



Cultivating A Loyal Heart



A loyal heart is probably the most highly respected character trait that a human being can have. A loyal person is faithful to what or who he believes in. (Note: Remember in these studies, when the word “he” is used, it includes “he and she” unless it is specifically speaking of a man. It is done this way because it is awkward and takes too much time to write he/she or him/her everytime).

True loyalty is never double minded – feeling one way one day and another way the next day. It’s only when questions and doubts begin to creep in our minds and we begin to think about them that we become double-minded and begin to be unfaithful. James 1:8 says, “*A double minded man is unstable (unsteady) in his affections or loyalties, in all his ways.*”



If ever we lived in an unstable society, it’s now! People feel one way about a person (friend, boyfriend, husband, children) one-day and feel completely different the next. Feelings can change that fast from love, warmth and affection, to anger, criticism and rejection.

That’s why we have to cultivate a loyal heart by training our mind and our mouth to obey our will. It’s not easy, and it takes practice to refuse to let our thoughts run all over the place without any focus, and to stop and think about what we are going to say before we let our mouth just run like a running faucet without a handle to turn it off. “*By your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemned.*” (Matthew 12:37)

The ingredients of loyalty are faithfulness, fidelity (staying true to promises no matter what) and an established (unable to be moved) heart – trustworthy, stable and yielded to the Holy Spirit.

The more we respect and love someone, the more easily we can feel hurt when we think they have let us down. Now, it must be understood that if a person deliberately sins against you, or does violence to you, your loyalty has been violated and you are no longer expected to respect them when your loyalty has been betrayed.

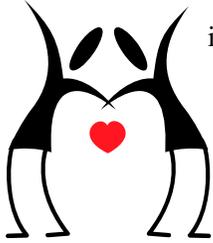
There is a powerful example of the betrayal of loyalty in the Bible when Judas betrayed Jesus. Judas was very close to Jesus – he was one of His most trusted disciples who went everywhere with Jesus, ate his meals with Jesus, and Jesus had even washed Judas feet.

But, Judas had put expectations on Jesus – he thought Jesus would be the Messiah who would fight and overcome the mighty Roman army and set up His Kingdom here on earth. But, Jesus did not live up to Judas’ expectations. Instead of being a powerful military leader, Jesus came as a suffering servant and Judas despised him for that. His failure to get what he wanted from Jesus, and being driven by his disappointed ambition for power caused him to betray His own Lord for thirty pieces of silver into the hands of enemies who took Jesus away and subjected Him to extreme cruelty ending with the crucifixion.



(Cont'd)

May God grant us the grace and mercy to maintain a loyal heart and not to expect the object of our loyalty to meet some inner need in us, that we have to feel more important in the eyes of people.



All that we have said in this study applies even more strongly to our relationship with God, our Father. We tend to remain faithful in our fidelity of thoughts and words when we feel we are being blessed by Him, but when some trial or unpleasantness comes along in our life, our little songs of praise on our lips begin to die out and we begin to question God and doubt His love for us – which we were so sure of just the day before.

This is where faithfulness and loyalty on your part comes in. You must take your doubting thoughts captive and replace them with the Word of God that promises His unchangeable faithfulness to you from now throughout all eternity – forever and ever He is faithful and true!

Loyalty and faithfulness are best summed up in the words of the Apostle Paul when he said:

“I thank my God at all times for you because of the grace – the favor and spiritual blessing of God which was given to you by Jesus Christ;

“That in everything you are enriched by Him, in all the words of your mouth and in all your thoughts and knowledge about Him.

“Even as the evidence of Christ was established and made sure in you:

“So that you do not fall behind in any spiritual gift while you are waiting for the visible coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“And He will establish your heart until the end – keep you steadfast and give you strength, so you will be without guilt or blame in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“God is faithful – reliable, trustworthy and therefore He is always true to His promises, and He can be depended on; by Him you were called into companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)



The word participation in that last sentence means – receiving the same inheritance that Jesus will receive from His Father, because we both have the same Father. Read carefully the following Scripture, - you are reading God's Will.

*The Spirit of God Himself bears witness with our spirit assuring us that we are the sons (and daughters) of God; And because we are His children, then we are His heirs also; heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ (sharing His inheritance with Him); only we must share His suffering (remaining loyal during the sufferings of this present life) *if we are to share His glory.”* (Romans 8:16,17)*

Let us cultivate a heart that is as loyal to God as He is to us. Faithfulness has eternal rewards and makes life more rewarding here on earth!



Cultivating A Loyal Heart

1. True loyalty is never _____.
2. We become double minded when _____ and _____
creep into our minds.
3. We have to cultivate a loyal heart by training our _____ and our
_____ to obey our _____.
4. By my words I will be _____ or _____.
5. An example of betrayed loyalty is when _____ betrayed _____.
6. We tend to remain faithful to God when we feel we are _____
_____.
7. Because God is faithful, He is always true to His _____.
8. What does the word participation mean in 1 Corinthians 1:9?

9. The _____ assures us that we are the _____ of God.
10. To be _____ of God and _____
with Jesus, we must also share in His _____.
11. By what will we be justified or condemned? (Matthew 12:37)
(The answer to this question will be your memory verse)

MEMORY VERSE _____

Cultivating A Loyal Heart

1. True loyalty is never double minded.
2. We become double minded when questions and doubts creep into our minds.
3. We have to cultivate a loyal heart by training our mind and our mouth to obey our will.
4. By my words I will be justified or condemned.
5. An example of betrayed loyalty is when Judas betrayed Jesus.
6. We tend to remain faithful to God when we feel we are being blessed by Him.
7. Because God is faithful, He is always true to His promises.
8. What does the word participation mean in 1 Corinthians 1:9?
Receiving the same inheritance that Jesus will receive.
9. The Holy Spirit assures us that we are the children of God.
10. To be the children of God and joint heirs with Jesus, we must also share in His sufferings.
11. By what will we be justified or condemned? (Matthew 12:37)

MEMORY VERSE “By your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned.”