

Chapter 17 “Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control” The Holy Spirit – Graham

Galatians 5:22,23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

Love, Joy, Peace – Godward relationship (relationship with God)

Patience, Kindness, Goodness – manward relationship (relationship with others)

Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control – inward relationship (inner self)

God first, others second, self third

“Being” is more important than “doing”

“Being” will bring fruit Phil 2:13 Phil 1:6

The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

Not faith practiced by the Christian but rather *fidelity*

Fidelity in the little things (Matt 25:21)

Morality is important in small things as well as in big things

(2 Peter 2:21,22) contrast with the world

(3 John 12) Demetrius is a faithful follower in everything

Lack of faithfulness is a sign of spiritual immaturity

Refusal to accept spiritual responsibility

Our faithful obedience to allow God the Holy Spirit to remove any vile habit or developing infection should be immediate

We can become impatient when we discover it takes so long to become like Jesus, but we should be patient and faithful, for becoming like Him is worth waiting for.

Hebrews 11 James 1:12,25

Judgment seat of Christ – all Christians will stand before Jesus to give an account of the works we have done since our conversion

How faithful were we in the places God put us? (I Corinth 3:9-16)

How faithful are we in Scripture reading, praying, and Christian living in the face of prosperity? (Matt 13:22 Rev. 3:17 I Tim 6:9,10 2 Tim 4:7,8)

Ultimate reward for faithfulness (Rev 2:10: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”)

The Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness

Gk word – “mild; mildness in dealing with others” (Matt. 5:5)

Not spiritless or timid

The idea of being tamed by the Holy Spirit (Peter, Moses)

Power, strength, spirit, and wildness under control

Modesty, opposite of a flamboyant and self-indulgent spirit

A sensitive regard for others, not to be unfeeling for others

A quiet strength (Jesus following His arrest – Isa 53:7)

Meekness – love under discipline – contrast to the hostility of the world

- 1) Do not rise up defensively when our feelings are ruffled (Matt 26:51,510)
- 2) Do not crave to have the preeminence (3 John 9; Col 1:18)

- 3) Do not seek to be recognized and highly regarded, or to be considered the voice of authority (2 Tim 3:8; Rom 12:3)

The Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control

Gk word – strong, having mastery, able to control one’s thoughts and actions
Susanna Wesley – John’s mother – “anything which increases the authority of the body over the mind is an evil thing” (Rom 8:5)

Intemperance – lack of self-control – cause many to fall – Two causes:

- 1) physical appetite – alcohol, gluttony, sexual, (abuse of the body)
- 2) mental habit – unkindness, gossip, pride, jealousy, (abuse of the mind)

The word “good” in the language of Scripture literally means, “to be like God”

Temperance in: food – moderation dress – appropriate modesty
 alcohol – soberness defeat - hopefulness
 sexual matters – abstinence sinful pleasure - abstinence
 temper – self-control

Solomon – (Prov 16:32 Prov 25:28)

Paul – (I Cor 9:25,27)

Peter – (2 Peter 1:5,6)

The appetite that controls one person may differ from the appetite that controls another

The need for temperance in every aspect of life has never been greater than today

Space for Fruit-growing

The Holy Spirit is already in every Christian heart, and He intends to produce the fruit of the Spirit in us. However, there must be displacement.

Boat does not sink because it is in water – sinks when water come in

We live in a sea of corruption – need to keep corruption out

We must let the searchlight of God’s Word scan us to detect the abiding sins and fruitless qualities which impair our personal growth and fruitfulness.

And only the Holy Spirit can make possible the out-living of the in-living Christ

When the Holy Spirit fills us, He brings forth His fruit in people who manifest a growing likeness to Christ, the prototype of what we will someday be.