Faithfulness
We have now come to that third triad, (faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) of virtues listed in the nine-fold fruit of the Spirit, and here we find faithfulness. Faithfulness is similar to those virtues we have already looked at in the fact that it is both an attribute of God and also a fruit of the Spirit within us.
Galatians 5:22-23 - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

Faithfulness is a steadfast and reliable integrity and loyalty to others in our word, priorities and commitments (Luke 21:16-19,1 Cor 4:2,2 Tim 4:7-8). As an attribute of God, faithfulness is a virtue that describes God’s fidelity and dependability to carry out His Word. It assures us that He will certainly fulfill His promises as well as execute His threats against sin. It also refers to His truthfulness and integrity, so that when God speaks His Word is true, which also therefore means He will fulfill His promises and threats. Particularly, God makes covenants and promises to His people and remains steadfast to fulfill His obligations to these promises, even when His people fail to do their part. God keeps His covenants, remembers His lovingkindness because “great is His faithfulness.”
Deuteronomy 7:9-11 - 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. NASB
Psalm 36:5 - 5 Thy lovingkindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Thy faithfulness reaches to the skies. NASB
Psalm 98:1-3 - 1 Sing to the Lord a new song. For He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him. 2 The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. NASB
Lamentations 3:22-23 - 22 The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness. NASB

Consider that Jesus was called as the Messiah, the promised and Anointed One to deliver God’s people from their enemies and bring them into a Kingdom of peace, blessing and prosperity. There are actually hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament that tell of the future person and work of Jesus and all that He would do to bring this about. Consider the massive list of fulfilled prophecies (some 300 of His first coming), that God was faithful to fulfill in the person of Jesus. Jesus Himself is God’s faithfulness on display as He carries out God’s Word and fulfills His covenant to save His people. Jesus is described as the “faithful one” (Rev 19:11), the “faithful witness” (Rev 1:5; 3:14), and the “faithful High Priest” (Heb 2:17; 3:2).
Hebrews 2:17-3:2 - 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that in which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house. NASB

God is certainly faithful, and certainly will fulfill all His promises to His people. In fact, God’s integrity is at stake because He has made so many promises to His people to do them good. So He is said to be faithful as He fulfills His promises to us.
Hebrews 10:19-23 - 19 Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with
pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; NASB

And even when we forsake God and deny our faithfulness to Him, God will surely fulfill His threats and promises for He cannot change, but rather His very nature is faithfulness.
2 Timothy 2:11-13 - 11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself. NASB

This is seen clearly in God's promise to forgive sins to Christians who with faithful (humble, repentant, sincere) hearts confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. In fact, this is said to be an act of justice and righteousness for God to do, because Christ has been punished for our sins to meet the demand of divine justice, and God therefore forgives on the basis of His promise to forgive those who trust in Him, the wages of their sins having been paid by Christ. This is a glorious thought, God is faithful to forgive our sins!

1 John 1:9 - 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. NASB

Because God is faithful, He will also keep us and cause us to persevere in the faith until the end, and will also set us apart to Himself and cause us to bear His image, until our Sanctification is complete.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 - 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass, NASB

Now as faithfulness regards the Christian life, as a fruit of the Spirit and a virtue that we are to live and strive for, it also deals with our own fidelity and loyalty to God and others.

Faithfulness is a steadfast and reliable integrity and loyalty to God and others in our word, priorities and commitments. It means that we tell the truth. It means we keep our promises and we do what we say we are going to do. It means we be the kind of person that is reliable and can be counted on because we are dependable. It means that we are obedient to God and keep His commandments. Not that we never sin, but that the pattern and trajectory of our life is marked by doing God's will and being faithful to love Him and others. Moreover, let us consider that because God is faithful, He takes our faithfulness very seriously, Jesus said that in fact it was one of the weightier matters of the law.

Matthew 23:23-24 - 23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. NASB

May our lives be marked by this constancy of faithfulness as Paul.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 - 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing. NASB

Let us also take great care to be faithful to the charge to follow Christ, do His will, for we are stewards of all that He has entrusted to us. Our time, our talents, and our treasure have been given by God for us to serve and glorify Him with and this is our stewardship. We know someone is faithful when we witness their devotion to God in worship, by their integrity in word and deed, and by their life marked by trusting in God and doing what He says (obedience). As we strive with God dependent effort to be faithful, we shall bear His image in greater degree over time by the power of the Spirit. Consider finally, the Lord also rewards faithfulness to our calling and gifting in the Christian life.

Matthew 25:20-22 - 20 "And the one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more talents.' 21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.' NASB