

FAITHFUL IN WORD ONLY

By Keith Greer

How many of us like to be lied to? When you ask a question you want the truth. Right? How do you think God likes it when His people lie to Him? But wait, nobody would lie to God. Think not? Please allow God's word to correct your thinking.

"And the people said to Joshua, 'The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!' "(Joshua 24:24) These promised faithfulness. Did they keep that promise?

"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;" {Judges 2:10,11)

Just read the book of Judges. Time and time again the nation left God for idolatry. Each time she pleaded for mercy and promised allegiance to Him only. The cycle and pattern continues today in our time. How?

What did you do before you became a child of God? Confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. This confession is a promise to uphold all things by His authority. To respect it and follow it. Have you been faithful to this commitment?

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, ... {Hebrews 10:24,25}

Do you attend all the services you can? Do you encourage and edify your brethren by making it your practice to be there when the doors are open? If not, why not?

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."(Matthew 6:33)

What place does the kingdom of heaven have in your heart? Do you place it above all else? If not, why not?

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34,35)

Do you love your brethren? When they are ill, do you visit them? When they are struggling spiritually, do you go to them? Do you have a relationship with them outside the walls of the meeting house? Do you show them your love by your action? If we asked them, what would their answer be?

"On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."{1 Corinthians 16:1}

"But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7)

Do you give as you have been prospered? Do you make the necessary plans to give when you are away from the local church for vacation, business or other reasons? Do you ever cut your "contribution" when things get tight? Do you raise your contribution when your pay increases? When is the last time the Lord received a raise? Do we love the Lord and His work? Do we love this church and the work it's seeking to do in this community? Talk is cheap and God can hear our words, but if they are not backed up by our actions they mean little.

God's people of old promised they would obey His word. The record clearly states they did not accomplish this. Just an isolated case? No, a pattern. Over and over again they demonstrated the empty promises they had made, by their unfaithfulness. Are we faithful in word and deed? ***