

## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SERIES

### 2 CHRONICLES 20:1–30

## FAITHFULNESS

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Our society is becoming increasingly self-centered. People quickly discard spouses, friends and promises if they outlive their usefulness. Faithfulness applies to only one person—*me!* But when the Spirit develops this fruit in our lives, the results are quite different.

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, learned about faithfulness the hard way. He began his reign by faithfully obeying God's commands (2 Chronicles 17:3–9). But he entered into a military alliance with Ahab, king of Israel, against God's will. The results were disastrous and God was displeased. No wonder Jehoshaphat was anxious when invading armies approached his kingdom! In his desperation, he cried out to God. God's answer, recorded in this passage, is an amazing illustration of faithfulness.

1. Are there any areas of your life that you don't want to turn over to God? Why do you hold on to these?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1–30. Use your imagination to fill in the details of verses 3–5 and verse 13. Now describe what you see (the setting, the mood, the people, and so on).
3. Examine Jehoshaphat's prayer (vv. 6–12). On what bases does he appeal to God for help?
4. How would Jehoshaphat's view of God encourage him and the people to trust God in this crisis?
5. Think about what you mentioned in question 1—those areas that are hard to hand over to God. How can God's power and his faithfulness in the past encourage you to trust him in these areas?
6. Now consider God's response to Jehoshaphat's prayer (vv. 14–17). How would the prophet's words have required faith from the people?
7. What evidence is there that they believed his message (vv. 18–21)?

8. Do you ever praise God right in the middle of a problem—before the answer comes? Explain why or why not.
  
9. How would you have felt as you “came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army” (v. 24)?
  
10. Describe the effects God’s faithfulness had on the people (vv. 25–30).
  
11. What can we learn about faithfulness from the example of Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah in this passage?
  
12. Spend time thanking God for his faithfulness to you in the past. Praise him for his present involvement in your life. Ask him to help you grow in faithfulness to him and others.