



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn Your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Title: Endless Faithfulness

Theme: Grasping Our Resources in Christ Jesus

Introduction: *The name of Jesus Christ is mentioned ten times in the first ten verses.* The Apostle Paul wanted the minds of the Corinthians and all who are Christians today to keep their focus upon Jesus Christ. With Him as their reason for living Christians will enjoy all the benefits of being children of God. Today's passages of Scripture put in the foreground all the hope and cause for our praise.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9:

Proposition: I would propose to you that faithful Christians can live a life of confidence as long as they are living under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the written Word of God. Obedient Christians walk in the grace of God, enjoy the gifts of His Holy Spirit, enjoy the call of God upon their lives and know the faithfulness of God.

Interrogative Sentence: *Just how do these great resources affect the life of the child?*

Transitional Sentence: *Grasping our resources begins with understanding just what grace was given to us in Christ Jesus.* The apostle Paul said, "...he always [thanked] God for [Christians] because of His grace given... in Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 1:4)

The church is made up of people who have been "sanctified," (*hagiazō*) set apart for God. The New Testament "church" (*ekkesia*) of the redeemed is; first, a church worldwide of all times made up of those who are called by God to Christ in fellowship of His salvation. Second, it is a group of Christians made up of individuals who seek to follow Christ and join together to exercise gifts given of the Holy Spirit for the edification of the Body of Christ. A form of this Greek word for "church" (*ekklateō*) means to call out. It was common in Paul's day for a congregation (*ekketoī*) to be referred to as "the called people."

Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..." (John 6:44)

If you know Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord, it is because God, on the behalf of Christ sent the Holy Spirit to reveal to you your need for Christ and it is He who enabled you to accept Jesus into your heart and life. Even if you are not a born again Christian and you are around the things of God, it is God drawing you to Christ.

Pastor Paul Rees:

Transitional Sentence: *It is the faithfulness of God that enables a sinner to come to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin.* It is God's faithfulness that enables Christians to walk in His grace. Paul wrote, "For in Him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- (1 Corinthians 1:5)

The greatest enrichment Christians can have is a heart that is after God, desiring His righteousness and surrendering to His will in their lives. Psalm 20:4 says, "May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."

A God wise heart produces God ordained plans and they succeed. Christians are given a wise heart because they seek the counsel of God. The New American Standard Bible translates Psalm 20:4 as, "...and fulfill all your counsel." "Counsel" (*etsah*) here can mean, "to think about a course of action, often including consultation with a counselor or adviser. Psalm 37:4-5 says, "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him and He will do this."

God by His request would send another "Counselor" to guide Christians in His wisdom and in all truth. Jesus taught, "If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--the Spirit of truth." "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:16, 24)

His work is to bring Christians into a deeper knowledge of the Word of God, give them a divine strength to undergo all the battles they will face and fully equip obedient servants to fulfill their part of the Great Commission. Christians who have in their mind and heart to obey the Lord's commands will be led in all truth found in the Word of God. When they need the promises and warnings of God's Word in their lives, in their service to each other and to Christ, the Holy Spirit will remind them of everything they have been taught. Christians who enjoy God's endless faithfulness are the ones who make time to read and study God's Word.

The Book of Acts may be referred to as the recorded accounts of the work of the Holy Spirit working powerfully in and through the church of Jesus Christ. Luke wrote down many accounts of the Holy Spirit giving guidance to those in the church who were surrendered to the will of God in their lives. Acts 13:2-4 we read, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit."

The missionary journeys that the Lord sent the Apostle Paul on showed an extraordinary combination of strategic planning and sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts records the time when Paul had things he wanted to do, yet God had to place His plan in Paul's heart.

Paul wanted to preach in Asia, but Acts 16:6 tells us God's plan. The Bible says, "...having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the Word in the province of Asia..." When Paul tried to enter Bithynia, the Bible says, "...but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to." (Acts 16: 7) Paul did great things for God because he was usable by being obedient to the Holy Spirit. The "counselor" the Holy Spirit is given to guide the people of God so they can get His will done.

One of the Holy Spirit's ministries is to lead Christians each day wherever the Lord desires them to represent Him. When decisions must be made, the Holy Spirit can open the truths of Scripture to God's obedient children and illuminate their minds and hearts. By a heartfelt desire to be obedient to the Written Word Christians can express their love for the Lord Jesus and determine God's will for their lives.

For Applications sake: Romans 8:14 says, "those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." Are you allowing God to enrich your life by diligently reading the Word of God and praying for illumination of the Holy Spirit in your life? Does your life express to all who see your life that the Holy Spirit is a faithful guide?

Marcus M. Wells: "Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide."

Transitional Sentence: *It is the faithfulness of God to put the Holy Spirit of Christ in to the hearts of His children and it is His faithfulness that enables them to do service unto Him.* Paul wrote, "Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ..." (1 Corinthians 1:7) The New American Standard Bible says, "not lacking any gift."

The results of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are spiritual gifts for the church of Jesus Christ and she is not lacking what she needs for the edification of the Body of Christ. While the true church waits for the second coming of Jesus, she has the free gift of grace that enables Holy Spirit filled believers to gain knowledge from God, get consolation from the Lord, and walk in confidence under the authority that God has given Jesus Christ.

Christians exercising their spiritual gift under the guidance of sacrificial love are the sign of spiritual good health, an expression of God's grace, through the Holy Spirit remaining faithful to work through His church. We read of that promise in Acts 1:8. Jesus said just before He was taken up to heaven, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Charles Swindoll's mother:

Christians who have spiritual endowments discover their spiritual gifts by: First, they become Biblically informed about Holy Spirit given gifts and getting an understanding on how those gifts are to be exercised for the good of the Body of Christ. They do not limit God, for the Holy Spirit often bestows several gifts on the child of God. Second, they are willing to do anything for the Lord. Third, they are diligent in getting prepared to be used by God by sacrificing time and strength to help others be successful in the exercising of their gifts. They know diligence and faithfulness in the exercising of one gift leading to the discovery of other gifts.

Transitional Sentence: *Lastly, the Word of God holds a promise that should keep all of us on fire for the Lord's work.* The Apostle wrote, "God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." (1 Corinthians 1:9) As the Holy Spirit moves the apostle Paul to conclude this section of thanksgiving, he assures Christians that the God who called them into fellowship with Christ is faithful.

The key word in this passage is "fellowship" (*koninonia*) meaning partnership, with the application being, we are called into a partnership that involves participation from the Lord in all we do. When God calls Christians to do something He will open doors, provide the means and the strength, and get the results that He so desires. Another truth the Holy Spirit wants you to understand today is the faithfulness of God in fulfilling His promises to us as found in 1 Corinthians 1:6, "...our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you."

"Confirmed" (*bebaioo*) means to strengthen and sustain inwardly to bring a firmness in Christ-like character. It is also a legal term that refers to a guarantee that settles a transaction. Christians have the witness of the Spirit within them and the witness of the written Word before them that proclaim the promises of God.

This means that God will keep His "contract" with us and save us to the utmost. He will fulfill His part of the partnership in enabling us to live a life that brings honor to Him and empowering for service unto Him and others. Therefore none of God's children should be paralyzed in Christian service because of inward feelings of inferiority or inadequacy, but should look to Christ who is all-sufficient for their needs and can clean all carnality from their lives

In Closing: Psalm 40:10 says, "I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly."

Pastor Ronald and Sylvia Scheimo: