

What do you have to do to be called faithful, to be recognized for your faithfulness? How about being dependable, loyal, trustworthy, keeping your word, not quitting, consistently showing up, sticking with doing the right thing even when it is difficult, and living your faith over the long haul?

The ancient Israelites prided themselves in being God's people, but oh how they struggled with being faithful to God, with faithfulness to His will, laws, and ways. They continually shifted with the political, economic, cultural, and religious winds of the times. At one point the prophet Elijah confronted them, **“How much longer will you waver, hobbling between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him! But if Baal is God, then follow him! But the people were completely silent”** 1 Kings 18:21 (NLT2). Not saying anything is a common strategy we revert to when we are confronted, but it won't help us with becoming faithful.

When God confronted his people in the prophet Malachi's day about their unfaithfulness regarding tithes and offerings, they shifted to a different strategy, they got loud, argumentative, and belligerent, **“Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me.”**

But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’

‘In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight,’ says the LORD of hosts” Malachi 3:8-12 (ESV).

God highly values faithfulness and condemns and chastises unfaithfulness. He values being faithful because He is completely faithful, **“Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations”** Psalm 119:89-90 (ESV); **“But the Lord is faithful”** 2 Thessalonians 3:3 (ESV), **“If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself”** 2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV). Have you ever considered what an amazing blessing God's

unending faithfulness is? It makes Him completely reliable, we can trust His every word, every promise he makes He keeps, and there is no occasion or circumstance we cannot completely rely on Him. (Did you just let out a Hallelujah?!).

Faithfulness isn't earned in spurts; it's not a sprint but an extreme marathon. It is one thing to claim faith, it is quite another thing to live that faith faithfully. I could write a book or two on people who claim faith, proclaim Jesus as their best friend, and yet live a life of unfaithfulness to God's laws, ways, and will. When confronted, some do the silent thing as the folks did with Elijah, others shift to going on offense like those in Malachi's day, and there are almost always excuses, mountains of excuses. However, the bottom line is I have yet to find a valid excuse, argument, or response other than repentance and recommitment to what obeying God and walking with Jesus means in every area of my life and everyday life. Faithfulness is never optional, if we are going to manage life, all God has entrusted to us well, **“It is required of stewards/managers that they be found faithful”** 1 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV, italics mine).

Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. So if you have not been faithful with the unrighteous money, who will trust you with what is genuine riches?” Luke 16:10-11 (HCSB, italics mine). Faithfulness includes the little things, in fact, the little things are the training ground for the big things (a good thing for parents to remember). What's astonishing in Jesus talking about little things is that He calls money, the handling of wealth, a little thing! I can just imagine quite a few of his listeners comment, “Say What? Money a little thing? Get real!” Jesus also implied that those same listening folks were being unfaithful with that little thing and that their unfaithfulness in one little thing opened them up to unfaithfulness in other things. Ouch!

Have you ever considered that consistently giving your tithes and offerings to your church, and obeying Jesus' command to be a giver wherever life takes you, you are learning faithfulness? And, that that faithfulness will spill over into other areas of your life and prepare you for the greater challenges of faithfulness? (Did I just hear you shout, “Amen!?”)

Good. Now let's be faithful this week, and next week, and ...

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

Lynnette Barrera, Jacob (joining Coast Guard), Capt. Dean (Janice Joyce's grandson), Willis & Carol Parrish (healing)
All those fighting fires in California, our Country's leadership,
and those dealing with addiction(s).

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs, Jacob Bowden

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or e-mail **Judy Mahar** at ldpbcprayer@gmail.com with your prayer requests.

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,
Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler, Jerry Lyman,
Sarah Storey, April Wilcox



VBS: Magnified!

Coming to Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

July 21 - 25

Volunteers needed!

Please sign up in the foyer

For more information: Susie (209) 247-9234

February Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday's @ 6:00 PM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 PM
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday's @ 10:00AM
- GriefShare: Wednesday's, March 5th - April 23rd @ 6:30 PM
- Chicken Foot - Thursday's @ 1:00 PM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:
"Beverly's *Class & The Youth*"

Thank you

Next week "Merle's" class is up!!

"2025 Tanzania Mission Trip"

November 2nd - 18th

(See Pastor Hans for further details)

The Church Board has
voted on and welcomes
"Tammy Johnson"
into church membership

Giving

February 9, 2025

Offering:
\$3,069.96

Facilities:
\$60.00

Food:
\$160.00

Missions:
\$10.00

Youth Camp:
\$100.00

Attendance:
75

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Saturday: Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church

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Give

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:38 (NIV)



Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2025

February 17th - February 23th

DAY 1 - Neh. 7-8
(Psalms 17)

DAY 2 - Neh. 9-11
(Psalms 18)

DAY 3 - Neh. 12-13
(Psalms 19)

DAY 4 - Esth. 1-2
(Psalms 20)

DAY 5 - Esth. 3-4
(Psalms 21)

DAY 6 - (Psalms 22)
DAY 7 - (Psalms 23)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.