

The Holy Spirit

Session # 7 / Wednesday, September 12, 2007

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT / PART THREE

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please God

2 Cor. 5:7

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

- My daily and only prayer for my own life is this: "Lord, increase my faith!" I cannot do the work God has called me to do in my own strength or understanding.
- Faith is listed in both THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT (I. Corinthians 12:9) and THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22). That's how important FAITH is to God!
- The primary manifestation of FAITH in a believer's life is FAITHFULNESS. A believer's faith is proved by his or her faithfulness to God and His mission. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT ASPECT OF FAITH IS THIS: YOUR FAITH IS DEMONSTRATED BY YOUR TRUSTWORTHINESS AND CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIFE.

Faith is our unshakeable belief in God and His gospel and is therefore the TRUNK rather than the fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is given as qualities or attributes. Faithfulness is the attribute of one who has faith.

EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

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2
3 1. Natural Faith This has to do with human reasoning. I have flown well over three
4 million commercial miles. I can sleep like a baby on an airplane. I know that plane
5 HAS TO FLY. That's the way it was built. The laws of physics demand that the plane
6 be airborne, barring weather or pilot error. This is natural faith on my part.

7 I enjoy the ham and eggs at Perkins. How do I know that chef isn't putting arsenic
8 in the meal? Natural faith on my part.

9 How many of you carefully tested the seat before you sat down? Probably no one.
10 You knew the seat would hold you. Natural faith.

11
12 *It is interesting to note that some people do not have natural faith but live in almost*
13 *constant fear or trepidation.*

14
15 2. Saving Faith **Ephes. 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that**
16 **not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

17
18 Our human nature so desperately wants to somehow merit eternal favor with God;
19 however, that is not a possibility. Had Jesus not died on the cross, none of our good
20 works would ever have brought about atonement for our sins. We accept, by faith, that
21 Jesus paid it all and rest upon Him.

22
23 3. Living Faith That which sustains us in our daily walk with the Lord is faith.
24 Faith is fed from God's Word. To shortchange ourselves in time spent in the Word
25 means to have less than the faith we need for everyday living.

26
27 4. Gift of Faith The work God has given us to do is IMPOSSIBLE. But with God, all
28 things are possible (Matt. 19:26).

29
30 5. Fruit of Faith This faith is the evidence that we have the gift of faith as seen by our
31 constant faithfulness to God. This lesson may be reaching followers of Jesus who live
32 very up-and-down lives for Him. Sometimes you are passionate in your faithfulness to
33 God; at other times you look for something else. We must pray that the Holy Spirit
34 develops faithfulness in us.

35
36 6. Faith as Beliefs That which is believed, or the contents of belief, is called one's
37 faith. **Acts 6:7**

38 **And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in**
39 **Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

1 **THIS FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT COMES FROM THE HEART OF GOD WHO IS**
2 **ALWAYS FAITHFUL**

- 3 1. God is clothed with faithfulness. **Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness will be his belt**
4 **and faithfulness the sash around his waist.** In other words, faithfulness is part
5 of who God truly is!
6
7 2. God is faithful to keep His promises. **Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold**
8 **unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.** Peter adds:
9 **2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:**
10 **that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature**
11
12 3. God is faithful to forgive. **1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and**
13 **just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
14
15 4. God is faithful in calling us. He first calls us to His salvation, and then He calls us
16 to SERVE HIM. **1 Thes. 5:24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.**
17

18 NOW....FROM THIS ROOT OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, THE HOLY SPIRIT
19 BEGINS TO DEVELOP "HIS LIKENESS" IN US IN OUR FAITHFULNESS TO HIM
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21 **FAITHFULNESS IN STEWARDSHIP**
22

23 Recently several folks left this church telling people, "All Betzer ever does is talk about
24 money." The truth is, a person who is totally sold out to God loves to give to His work
25 and see His kingdom expanded on this earth.
26

27 We are "stewards" of God's provision - that is, He has entrusted us to do His work with
28 the resources He has provided. **Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that**
29 **faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to**
30 **give them their portion of meat in due season?**
31

- 32
33 ● "Pastor, aren't you aware that we are in recession?" Of course, and I feel the
34 effects of it, too. However, several principles of FAITHFULNESS IN
35 STEWARDSHIP remain:
36
37 ● Ten percent - the first ten percent - of what we earn or make belongs to God and
38 is called the tithe. That money does not belong to us (in reality, none of it does
39
40

1 but God only demands the tithe). It belongs to God. In our 51+ years of
2 marriage, Darlene and I have always made the tithe the priority every pay period.
3 God has truly blessed us for being honest with Him and being stewards.
4

- 5 • Our offerings. The tithe is not an offering. That is “payment,” so to
6 speak. If I pay my house mortgage, I have not given the mortgage
7 company anything. I have paid my debt.
8
- 9 • Missions Giving goes above and beyond that and in that arena, this church
10 has led all AG churches for years. God bless you for it! Let us not grow
11 weary in “well doing,” but continue our support of global evangelization
12 until Jesus comes!
13
- 14 • Projects. Our Master’s Commission project is vital to the kingdom.
15 Darlene and I have committed \$100,000 to this project and it will be paid in
16 full by next spring. I have had our financial people take it out of my
17 check each pay period. Prior to that we gave \$50,000 to the Children’s
18 Center construction. At this point in our lives, when we truly should be
19 thinking of putting aside more for retirement, these projects have captured
20 our hearts and our pocketbooks. We are going to be faithful in our
21 stewardship.
22

23 **PARABLE:** The story is told of an engineer who hired a foreman for his construction
24 business. The engineer had a reputation for building homes of the finest quality, using
25 only the best materials always. For a number of years the engineer and the foreman
26 worked closely together, producing many homes of top quality. Finally the engineer
27 decided it was time to give his foreman full responsibility, so he assigned the foreman to
28 build a house for a certain amount of money. The house was to be built, as usual, of the
29 finest quality materials available. This time the foreman would work without
30 supervision. The foreman reasoned to himself that if he would use lower quality
31 materials, the house would still look the same, and no one would ever know the
32 difference. By doing this he would have a large sum of money left over which he could
33 keep. When the home was completed, the foreman proudly invited the engineer to
34 inspect it. It was a beautiful home and only the foreman knew that it was not solidly
35 built. Imagine his shock when his employer told him that the house was a gift to him for
36 his many years of faithful service. In his heart he said, “If only I had known the house
37 was to be mine, I would have put the very best materials into it. Not it is too late and I
38 must live in what I have built.”
39

40 **Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings.**
41
42

MEEKNESS

Most modern translations render this fruit of the Spirit as GENTLENESS. Christ described Himself as meek: **Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.** On two other scriptural occasions, the trait of meekness was ascribed to our Lord: **Matthew 21:5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.** And **2 Cor. 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ**

Meekness does not mean “milquetoast.” It does not mean timid or shy or introverted. It has as its central theme a gentleness of spirit. From the original Greek word *praotes*, it speaks of an inward attitude more than an external action.

There are three basic themes that have to do with GENTLENESS or MEEKNESS:

1. Submission to the will of God. This is doubtless what Jesus was speaking of when in Matthew 11:29 He referred to Himself as “meek.” He had given Himself completely to the will of God.

2. Teachableness This is a willingness to learn. **James 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

Many followers of Christ quite honestly do not have a willingness to LEARN. What they want is an experience they can FEEL. There is certainly nothing wrong about feeling the results of our walk with God but at some time or other, God expects His saints to mature in the faith.

Paul spoke of this: **1 Cor. 3:1-3**

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. [2] I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

[3] For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (Remember the Corinthian church was the most Pentecostal of all the churches in Europe at that time - yet it rejected growing in grace. This was not a fruit of meekness at all, but rather one of self-serving.

3. Being Considerate This has to do with bearing with others because of love. Gentleness is the opposite of harshness. There is nothing cowardly about it, but rather it speaks to inner courage and determination to do right in God’s eyes before mankind.

MEEKNESS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Remember that we are dealing with THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT here. Jesus said in John that it was the work of the Holy Spirit to testify of Him, Christ Jesus. In our Lord's life, meekness (gentleness) was manifest again and again. And so the Holy Spirit works to bring out from our lives that same gentleness of spirit that could be seen in Christ.

Note that Jesus' gentleness did not deter Him from seeking to right wrongs. We read in John 2:15-16 that he found merchants desecrating the house of God, the Temple, and made a whip of cords and drove them out of that sacred place. Yet His gentleness with people was simply astounding.

1. Example 1: When a Samaritan village would not welcome Jesus, some of His disciples asked Him if He wanted them to call down fire from heaven to destroy the village. Jesus replied: **Luke 9:55-56**

But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. [56] For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village. Jesus was teaching His followers that the gospel message was the ministry of the Holy Spirit and must be ministered in gentleness.

2. Example 2: We read of Jesus meekness or gentleness in washing the feet of His disciples: **John 13:5** **After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.**

OTHER EXAMPLES OF MEEKNESS IN BIBLICAL CHARACTERS

1. Abraham in dealing with his rather nasty nephew Lot: **Genesis 13:8-9**

And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. [9] Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

2. Moses: **Numbers 12:3** **(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)**

This story is most revealing to me. Here is this man who patiently - over years of time - led the Israelites out of slavery and across the wickedly difficult Sinai Peninsular toward the promised land; yet about all those people did was grip and complain about him and his leadership. Each time they did, Moses would turn his face toward God and pray for those very people.

1
2 One final promise: **Psalm 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall**
3 **delight themselves in the abundance of peace.**

4
5
6 **TEMPERANCE (self control)**
7

On the night of October 8, 1871, a woman named Mrs. O'Leary lighted a small lamp and carried it to her barn so she could see to milk her cow. The cow kicked over the lantern and the flames from its burning wick began to spread quickly throughout the barn as strong winds fanned them. The fire raged for more than 24 hours, wiping out the central business district of the great city of Chicago and destroying 17,450 buildings in an area covering 3 ½ square miles. At least 300 people died and over 90,000 were left homeless. All because a cow kicked over a lamp containing a small flame. Or so the story goes.

Fire is necessary and when kept under control is a blessing. But when it goes out of control, it becomes a terrible enemy which destroys everything it touches. Many was created full of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual energy, which mut be properly used and controlled. Here, this fruit of the Spirit - self control - becomes vital.

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9
10 ● The Bible speaks to this issue many times. Here are some examples:

11
12 **Titus 2:11-12**

13 **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, [12]**
14 **Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,**
15 **righteously, and godly, in this present world;**

16
17 **SELF CONTROL AS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS A SELF DENIAL OF EVIL**
18 **DESIRES OR PLEASURES. SEE HOW THIS FRUIT STANDS IN CONTRAST TO**
19 **THE WORKS OF THE FLESH: Galatians 5:19-21**

20 **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication,**
21 **uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations,**
22 **wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,**
23 **and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that**
24 **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

1 This same passage from “The Message:”

2 **Galatians 5:19-21**

3 **It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the**
4 **time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and**
5 **emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; [20] trinket gods;**
6 **magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-**
7 **never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided**
8 **homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; [21] the vicious habit**
9 **of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable**
10 **addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.**

11 **This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom**
12 **this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.**

13
14 The basic theme of biblical “self-control” is strength, power or mastery over self. We
15 must rule ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

16
17 **SOME SECULAR DEFINITIONS OF SELF-CONTROL**

- 18
19 • Weight loss
20 • Work ethic
21 • Learning processes

Aristotle, the great Greek philosopher, described the self-controlled person as one who has powerful passions but keeps them under control. He sees the person who lacks self-control as not deliberately choosing to do that which is wrong, but as having no strength to resist temptation.

- 22 • Improvement of life's skills

23
24 **THE SECRET TO SELF-CONTROL**

25
26 **Romans 8:5-9**

27 **For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are**
28 **after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. [6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to**
29 **be spiritually minded is life and peace. [7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against**
30 **God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. [8] So then they**
31 **that are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the**
32 **Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the**
33 **Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**

1 1. There must be an understanding that a problem exists and it must be dealt with by
2 both yourself and the Holy Spirit. You cannot blame others. “Will you be healed,” is
3 still the question Jesus asks.
4

5 2. Learn to live with spiritual balance. **Eccles. 3:1-8**

6 **To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:**
7 **[2] A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that**
8 **which is planted; [3] A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a**
9 **time to build up; [4] A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a**
10 **time to dance; [5] A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a**
11 **time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; [6] A time to get, and a time**
12 **to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; [7] A time to rend, and a time to**
13 **sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; [8] A time to love, and a time to**
14 **hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.**
15

16 God desires that Christians have balanced lives. This includes spiritual, physical,
17 mental and emotional balance. All the human powers God has given to us, such as the
18 capacity to reason, to feel, and to exercise our will, have the possibility of being abused.
19 **THIS IS WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT’S HELP TO LEARN SELF-CONTROL**
20 **SO THAT THERE WILL BE A BALANCE IN OUR LIVES IN THE EXERCISE OF**
21 **THESE POWERFUL FORCES.**
22

23 A balanced life is one of temperance or moderation. This means the avoiding of
24 extremes of behavior or expression.
25

26 Moderation in:

- 28 • Control of our tongue, what we say, how we express ourselves
- 29 • Control of sexual desire (reason for our Porn and Pancakes Breakfast)
- 30 • Control of our daily habits
- 31 • Control of our time
- 32 • Control of our minds Romans 13:14

33 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the
34 lusts thereof.
35

36 OUR EXAMPLE: CHRIST JESUS

37

38 Once again we look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. When Jesus was
39 tempted by Satan, our Lord was filled with the Spirit and combated the enemy
40 successfully.
41
42

1 And so we have studied the fruit of the Spirit over these three Wednesday nights. Once
2 again, here they are:

3

4 Galatians 5:22-23

5 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
6 [23] Meekness, temperance.

7

8 May all of us strive to grow in the Lord and see progress in our lives daily as we live for
9 Him.