

Faithfulness:
a loyal & persevering love

Living Sanctuary Brethren Church
2nd August 2026
9 am and 11.15 am

Knowing the “MAIN THING”
helps us to live life with focus and purpose

Foundation	Example: if “Family is first”	
Focus	You will think of your wife and kids: their needs, safety, welfare, and happiness (school holidays, tuition, sleeping time are all relevant)	
Fruits	<u>Who you are</u> Character & behavior are very important	<u>What you do</u> are expression of your love

For the Christian

What is the “MAIN THING”?

Glorifying God	1 Cor 10:31	“Do everything for the glory of God”
Being Christlike	Rom 8:29	“God planned that those He had chosen would become like His Son”
Love is the main thing	Gal 5:14	“The whole law is fulfilled by obeying this one command, ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’”
Seek His kingdom	Matt 6:33	“But seek first His Kingdom...”
The Great commission	Matt 28:19	“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

The “main thing,” as stated by Jesus

Matthew 22:37-39

“³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

**These 2 commandments express
the essence of God’s will.**

The main thing

These commands should guide every aspect of our lives.
Marriage, work, relationship, ministry

Foundation	God's place is 1st Matt 22:37-39, Matt 6:33	
Focus	God's glory is primary Is this pleasing to God? Is this His will? Matt 22:37-39, Matt 6:33	
Fruits	Be like Christ in how you live Rom 8:29	Love like Christ in all you do Rom 13:8, Gal 5:14

The Fruit of the Spirit

Gal 5:22-23

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

Love in expression

Joy is love energized

Goodness is love that is pure

Peace is love at rest

Faithfulness is love that endures

Patience is love that waits

Gentleness is love that glows

Kindness is love in action

Self-control is love submitting to God

The lack of faithfulness shows when it costs us something

Proverbs 20:6

“Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love,
but a faithful man who can find?”

The faithfulness of the world is
conditional

The faithfulness of God is
covenantal

God's Faithfulness is rooted in God's character

1 Tim 2:13 “If we are faithless, He remains faithful...”

Psalm 145:13 “The Lord will keep all his promises.
He is faithful in everything He does.”

Global survey in 2024
by a recruitment agency, Randstad

New work trend

Lily Padding

Young adults hopping from job to job to try to improve their skills and chances of getting more senior roles and higher pay, rather than staying put in one role at one company

Average tenure of employees in the first 5 years of their career

Gen Z (born 1997-2012): 1.1 years

Millennials (born 1981 – 1996): 1.8 years

Older generation: 3 years

Faithfulness at three levels

1st level Immovable

Integrity

We don't bend God's Word to suit the situation, or lower His standards in unusual circumstances, or make exceptions when we need an excuse.

We abide in the One who is Faithful.
God is in focus. We pay the price.

2nd level Dependable

Loyalty

3rd level Durable

Perseverance

Faithfulness at three levels

1st level
Immovable

Integrity

2nd level
Dependable

Loyalty

Showing up when no one is watching
Giving your best when there is no applause
Being excellent even when you are unappreciated
Staying on when the benefits are small

3rd level
Durable

Perseverance

Faithfulness at three levels

1st level
Immovable

Integrity

2nd level
Dependable

Loyalty

3rd level
Durable

Perseverance

Refusing to quit until God directs
Trust Him when you don't understand His ways
Stay put when God's presence seems distant
Waiting when God's response is delayed

Joseph [Genesis 37, 39-50]

Less-than-ideal family

- less than ideal (Judah walked out. Gen 38)
- Father had four wives. Jealous brothers.

Less-than-ideal posting

- used, abused, accused
- Sabotaged by his employer and let down by his boss

Less-than-ideal life situation

- incarcerated until he was 30 years old

1st-level faithfulness: Joseph was immovable

Integrity is shown in difficulties

1st

Everybody
knew
his God

God was on his lip

Gen 39:9 "... How then can I do this great wickedness and sin **against God?**"

Gen 40:8 "Interpreting dreams is **God's business.**"

Gen 41:16 "**God will** give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Integrity

Despite hardships, injustice,
disappointments, and betrayals, God was on his lips.

There was no evidence that Joseph blamed God,
or had grown bitter.

2nd-level faithfulness: Joseph was dependable

Loyalty displayed in adversity

2nd

Everyone was
served
People in his heart

Genesis 39:3

“Potiphar was very happy with Joseph
and allowed him to be his personal
assistant.”

Loyalty

Giving his best and serving with distinction, even when there was no incentive to put in more. A hardworking slave is rewarded with more responsibility (not freedom).

What difference would excellence make?

Acts 17:26

“²⁶ “God made from one man every nation of mankind
to live on all the face of the earth,
having determined allotted periods
and the boundaries of their dwelling place”

God has determined....

the time of our birth, the country of our belonging,
where we would be working,
whom we would meet, and how we can serve

We are God's agents where we are needed.

We are set up to light up

4 categories of people in your life [Matt 5:38-49]

Level 1 response	People you love	Parents, spouse, children, siblings Matt 5:46 Those who love you	You will do what naturally comes to you
Level 2 response	People you want	Friends, colleagues, neighbors Matt 5:43, 47	
Level 3 response	People you avoid	Matt 5:42 they ask you for money Matt 5:40 bring you to court Matt 5:40 take your tunic Matt 5:41 compel you to do a mile	Matthew 5:16 “Be a light for people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.”
Level 4 response	People you hate	Matt 5:39 an evil person Matt 5:44 those who curse you Matt 5:44 those who hate you Matt 5:44 those who spitefully use you Matt 5:44 those who persecute you	

We are set up to light up

Philippians 2:14-15

“¹⁴ Do all things without murmuring and disputing,
¹⁵ that you may be blameless and harmless,
sons of God,
without fault,
in the midst of a crooked and
perverse generation,
in which you shine as lights in the world.”

Faithfulness at the 2nd level requires dependability

Matt 5:44-45

⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be **sons of your Father** who is in heaven. ”

Be dependable. Be different in your actions, attitude, and response...

... especially when the environment is not ideal,

When people are difficult,

When the work is hard,

When there is nothing to gain.

3rd-level faithfulness: Joseph was durable
Faithful to the end, when he couldn't understand

3rd level

God had His way
until He worked out His plans

Genesis 39:3

**“Potiphar saw that the Lord
was with Joseph.”**

People made a connection between
the worker and the worshipper

Persevering in faithfulness

At the highest level of faithfulness, God has His way.
We stay to the end, until God accomplishes His plan.

When agents are on God's assignment

3rd

People will make a connection
between the worker and the
worshipper

God's presence was evident
in Joseph

God's blessings were evident
in others

Genesis 39: 5

“The Lord
blessed
the people
in Potiphar's
household
because of Joseph...”

The worker and the worshipper

“Avodah” (Hebrew) = work, worship, and service
Work & worship are integrated

All work is meant to be worship

Romans 12:1

“.... offer your bodies [work] as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God
—this is your true and proper worship.”

Don't walk out when things don't work out

God may want you to be
right here,
at this time,
for a season,
for the sake of people
in your life at this moment.

You are here because of “them”

Paul stayed for them

“²¹ To me the only important thing about living is Christ, and dying would be profit for me. ²² If I continue living in my body, I will be able to work for the Lord. I do not know what to choose—living or dying. ²³ It is hard to choose between the two. I want to leave this life and be with Christ, which is much better, ²⁴ but you need me here in my body. ²⁵ Since I am sure of this, I know I will stay with you to help you grow and have joy in your faith.” Phil 1:20-25

Helen Roseveare stayed for them (Congolese)

As a missionary

Elisabeth Elliot stayed for him (Addison)

As a caregiver

Brother Yun suffered for them (the prisoners)

As a prisoner

“Let perseverance finish its work” James 1:4

Perseverance is the choice to stay under the pressure of difficulties

Perseverance gives God time to do His work

The last chapter is finished by God

Genesis 50:20

“... but God intended it all for good.

He brought me to this position

so I could save the lives of many people.” (NLT)

Romans 12:2

“² Do not conform ... (don't bend)

Then (at the end)

you will be able to test and approve what God's will is

— His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Summary

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matt 22:37-39

Love in essence and love in action ...

These commands must guide every aspect of life

**The faithfulness of man is
conditional**

**The faithfulness of God is
covenantal**

– our faithfulness is rooted in God

True faithfulness is persevering and loyal

Three levels of faithfulness

1 st	<u>Toward God</u> Be immovable – show integrity in the face of pressure	<u>In the example of Joseph</u> Gen 39:9 “... How then can I ... sin against God?” Gen 40:8 “Interpreting dreams is God’s business.” God was always on his lips
2 nd	<u>Toward people</u> Be dependable – loyalty despite adversity	<u>In the example of Joseph</u> Gen 39:3 “Potiphar was very happy with Joseph..” People were in his heart.
3 rd	<u>In trials/adversity</u> Be durable – Staying to the end, even when we don’t understand	Gen 39:3 “Potiphar saw ..the Lord was with Joseph.” Gen 39: 5 “The <u>Lord blessed the people in Potiphar’s household</u> because of Joseph...” People will connect the worker and the worshipper after God has accomplished his plan