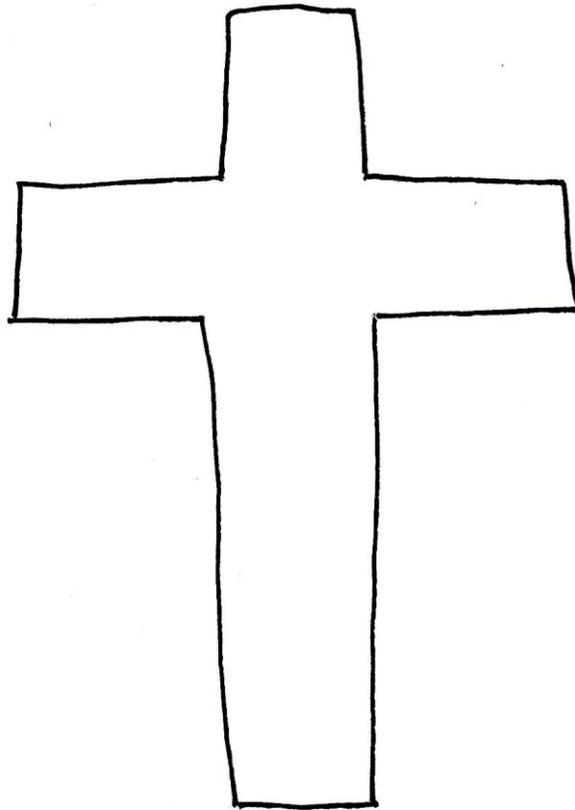
There is only One Who is completely supportive and loyal to us; He has perfect faithfulness. He has always been and will always be totally faithful to us; He is worthy of our trust and belief or faith. That only **One** is **God**. Because of His perfect character, He can only be faithful. God will get us through easy times and difficult times. We can and should always rely on Him! We can depend on God's faithfulness!



Lamentations 3:22-23 The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. *They are new every morning; great is Your **faithfulness**.*

Psalm 89:1 I will sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever; to all generations I will make known Your **faithfulness** with my mouth.

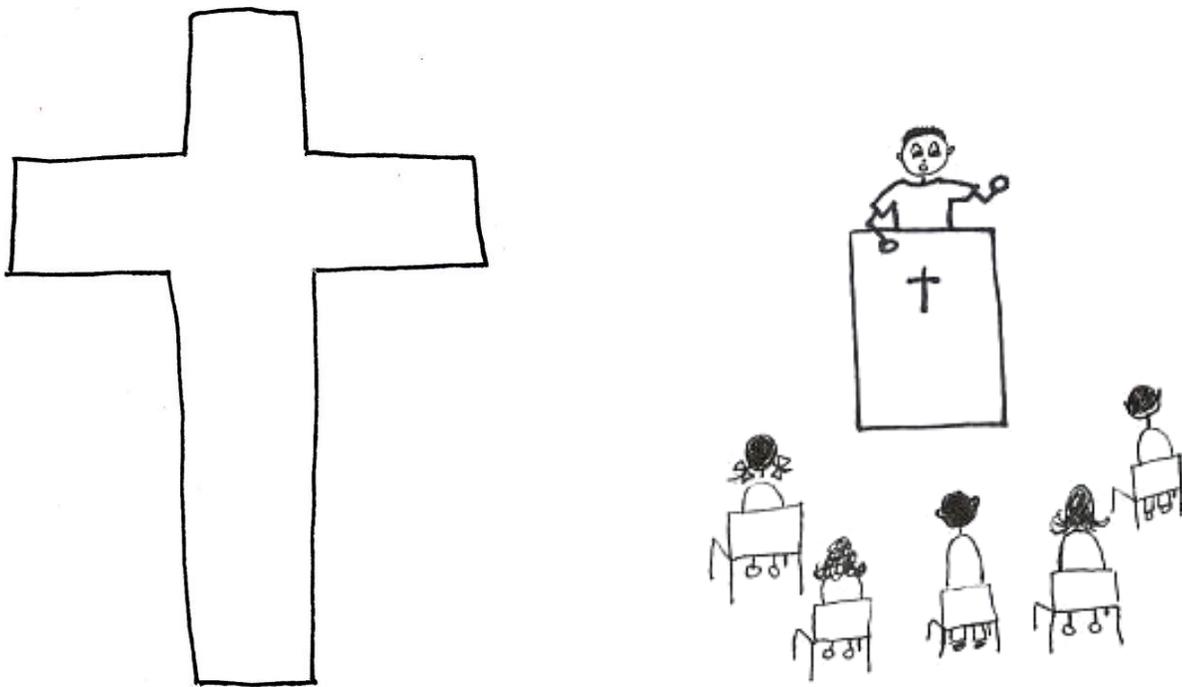
God can show His faithfulness to us because the Lord Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins on the cross. Jesus was judged for our sins. Sin is no longer an issue. God's faithfulness does not depend on what we do or don't do. Isn't that a relief? He has set up His plan so that He is free to be faithful to us. It goes back to the cross!



Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is **faithful**; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds....

God is faithful to believers and unbelievers. We are kept alive and have all that we have because of God's faithfulness to us. He gives us everything we need for our physical life and for our spiritual life. We just have to make choices. God does not force anything on us. The issue for every unbeliever is, "What do you think of the Lord Jesus Christ?" The issue for the believer through the power of the Holy Spirit is to learn, believe, and obey the word of God. Of course God wants everyone to become believers and to know His faithfulness!



Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...."

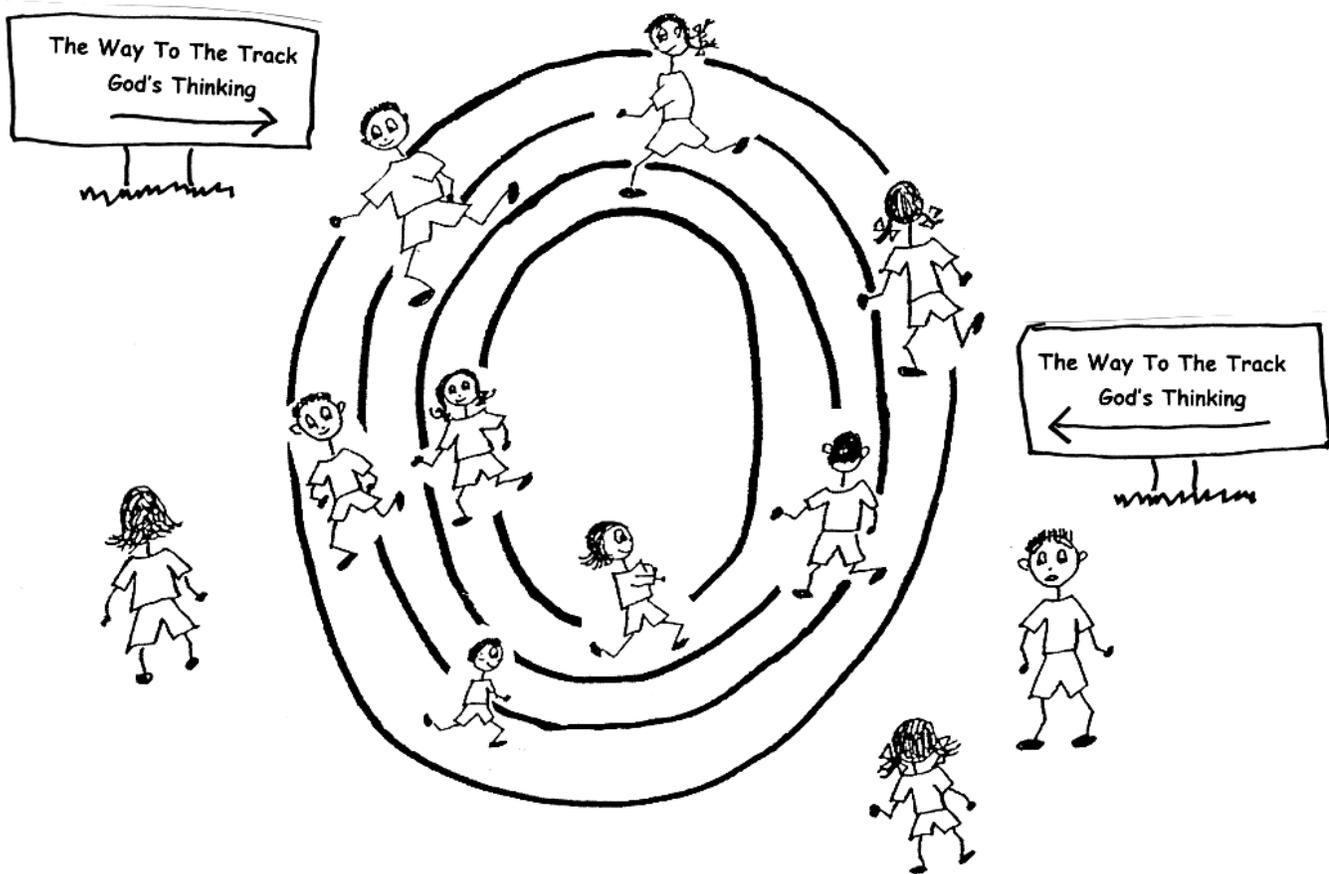
Psalms 91:4 He will cover you with His pinions [feathers], and under His wings you may seek refuge; His **faithfulness** is a shield and bulwark [defensive wall]

God's faithfulness is shown when our faith is being tested. God will not allow us to be tested or tempted beyond what we can handle. He always provides the divine viewpoint, or the opportunity to get the doctrine necessary to pass each test before it comes. Therefore, divine viewpoint is our way of escape from each test, and it is provided by the faithfulness of God. DON'T QUIT ON GOD!



1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is **faithful**, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may endure it.

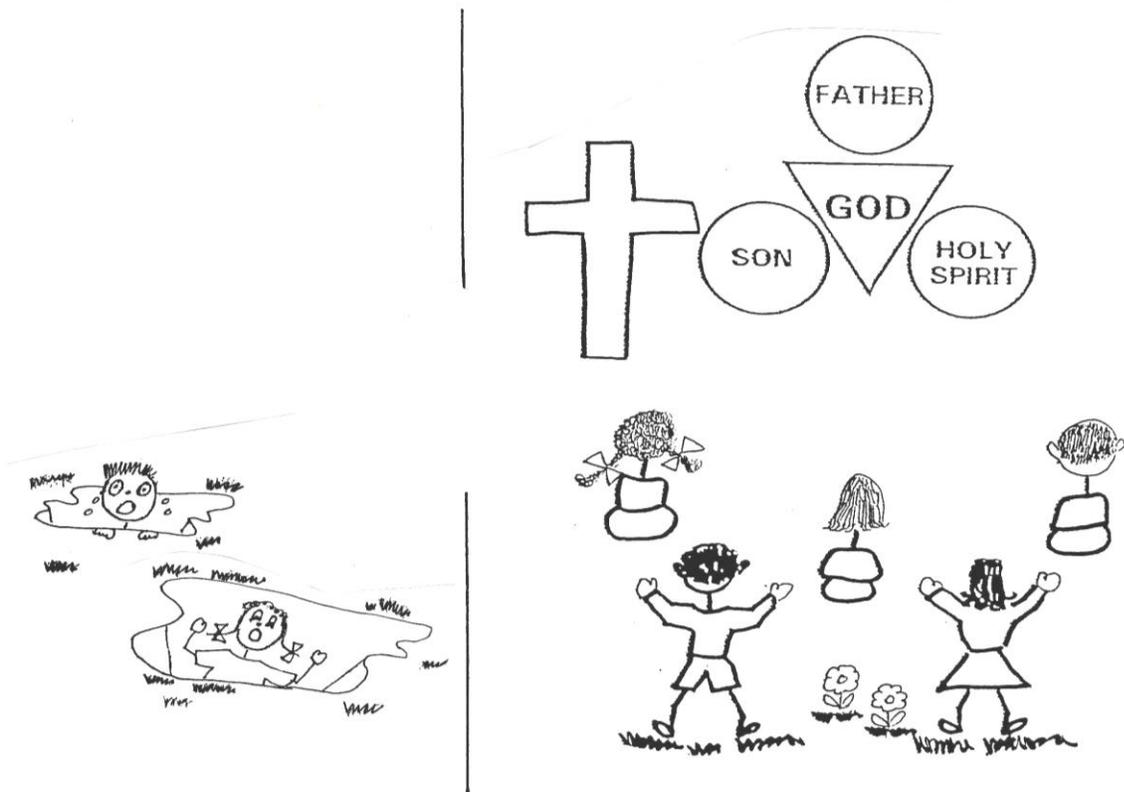
Even when we totally fail, God is faithful to us. If we don't get back on the right track through the misery we bring on ourselves, He will discipline us! He wants to turn our thinking back to His thinking. He knows just the right thing to do to get us back on track! **GOD NEVER QUILTS ON US!**



(Paul wrote this while he was in prison, not a fun place to be.)

Psalm 119:65-68 Thou hast dealt well with Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word. Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in Thy commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Thy word. Thou art good and doest good; teach me Thy statutes.

We can see how God has been faithful to us over and over and over! Think of how many times you dug a pit for yourself and the grace and faithfulness of God pulled you out. Think of how many times you were worried about something and the grace and faithfulness of God helped you through your worry! We can always trust in God to help us again and again and again!



Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God.

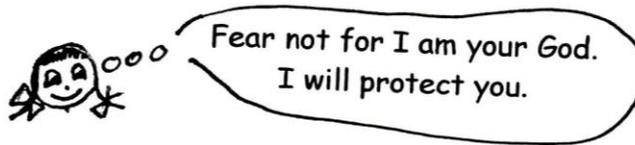
God has made many, many, many promises to us. The Bible is full of promises. God is faithful in keeping His promises. We need to learn these promises, believe them, and trust in God! If we do this, we will be relaxed and have the faith rest God wants us to have!

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

This scripture warns us about missing out on this faith and rest that God gives.

## Promise

Remember one of God's promises.



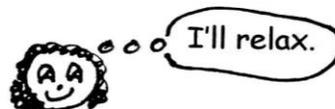
## Think

Why will that help me?



## Relax

God will help me.



Jesus is our best Friend, our true and faithful Friend. He has shown us how to be true and faithful friends. He has shown us by His life that:

- a true friend can be trusted;
- won't tell stories about his friends whether the stories be true or false;
- is reliable; he can be counted on to do what he says he will do.
- is encouraging; he will not judge.
- is faithful in good times and bad times.

Jesus did and does all of these things all of the time; we'll never be perfect like He is, but we can learn to be faithful more and more of the time.

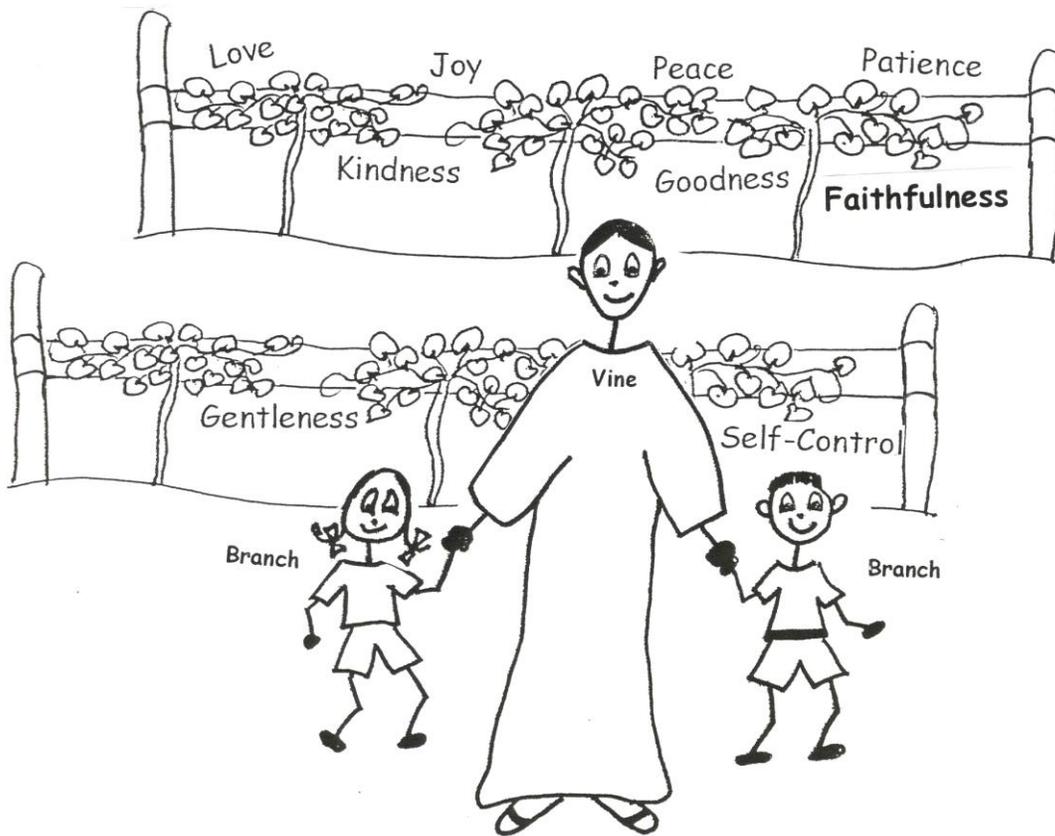


Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity [there to help in times of trouble].

Proverbs 17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.

For us to be faithful the way God wants us to be faithful, we have to have the power of God. We can't do it on our own. It is a supernatural quality. We have to abide in the Vine or live using the thinking of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit will develop the understanding of faithfulness in us as we learn the word of God and use it. He will give us a lot of power - His power - to do this so we can experience His supernatural gift of faithfulness.

Fruit of the Holy Spirit



Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**, gentleness, and self-control.