



A Fruitful Life



But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.—Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

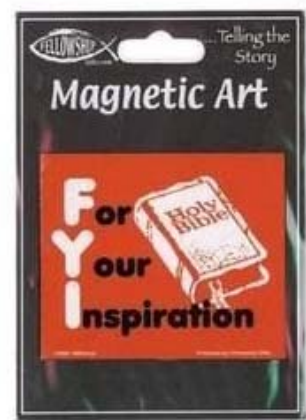


Well I got myself a t-shirt
That says what I believe
I got letters on my bracelet

To serve as my ID

I got the necklace and the key chain
And almost everything a good
Christian needs





I got the little Bible magnets
On my refrigerator door
And a welcome mat to bless you
Before you walk across my floor
I got a Jesus bumper sticker
And the outline of a fish stuck on my car
Even though this stuff's all well and good
I cannot help but ask myself





What about the change
What about the difference
What about the grace
What about forgiveness

What about a life that's showing
I'm undergoing the change, yeah
I'm undergoing the change



Well I've got this way of thinking
That comes so naturally
Where I believe the whole world
Is revolving around me



And I got this way of living
That I have to die to every single day
Cause if God's Spirit lives inside of me
I'm gonna live life differently





I'm gonna have the change
I'm gonna have the difference
I'm gonna have the grace
I'm gonna have forgiveness
I'm gonna live a life that's showing
I'm undergoing the change





**The fruit of the Spirit
is faithfulness.**

*For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.—
Psalm 100:5 (NIV)*

It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth.—3 John 1:3 (NIV)

"The essential thing 'in heaven and earth' is...that there should be long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living."—Friedrich Nietzsche



“When the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth?”—Luke 18:8 (Amp.)

In what specific areas does God expect faithfulness?



1) God wants me to be faithful in marriage.



Give honor to marriage, and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.—Hebrews 13:4 (NLT)

2) God wants me to be faithful in my work/responsibilities.



Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.—Daniel 6:4 (NLT)

3) God wants me to be faithful in his calling on my life.



I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.—Acts 20:24 (NIV)

We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they

produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.—2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 15-18 (NLT)

4) God wants me to be faithful to
my church family.



Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.—Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV)

5) God wants me to be faithful in my testimony.



Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.—Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

Why is faithfulness important?



1) Faithfulness
is a part of
God's being
he wants me
to reflect.



He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.—

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)

2) My level of
faithfulness
impacts
others.



This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.—2 Timothy 2:17-18 (NLT)

3) God rewards
my
faithfulness.



Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.—1 Corinthians 15:58
(ESV)

4) My salvation is more than a one-time act of faith; it includes on-going faithfulness.



And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.—Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

“That is how the Christian life is lived: regardless. Regardless of circumstances, opposition, feelings, discouragements, and hardships. Regardless of emotions, put-downs, doubts, and obstacles. Day by day, one step at a time, persevering to the end.”—Joe McKeever