

August 23, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“SERVE!”

I'm a dog lover. Joni and I have had at least one dog the majority of our married life. We have had smart dogs and not so smart dogs. One thing is common about all of our dogs - they were faithful to us; always wanting to be with us. They all want to protect us and in some way, they want to please us.

There are also dogs whose purpose is to be a service dog. They help people that can't see, hear, and for many other medical issues.

Serve- (‘ābad). vb. to till, toil, work. To serve or work.

This word has a variety of meanings. In some instances, the verb carries the idea of “to serve”. In other instances, the term carries the idea of “to worship or honor.” But the verb also carries the basic sense of toil or working the ground.

Lexham Theological Wordbook.

I believe that part of serving is to be faithful to those we serve. Being faithful to God is a proper response to the gift of life that He gave us. I believe it's a requirement.

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 (NLT) — 12 “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul. 13 And you must always obey the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.

1 Kings 2:3–4 (NLT) — 3 Observe the requirements of the LORD your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go. 4 If you do this, then the LORD will keep the promise he made to me. He told me, ‘If your descendants live as they should and follow me faithfully with all their heart and soul, one of them will always sit on the throne of Israel.’

Being faithful to God is like being faithful to our spouse.

Isaiah 54:5 (NLT) — 5 For your Creator will be your husband; the LORD of Heaven’s Armies is his name! He is your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, the God of all the earth.

Our faithfulness to God should reflect His faithfulness to us.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT) — 9 Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.

Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) — 23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Our faithfulness is seen as steadfast commitment to God:

In unwavering devotion:

Luke 9:62 (NLT) — 62 But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Revelation 2:10 (NLT) — 10 Don’t be afraid of what you are about to suffer. The devil will throw some of you into prison to test you. You will suffer for ten days. But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life.

In obedience:

Deuteronomy 10:13 (NLT) — 13 “If you carefully obey the commands I am giving you today, and if you love the LORD your God and serve him with all your heart and soul,

In service

1 Samuel 12:24 (NLT) — 24 But be sure to fear the LORD and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you

2 Chronicles 19:9 (NLT) — 9 These were his instructions to them: “You must always act in the fear of the LORD, with faithfulness and an undivided heart.

In giving:

2 Chronicles 31:12 (NLT) — 12 the people faithfully brought all the gifts, tithes, and other items dedicated for use in the Temple.

In prayer:

Romans 12:12 (NLT) — 12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT) — 17 Never stop praying.

In patient endurance:

2 Timothy 2:11–13 (NLT) — 11 This is a trustworthy saying: If we die with him, we will also live with him. 12 If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. 13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

Hebrews 10:36 (NLT) — 36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

In fulfilling vows:

Psalms 22:25 (NLT) — 25 I will praise you in the great assembly. I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.

Psalms 61:8 (NLT) — 8 Then I will sing praises to your name forever as I fulfill my vows each day.

God watches over the faithful:

Proverbs 2:8 (NLT) — 8 He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him.

Psalm 97:10 (NLT) — 10 You who love the LORD, hate evil! He protects the lives of his godly people and rescues them from the power of the wicked.

God rewards faithfulness:

Matthew 25:21 (NLT) — 21 “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

There is a call to faithfulness:

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT) — 58 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) — 13 Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.

Choose this day whom you will serve.