



THE CALL TO  
**LOYALTY**  
IN THE APOSTOLIC  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH



ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER

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*Written by*  
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## Introduction: The Essence of Loyalty

### The Loyal Dog: A Fable

Once upon a time in a small village nestled between rolling hills, there lived a humble farmer named Thomas. He was known for his hard work and kind heart, but he was also known for his loyal dog, Max. Max was a golden retriever with a shiny coat and a spirit as bright as the sun. He followed Thomas everywhere, from the fields to the market, always by his side.

One day, as Thomas was plowing his fields, he noticed dark clouds gathering in the sky. A storm was brewing, and he knew he needed to finish his work before the rain arrived. He called to Max, who was happily chasing butterflies nearby. “Come on, Max! We have to finish before the storm hits!”

Max immediately returned to Thomas’s side, eager to help. Together, they worked tirelessly, and just as they finished, the first drops of rain began to fall. They hurried back to the farmhouse, grateful for their timely efforts.

As the storm raged outside, Thomas and Max settled in for a cozy evening by the fire. Suddenly, there was a loud knock at the door. Thomas opened it to find

a weary traveler, soaked to the bone. "Please, may I come in and rest?" the traveler asked.

Without hesitation, Thomas welcomed the stranger into his home. He offered him dry clothes and a warm meal. Max, sensing the traveler's fatigue, lay down at his feet, providing comfort and warmth.

The traveler, grateful for Thomas's hospitality, shared stories of his adventures. He spoke of distant lands, treasures, and the importance of loyalty. "In my travels, I have seen many creatures, but none are as loyal as a dog," he said, looking fondly at Max.

As the night wore on, the storm subsided, and the traveler prepared to leave. "Thank you for your kindness," he said. "I must reward you in some way." He reached into his bag and pulled out a small, shimmering stone. "This is a gem of great value. It will bring you fortune, but remember, true wealth lies not in riches, but in loyalty and friendship."

Thomas accepted the gem graciously, but he knew that his true treasure was Max. "Thank you, kind traveler, but my greatest wealth is my loyal companion," he said, patting Max on the head.

The traveler smiled, nodded in agreement, and departed into the night, leaving Thomas and Max with

the warmth of friendship and the promise of better days.

In the following weeks, the gem brought Thomas unexpected fortune. He was able to buy new tools, expand his farm, and help his neighbors. Yet, through it all, his bond with Max only grew stronger. They worked side by side, shared meals, and enjoyed the simple pleasures of life together.

One day, news spread through the village of a great danger. A pack of wolves had been spotted nearby, threatening the livestock. The farmers were frightened and unsure of what to do. Thomas, however, knew he had to protect his home and his community.

With Max by his side, he devised a plan. They would patrol the fields at night, keeping watch over the animals. As darkness fell, Thomas and Max ventured out, their hearts filled with determination.

Throughout the night, they heard the distant howls of the wolves, but Max stood firm, barking fiercely whenever danger approached. Together, they kept the wolves at bay, ensuring the safety of the livestock and the village.

When morning came, the villagers were amazed to see Thomas and Max standing guard, unwavering in their

loyalty. They praised Thomas for his bravery and Max for his loyalty. “A loyal dog is worth more than gold,” they declared.

From that day forward, the bond between Thomas and Max became legendary in the village. They were celebrated not just for their courage, but for the loyalty and friendship that had brought them through the storm and into the light.

And so, the fable of Thomas and his loyal dog, Max, teaches us that true wealth lies not in material possessions, but in the loyalty and love we share with those around us.

Moral:

True wealth is found in loyalty and friendship, not in riches.

Loyalty is the thread that weaves the fabric of our Apostolic Pentecostal community together. In the Apostolic Pentecostal movement, it is a sacred bond that ties us to The Lord Jesus Christ, evidenced by the new birth of water and spirit as stated in Acts 2:38, our pastors, and each other. In a world that often promotes individualism, we are called to a higher standard—one that embodies faithfulness, support, and unwavering allegiance to our spiritual leaders and community.

Metaphor of Loyalty

Imagine loyalty as a mighty river flowing through the landscape of our lives. This river nourishes the soil of our hearts, ensuring that the seeds of faith we plant grow into a lush garden of community and fellowship. Just as a river carves its path through rock and earth, loyalty shapes our relationships and fortifies our faith.

Here are a few tales and fables featuring loyal dogs, each with its own moral lesson:

### 1. The Dog and His Reflection

Once upon a time, a hungry dog was wandering along a riverbank. He spotted a piece of meat floating on the water and, thinking it was larger than his own, jumped into the river to grab it. As he leapt, he saw his own reflection and thought it was another dog with an even bigger piece of meat.

In his greed, he snapped at the reflection, only to lose the piece of meat he already had. Soaked and empty-handed, the dog learned a valuable lesson.

Moral:

Beware of greed; it can lead to losing what you already have.

### 2. The Loyal Dog and the Farmer

In a quaint village, a farmer had a loyal dog named

Bruno. Bruno was not just a pet; he was a protector. One day, a thief tried to steal the farmer's crops under the cover of night. Bruno barked loudly, alerting the farmer and scaring off the thief.

The farmer was grateful and rewarded Bruno with a hearty meal and a warm place by the fire. From that day on, the bond between the farmer and his dog grew even stronger, and Bruno continued to protect the farm with unwavering loyalty.

Moral:

Loyalty is rewarded with trust and friendship.

### 3. The Dog and the Wolf

In a forest, a dog and a wolf met one day. The wolf was wild and free, while the dog was well-fed and cared for by his master. The wolf looked at the dog with envy and said, "You have it easy, living in comfort. But you are a slave to your master."

The dog replied, "I may be bound, but I am safe and loved. You may be free, but you live in fear and hunger." The wolf scoffed and ran off into the woods, but deep down, he envied the dog's loyalty and the love he received.



Moral:

Freedom without security can lead to hardship.

#### 4. The Dog and the Cat

Once, in a cozy household, a dog and a cat lived together. The dog was loyal and friendly, while the cat was aloof and independent. One day, a fire broke out in the house. The cat quickly dashed for the nearest exit, but the dog, sensing danger, barked and nudged the cat to follow him to safety.

Despite her initial reluctance, the cat followed the dog, and they both escaped the flames. Afterward, the cat realized the importance of teamwork and loyalty, and she thanked the dog for saving her life.

Moral:

In times of crisis, loyalty and teamwork can save lives.

#### 5. The Dog Who Cried Wolf

In a small village, a mischievous dog named Rufus loved to play pranks. One day, he decided to bark loudly and pretend that a wolf was attacking the sheep. The villagers rushed to help, only to find Rufus laughing at their expense.

He did this several times until, one day, a real wolf

appeared. Rufus barked for help, but the villagers, tired of his tricks, ignored him. The wolf attacked the sheep, and Rufus learned that trust is hard to regain once lost.

Moral:

Honesty is essential; lying can lead to dire consequences.

## 6. The Dog and His Master

A devoted dog named Max lived with a kind old man. One winter, the old man fell ill and needed medicine from the village. Max, sensing his master's distress, set out on a journey through the snow to fetch help.

Despite the harsh conditions, Max persevered, navigating through the woods and crossing rivers until he reached the village. He barked and pulled at the villagers' clothes until they understood the urgency of the situation. They followed Max back to the old man and provided the care he needed.

## Chapter 1: The Biblical Definition of Apostolic Pentecostal Loyalty (Acts 2:42)

### Loyalty in Hebrew and Greek

- Hebrew: The word for loyalty in Hebrew is “חֶסֶד” (chesed), which means steadfast love, kindness, and faithfulness. It reflects a deep, covenantal relationship that mirrors God’s love for His people.
- Greek: In Greek, the word “πίστις” (pistis) signifies faithfulness or trustworthiness. It denotes a strong belief in someone or something, often used to describe faith in God.

### Fable: The Loyal Dog

Consider the fable of the loyal dog who stood by his master even in the darkest times. When the master fell into a deep pit, the dog barked for help, refusing to leave his side. This story illustrates that true loyalty is not merely about being present in good times but remaining steadfast in adversity. Just as the dog symbolizes unwavering faithfulness, we are called to embody this loyalty in our relationships within the church.

## Chapter 2:

### Loyalty in the Scriptures

#### Loyal Figures in the Old Testament

##### 1. Uriah the Hittite:

- Meaning: “My light is Yahweh.” (Hebrew: הַיָּרֵא)
- Loyalty: Uriah’s unwavering loyalty to King David, even in the face of betrayal, exemplifies true faithfulness. He remained loyal even when David sent him to the front lines to cover up his own sin.

##### 2. Jonathan:

- Meaning: “Yahweh has given.” (Hebrew: וְיָתֹנִי)
- Loyalty: The son of King Saul, Jonathan risked his life to protect David, demonstrating loyalty to both his friend and the will of God.

##### 3. Ruth:

- Meaning: “Friend.” (Hebrew: תוֹר)
- Loyalty: “Where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay.” Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi is a beautiful testament to familial love and commitment.

##### 4. Daniel:

- Meaning: “God is my judge.” (Hebrew: לֵאלֹהֵי נִדָּן)
- Loyalty: Daniel remained loyal to Jehovah by refusing to bow to the king’s decree, choosing instead to face

the lions' den.

## 5. Joseph:

- Meaning: “He will add.” (Hebrew: יוֹסֵף)
- Loyalty: Loyal to Jehovah and his family, Joseph’s integrity shone through even when wronged by his brothers and falsely accused in Egypt.

## Parable: The Two Builders

In a parable reminiscent of the wise and foolish builders, we see two men constructing their houses. One builds on sand, while the other builds on rock. When storms arise, the house built on sand collapses, while the house built on rock stands firm. Loyalty to God and to one another is the rock upon which we build our lives. When the storms of life come, it is our loyalty that will keep us standing strong.

## Chapter 3:

### Loyalty in the New Testament

#### Loyal Helpers of Paul the Apostle

In Romans 16, Paul lists several individuals who exhibited loyalty and support:

1. Phoebe (Φοίβη): “Bright, shining.” (Greek: Φοίβη)
  - A deaconess who served the church.

2. Priscilla (Πρίσκιλλα): “Ancient.” (Greek: Πρίσκιλλα)
  - A teacher of the Word alongside her husband Aquila.
3. Aquila (Ἀκύλας): “Eagle.” (Greek: Ἀκύλας)
  - A faithful companion in ministry.
4. Andronicus (Ἀδρονίκου): “Man of victory.” (Greek: Ἀδρονίκου)
  - A fellow prisoner and co-worker.
5. Junia (Ἰουνία): “Youthful.” (Greek: Ἰουνία)
  - Noted among the apostles for her contributions.
6. Ampliatus (Ἀμπλιατός): “Expanded.” (Greek: Ἀμπλιατός)
  - A beloved friend of Paul.
7. Urbanus (Οὐρβανός): “Of the city.” (Greek: Οὐρβανός)
  - A fellow worker in Christ.
8. Stachys (Στάχυς): “Ear of wheat.” (Greek: Στάχυς)
  - A loyal helper.
9. Apelles (Ἀπελλής): “Approved.” (Greek: Ἀπελλής)
  - A faithful servant of Christ.
10. Asyncritus (Ἀσύγκριτος): “Incomparable.” (Greek:

Ἀσύνκριτος)

- A supporter of Paul's mission.

11. Phlegon (Φλέγων): "Burning." (Greek: Φλέγων)

- A devoted companion.

12. Hermes (Ἑρμῆς): "Messenger." (Greek: Ἑρμῆς)

- A faithful worker in the gospel.

13. Patrobas (Πατροβάς): "Father's son." (Greek: Πατροβάς)

- A loyal believer.

14. Hermas (Ἑρμᾶς): "Messenger." (Greek: Ἑρμᾶς)

- Another faithful worker.

15. Rufus (Ῥούφος): "Red." (Greek: Ῥούφος)

- Noted for his loyalty.

16. Julia (Ἰουλία): "Downy." (Greek: Ἰουλία)

- A supporter in the faith.

17. Nereus (Νηρεύς): "Water." (Greek: Νηρεύς)

- A faithful servant.

18. Olympas (Ὀλύμπας): "Of Olympus." (Greek: Ὀλύμπας)

- A loyal companion in Christ.

## Metaphor: The Body of Christ

The church is like a body, with each member serving a unique purpose. Just as the hand cannot say to the foot, “I do not need you,” our loyalty to one another is essential for the body to function effectively. When we support and uplift each other, we reflect the unity that Christ desires for His church.

## Chapter 4: The Importance of Loyalty in the Apostolic Pentecostal Movement

### A Call to Action

In the Apostolic Pentecostal Church, loyalty is not just a virtue; it is a necessity. It is vital for the health of our congregations and the effectiveness of our ministry. Each member is called to:

- Support their pastor: Like Paul, we must be loyal to those who mentor and guide us in our spiritual journey.
- Honor our leaders: Just as Uriah honored David, we must respect and uplift our spiritual leaders.
- Be faithful servants: We must emulate the loyal helpers of Paul, serving with joy and commitment.

## Fable: The Ant and the Grasshopper



In the fable of the ant and the grasshopper, the ant works diligently to prepare for winter while the grasshopper plays. When the cold season arrives, the grasshopper finds himself unprepared and alone. This story reminds us that loyalty involves preparation and commitment to our community, ensuring that we are ready to support one another in times of need.

## Chapter 5: The Metaphor of Loyalty

### The Tree and the Branches

Imagine a tree with strong roots and branches reaching out. The roots symbolize our loyalty to God and our pastors, while the branches represent our outreach to the community. Just as a tree cannot stand without its roots, we cannot thrive without loyalty to our leaders and to one another.

#### Illustration: The Ship Navigating the Storm

Picture a ship navigating through a storm. The captain (pastor) relies on the loyalty of the crew (congregation) to follow instructions and work together to steer the ship to safety. When loyalty falters, the ship risks capsizing.

#### Poetic Reflection: The Seasons of Loyalty

## A Poem: The Seasons of Loyalty

In the garden of faith where we plant our seeds,  
Loyalty blooms like the flower that leads. With roots  
intertwined, we stand side by side, In the love of our  
Savior, our hearts open wide.

Through trials and storms, we weather the strife,  
Loyalty nurtures the fruit of our life. Like Uriah who  
stood, though the world turned away, Let us pledge  
our allegiance, come what may.

As seasons change and the winds may blow, In loyalty's  
embrace, our spirits will grow. Together we flourish,  
united and strong, In the melody of faith, we sing our  
sweet song.

### Conclusion: Rekindling Loyalty

### The Loyal Dog and the Frog: A Fable of Friendship

Once upon a time, in a lush green forest, there lived a  
loyal dog named Bruno and a clever little frog named  
Freddie. They were the best of friends, spending their  
days exploring the woods, playing by the river, and



enjoying the beauty of nature together.

One misty morning, as the fog rolled in thick and heavy, Bruno and Freddie decided to venture deeper into the forest. They loved the mystery of the fog and the way it

transformed their familiar surroundings into a magical realm. However, as they wandered, they soon realized that the fog was making it difficult to see where they were going.

“Stay close to me, Freddie,” Bruno said, his deep voice filled with concern. “It’s easy to get lost in this fog.”

Freddie nodded, his little heart swelling with gratitude for his friend’s loyalty. “I will, Bruno! We’ll stick together.”

As they continued their journey, they stumbled upon a large fallen log that stretched across a small stream. The log was slippery from the morning dew, and as they approached, Freddie hesitated. “I’m not sure we can cross that, Bruno. It looks dangerous.”

Bruno, ever the protector, replied, “I’ll go first. You can follow me. Just take your time, and I’ll be right here.”

With that, Bruno carefully made his way across the log, his paws steady and sure. When he reached the other side, he turned back to encourage Freddie. “See? It’s not so bad! Just take it one hop at a time.”

Freddie took a deep breath and leaped onto the log. He moved cautiously, trying to mimic Bruno’s steady pace. Just as he was almost halfway across, the fog thickened, and he lost his footing, slipping toward the edge.

“Freddie!” Bruno barked, his heart racing. Without a second thought, he dashed back onto the log, reaching out with his paw to steady his friend. “I’ve got you! Hold on tight!”

With Bruno’s help, Freddie regained his balance and hopped back to safety. “Thank you, Bruno! I don’t know what I would have done without you,” he said, his voice trembling with relief.

As they continued their journey, they ventured further into the fog. Suddenly, they heard a rustling sound nearby. Both friends froze, their hearts pounding. They had heard tales of a sly fox that roamed the woods, known for tricking animals into traps.

“We need to hide!” Bruno whispered urgently. “Follow

me!”

They quickly found a thicket of bushes and crouched down, hoping to remain unseen. The fog swirled around them, adding to the tension. Just then, the sly fox appeared, sniffing the air and looking for his next meal.

“Where are you, little frog? I can smell you!” the fox called out, his voice dripping with cunning.

Freddie’s heart raced. “What do we do, Bruno?” he whispered, his eyes wide with fear.

“Stay quiet and trust me,” Bruno replied. “We’ll wait for him to pass.”

The fox wandered closer, his eyes darting around. Just when it seemed he might discover their hiding spot, Bruno noticed a nearby branch that had fallen from a tree. With a plan in mind, he gently nudged the branch with his nose, sending it rolling into the bushes on the opposite side.

The fox’s ears perked up, and he turned his attention to the noise. “What was that?” he growled, moving away from their hiding spot.

As the fox investigated the sound, Bruno and Freddie seized the moment. “Now’s our chance!” Bruno whispered. They quietly slipped away from the thicket

and dashed toward the safety of the trees.

Once they were far enough away, they stopped to catch their breath. Freddie looked up at Bruno, his eyes shining with gratitude. “You saved me again! You’re the best friend a frog could ever have.”

Bruno wagged his tail, his heart warm with friendship. “And you’re the best friend a dog could ask for, Freddie. We look out for each other, no matter what.”

From that day on, Bruno and Freddie continued their adventures, always loyal and protective of one another. They learned that together, they could face any challenge, whether it was crossing a slippery log or outsmarting a sly fox.

Moral:

True friendship is built on loyalty and trust, enabling us to overcome any obstacle together.

As we reflect on the loyalty displayed in the Scriptures, let us rekindle our commitment to our pastors and to the Apostolic Pentecostal movement. Let us be like Uriah, Jonathan, and the loyal helpers of Paul—faithful, steadfast, and unwavering in our support. In doing so, we will strengthen our community and fulfill our calling as devoted followers of Christ. Let us encourage one another to embody this loyalty in every aspect of our lives, ensuring that our church remains a beacon

of hope and faithfulness in a world that desperately needs it.

Written By Elder Keith Joel Walker

Read and Obey Acts 2:38

