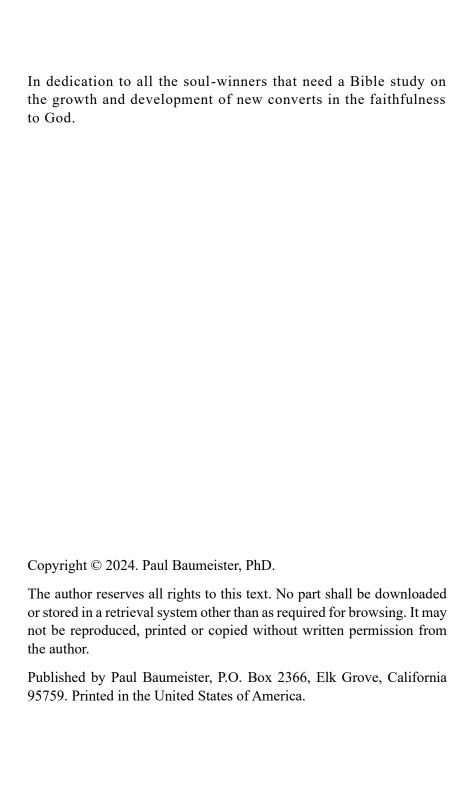
LA CIUDAD DEL DIOS VIVO

LA FIDELIDAD







City of the Living God



"Acerquémonos con corazón sincero, en plena certidumbre de fe, purificados los corazones de mala conciencia, y lavados los cuerpos con agua pura. 23 Mantengamos firme, sin fluctuar, la profesión de nuestra esperanza, porque fiel es el que prometió" (Hebreos. 10:22-23).

The writer of the book of Hebrews admonishes the new believer in their growth and development in their walk with God. The use of faith in these two verses is not for the purpose of filling space within his writing. The author encourages forward progress in growth of the new believer. He knows the challenges and temptations that come with anyone that makes a commitment to live for God. While the Christian walk is for all, not all will be willing to give their all. We are admonished to "Hold Fast" to the faith and without wavering. Why did he say this? In his day, not all of the new Christians made it. It takes tenacity, resolve, and commitment to stay the course and not to give in or give up.

Some think that faithfulness is no longer evident in our society, however, that is not true. Faithfulness exists in all generations and eras. Everyone is faithful to something; Faithfulness is not dead; it has just been misplaced. The problem with our faithfulness is the object of our faithfulness. Are you faithful more to God than others? Are you more faithful to the world and its cares? Are you more faithful to sports? Do you give God your Sundays and mid-week services?

EL ES FIEL

One of God's attributes is that He is faithful. His center focus on this earth is his desire to have communion with man and woman. What is it that draws him to us?

Salmos 8:4

"Digo: ¿Qué es el hombre, para que tengas de él memoria, Y el hijo del hombre, para que lo visites?"

It is his other attribute of love. He alone has true pure unconditional love. That love is directly connected to his faithfulness.

Lamentaciones 3:22-23

"Por la misericordia de Jehová no hemos sido consumidos, porque nunca decayeron sus misericordias. Nuevas son cada mañana; grande es tu fidelidad."

2 Timoteo 2:12-13

"Si sufrimos, también reinaremos con él; Si le negáremos, él también nos negará. Si fuéremos infieles, **él permanece fiel**; Él no puede negarse a sí mismo."

Salmos 36:5

"Jehová, hasta los cielos llega tu misericordia, Y tu **fidelidad** alcanza hasta las nubes."

Salmos 119:90

"De generación en generación es tu **fidelidad**; Tú afirmaste la tierra, y subsiste."

EL BUSCA A LOS FIELES

While the Lord is always faithful, he admonishes us to be faithful to him in all things. He was faithful unto death and gave his all to us on the cross. He bought us with his blood and we owe him all for what he did for us. It's his desire to see that we grow in grace and faithfulness.

Proverbios 20:6

"Muchos hombres proclaman cada uno su propia bondad, Pero hombre de verdad, ¿quién lo hallará?"

Mateo 25:21

"Y su señor le dijo: Bien, buen siervo y fiel; sobre poco has sido fiel, sobre mucho te pondré; entra en el gozo de tu señor."

Proverbios 28:20

"El hombre de verdad (fiel) tendrá muchas bendiciones; Mas el que se apresura a enriquecerse no será sin culpa."

Salmos 31:23

"Amad a Jehová, todos vosotros sus santos; A los fieles guarda Jehová, Y paga abundantemente al que procede con soberbia."

FIEL EN ASISTIR LA IGLESIA

Our faithfulness is evident in our actions and behavior. One of the ways you can tell if someone is faithful is in their church attendance. Some people think that they do not need to attend a church or worship with God's people. They feel that they can do it alone in their own home. While they can worship in their home, it does not replace the importance of being faithful to the House of God and worshipping with his people.

Hebreos 10:23-25

"Mantengamos <u>firme</u>, <u>sin fluctuar</u>, **la profesión de nuestra esperanza (fe)**, porque fiel es el que prometió. Y considerémonos unos a otros para estimularnos al amor y a las buenas obras; **no dejando de congregarnos**, como algunos tienen por costumbre, sino exhortándonos; y tanto más, cuanto veis que aquel día se acerca."

Notice that Paul connects our "faith without wavering" to "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves" (attending church). Our church attendance tells us a lot about our priorities and whether God is at the center of our lives. He also reminds us that it is so important to attend the church service that it can even affect us when that "day" (rapture) approaches. Church attendance is where we gain strength, wisdom, direction, and so much more.

1 Timoteo 3:15

"para que si tardo, sepas cómo debes conducirte en **la casa de Dios**, que es la **iglesia del Dios** viviente, columna y baluarte de la verdad."

Paul refers to the church as the house of God. The early church definitely met together in worship and it was very important that they saw the meeting taking place in the "house of God." The house of God is wherever the people gather in worship. Jesus Himself had great respect for the house of the living God.

Mateo 21:13

"y les dijo: Escrito está: Mi casa, casa de oración será llamada; mas vosotros la habéis hecho cueva de ladrones."

At age 12, found by His parents in the Temple, Jesus said, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49) Even as a preteen, Jesus Himself was dedicated to being in God's house.

King David spoke of the reasons why he wanted to be in the House of God.

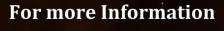
Salmos 27:4-6

"Una cosa he demandado a Jehová, esta buscaré; Que esté yo en la casa de Jehová todos los días de mi vida, Para contemplar la hermosura de Jehová, y para inquirir en su templo. Porque él me esconderá en su tabernáculo en el día del mal; Me ocultará en lo reservado de su morada; Sobre una roca me pondrá en alto. Luego levantará mi cabeza sobre mis enemigos que me rodean, Y yo sacrificaré en su tabernáculo sacrificios de júbilo; Cantaré y entonaré alabanzas a Jehová."

Notice that King David gave many reasons for wanting to enter the House of God:

- 1. To Behold the beauty of the Lord to encounter the Glory of God.
- 2. To Enquire To find direction in his life.
- 3. To Hide Me in His Pavilion To find safety and protection.
- 4. To Set me Upon a Rock To give him stability and strength.
- 5. To Lift Up his Head above His Enemies To give him victory of his adversaries.

Obviously, King David understood the importance of putting God first in his life. That is why God called him a "man after mine own heart."



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