

Rev. Billy Cerveny:

[01:00:05:10 - 01:00:05:21]

Thank you.

[01:00:07:22 - 01:00:08:15]

Y'all pray with me.

[01:00:11:07 - 01:00:12:12]

Father, thank you for the gift of your word.

[01:00:13:23 - 01:00:29:07]

Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit. I pray, Lord, that you would teach us what it means to walk more closely with you, and what it means to be loved by you, to love like you, and to impact the world. Lord, we pray this all in your name, Jesus, amen.

[01:00:30:12 - 01:00:31:05]

Y'all have a seat.

[01:00:35:01 - 01:00:53:15]

I'm a little foggy today. I had a, my daughter turned 11, and we had a slumber party at our house last night. We had six 11-year-olds that stayed on our floor last night that went to bed at 2 a.m., and I woke up this morning to a karaoke machine cranked up to 11, with these girls singing Dolly Parton's "Workin' 9 to 5."

[01:00:55:03 - 01:00:57:19]

Stumble at a bed and go. That's a great way to wake up. I love it.

[01:00:59:08 - 01:01:03:01]

So I was prepared for this sermon, and I had a realization.

[01:01:04:17 - 01:01:21:20]

I'm a pretty capable athlete. I'm not the greatest athlete in the world, but I'm pretty capable. I played soccer. I can surf, I could ski. I always thought I could pick up sports pretty quickly, different sports until I encountered a little thing called golf.

[01:01:23:10 - 01:01:30:21]

Now, I'm not sure golf is a sport. I think it's like a mind game meant to break your spirit, at least it's been my encounter with it.

[01:01:32:00 - 01:02:03:02]

My son plays, and he started playing about a year, and I never really played my whole life. I played a little bit growing up here, and my son plays, and he's getting pretty good. So I'm like, you know, I'm gonna figure this out. So I've gone out, I got my clubs, and I went out there, and what's frustrating about it to me is that there's no natural instinct about it. Like, I can't draw on baseball, or ice hockey, or something like that. Happy Gilmore was a liar. Like, those things don't cross-pollinate at all. I never knew I could hit a ball backwards, but I did. And so what you do, what most people do, is you make the problem worse by taking a lesson.

[01:02:04:02 - 01:02:21:13]

So I took a lesson, and if you've never had a golf lesson, it's like a one-hour session of human origami, where they're doing all these micro-adjustments, where you keep your left arm straight, and you wait off the back foot, and the ball needs to be off your front foot, if you're driving, it needs to be in the middle, if you're hitting with an iron, breathe through your eyelids, don't move, all that, and then relax.

[01:02:25:02 - 01:02:34:06]

And every time I did this, not only did I not relax, I'm trying to manufacture this swing that I don't have. And it makes me more self-focused on myself,

[01:02:35:07 - 01:02:43:09]

and the more focused I get on myself, the more tense I get, the more self-conscious I get, and the more I'm just hitting it off into the woods.

[01:02:45:04 - 01:03:25:19]

It makes it worse, a couple weeks later, my son and I were offered tickets to go to a golf tournament, and we went up, and I got to watch this guy, Bryson Deschambault hit, or play golf. Have you seen him play? He's amazing. He came to second in the Masters this year. And after his first round, I'm watching him at the driving range, and he's sitting there for an hour and a half, right after he'd played 18, hitting it again, and again, and again. Now, I think to myself, okay, he's still trying to manufacture his swing, so maybe there's some hope for me. Until I heard him interviewed later, and I'm paraphrasing his comment. And what he said was, "You know when I practice many times, half the time I practice with my eyes closed?"

[01:03:27:00 - 01:03:28:09]

I practice with my eyes closed.

[01:03:29:20 - 01:03:38:10]

(Congregation Laughing) He says he practices with his eyes closed because he said he spent his entire life playing golf,

[01:03:39:12 - 01:03:53:10]

and that his swing, the swing that has taken him to this place, it's so ingrained in him on a cellular level, he doesn't need to learn it. What he does is he closes his eyes, he gets his mind out of the way, and he lets his body remember it.

[01:03:55:01 - 01:04:04:06]

Another way of saying that, and again, I'm paraphrasing is, he's not trying to manufacture a golf swing, he's just trying to agree with the one that's already inside of him.

[01:04:04:06 - 01:04:16:10]

When I heard that and I put my golf game up against his, it became this beautiful juxtaposition of what I see in the Christian life, which certainly been my journey.

[01:04:17:22 - 01:04:24:09]

Like I don't care who you are, whether you grew up Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, your high church or low church,

[01:04:25:11 - 01:04:37:04]

we all have this expectation. We all come to our faith with this expectation of what it's supposed to look like. What I'm supposed to be like, what I'm supposed to feel like.

[01:04:38:08 - 01:04:46:15]

How this is supposed to impact me or change me and the reason that we have those expectations is because we have passages like we just read, like Galatians 5.

[01:04:47:15 - 01:04:58:08]

In this Galatians 5 passage, it reads like a laundry list of things that we need to experience or have happen to us. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

[01:04:59:20 - 01:05:01:09]

faithfulness, self-control,

[01:05:03:15 - 01:05:06:18]

and as a Christian, this needs to be the marks of my life. It's kind of like a scorecard.

[01:05:08:11 - 01:05:13:16]

So this is how it goes for me. I get up and I get into the tee box of my Christian life.

[01:05:14:18 - 01:05:16:20]

I'm like, I'm gonna try the fruit of the Spirit.

[01:05:17:21 - 01:05:20:01]

So I'm gonna grab this club. Let's try self-control.

[01:05:22:12 - 01:05:43:04]

It's not been my gift in life, so I line up. Don't think this. Don't desire this. Self-control. Don't desire this. It's not the way I need to be. Don't do these things. And I get my grip and I'm trying to micro-adjust the way I think and the things that I expose myself to and all these things until I take the swing and, whoof, I slice it into the woods and I lose control.

[01:05:44:15 - 01:05:50:03]

Either something I do or something I feel or something I want that I know is not consistent with what I'm supposed to be.

[01:05:51:07 - 01:05:54:23]

So I try another club. Let's try joy. That one seems easy, right?

[01:05:56:04 - 01:06:08:12]

I line that up, but I don't really know what joy is. It's kind of like happiness, right? But something more, but we'll try that. I'll put a smile on my face. I line up. I'm gonna be this joyful Christian, but then all of a sudden, ugh, we lose a job.

[01:06:09:22 - 01:06:12:05]

Are you getting to fight with your husband or you're getting to fight with your wife?

[01:06:14:00 - 01:06:17:15]

Or something goes wrong in your, in your, with your health.

[01:06:19:11 - 01:06:24:14]

And you line it up and you have that smile on your face, but you end up just slicing it off into the distance.

[01:06:26:00 - 01:06:26:12]

No joy.

[01:06:28:14 - 01:06:32:15]

And see, like I described earlier, the harder I try, the worse I get.

[01:06:34:11 - 01:06:46:17]

The, the one result I want I don't get, I can become less peaceful, less, less patient. I get less self-control. I can't get out of my way and I can't manufacture this swing that I'm called to have.

[01:06:48:06 - 01:06:48:22]

So what do I do?

[01:06:51:04 - 01:07:06:23]

This is where Galatians 5 comes in. Because I need it, because most of the time when I'm crying out, what do I do? I look over in the, the tea box next to me and there's someone with their eye closed. Just swinging peacefully. Joy, peace, patience, kindness. And I'm like, how do I get there?

[01:07:09:00 - 01:07:13:16]

This is what Paul is writing into in Galatians 5. Let me give you a little context here.

[01:07:14:23 - 01:07:31:00]

The Apostle Paul had been in Galatia, and this is a pla-, in modern-day Turkey. And he had gone to there, to this place, and he had preached the gospel, and these, and these people had believed, and he had gathered this body of believers, and he formed a church, and he told him the truth. He told him the story of Jesus.

[01:07:32:11 - 01:07:43:06]

That it was God who became man, and he lived this perfect life, and he climbed on the cross to take a punishment that you deserved in order for him to give you a reward that only he deserved.

[01:07:44:12 - 01:07:45:21]

That they would be given eternal life.

[01:07:47:08 - 01:07:51:08]

That they would be forgiven, that they'd be called sons of God, they'd be declared righteous.

[01:07:52:21 - 01:07:56:09]

And the biggest point that he'd make is this. He's saying that this is a free gift.

[01:07:57:20 - 01:08:04:12]

That Jesus is blood, blood, it paid for everything. Past, present, and for the things. Get this, you haven't even done yet.

[01:08:05:17 - 01:08:14:05]

And you can add nothing to that equation. So Paul's like, you got this? And they're like, we got this. And he's like, all right. Stay in touch, and he leaves.

[01:08:16:02 - 01:08:20:21]

Ten minutes goes by, and there's a faction of Jewish Christians in the church.

[01:08:22:03 - 01:08:30:12]

They're called the Judaizers, and they begin to, they begin to cause a little, stir a little trouble. Because what they're saying is this faith, we believe in Jesus. He's the Messiah.

[01:08:31:14 - 01:08:45:15]

He's the Savior, but he's also part of, he grew out of this Jewish tradition. So as a result, there's certain aspects of Mosaic law that actually, if you want to be really close to Jesus, you really want to be faithful to it. You need to stay true to it, more specifically, circumcision.

[01:08:47:03 - 01:08:50:09]

And if you don't do this, well, you're not being true to the faith.

[01:08:51:11 - 01:08:57:22]

Well, this causes this huge split in the church. And Paul hears about it, and his head comes off in a spring.

[01:08:59:03 - 01:09:02:13]

He's livid, and he writes this letter. If you've never read Galatians, it's strong.

[01:09:04:00 - 01:09:05:10]

And he writes to him, and he says,

[01:09:06:15 - 01:09:09:20]

"Why are you doing this? Who bewitched you?" is what he said.

[01:09:11:01 - 01:09:20:16]

How did you get sucked into this circumcision thing? He says, not only is any attempt to add to what Jesus did for you, not only is that not going to increase grace,

[01:09:22:07 - 01:09:29:02]

it's not gonna, it's not gonna bring you closer to Jesus. In fact, it's going to pollute the very thing that I taught you about.

[01:09:30:04 - 01:09:49:11]

It's legalism. It's gonna turn your eyes on you, and just gonna make you think you can do something to earn your way into God's favor. He gets so intense, he says to the people that were preaching circumcision, he says, "I wish they would just go the whole way and cut it all off." That's in the Bible.

[01:09:52:22 - 01:09:59:17]

So, in chapter 5, he turns to them, and he said, he's trying to explain to them the freedom they have in Jesus.

[01:10:00:23 - 01:10:09:23]

And he's trying to explain to them, and in this freedom that we have, there's this way that we grow and we mature and we produce this thing that he calls the fruit of the Spirit.

[01:10:11:02 - 01:10:16:13]

In verse 1, he says, Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

[01:10:18:03 - 01:10:22:11]

Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

[01:10:24:12 - 01:10:24:20]

Freedom.

[01:10:26:06 - 01:10:26:12]

Freedom.

[01:10:28:05 - 01:10:30:09]

It's a great word. It's a tricky word, isn't it?

[01:10:31:21 - 01:10:41:03]

Because freedom means a lot of things to a lot of different people. In our modern context, this is what we think freedom is. The freedom means that I got, there's no rules.

[01:10:42:08 - 01:10:47:02]

There's nothing that hems me in. I get to do what I want when I want.

[01:10:48:10 - 01:11:00:09]

I get to be not just who I want to be, but what I want to be. And I get to tell the world who that is, and I get to tell God who that is. That's what freedom is to our modern context.

[01:11:01:19 - 01:11:05:14]

Now our culture has embraced that in a hook, line, and sinker.

[01:11:06:17 - 01:11:12:03]

This won't take me long to argue that point. I think we can see it. That we just indulge everything.

[01:11:13:08 - 01:11:15:13]

That we take freedom, we take that to our morality.

[01:11:16:23 - 01:11:20:14]

Right? That we take it to our sexuality. We bring it to marriage.

[01:11:22:03 - 01:11:28:16]

That I feel like there's nothing that hems me in. That I get to determine my destiny, that who I am, and what I am.

[01:11:29:20 - 01:11:35:02]

And what Paul says in our passage, he says when we do this, you're misusing your freedom.

[01:11:36:12 - 01:11:39:03]

He says you're using that, you're walking by the flesh.

[01:11:40:04 - 01:11:46:20]

Now flesh is this kind of Bible word that refers to this sinful

[01:11:48:12 - 01:12:12:05]

characteristics in us, the sinful nature that's in us. That aspect, it's like when you're in your car and you hit a curb and your alignment's broken, and all of a sudden you let go of the wheel and your car just kind of always goes to one side. That's the sin in our hearts. It's that natural bend that takes us away from God. That inner inclination that just rebels against the guardrails that God puts up there, the character of God.

[01:12:13:06 - 01:12:16:21]

And what Paul says, he says, "Now the works of the flesh are evident."

[01:12:18:13 - 01:12:21:04]

He's like, "It's obvious." I don't even need to argue this is what he's saying.

[01:12:22:05 - 01:12:30:17]

Sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, and he goes on and on and on.

[01:12:32:04 - 01:12:33:08]

And Paul's point is this,

[01:12:34:10 - 01:12:35:04]

that's not freedom.

[01:12:36:18 - 01:12:37:15]

That's not real freedom.

[01:12:38:20 - 01:12:41:12]

That's not the freedom that you were called to in Christ.

[01:12:42:22 - 01:12:51:12]

He says in verse 13, "Yes, you were called to freedom, brother." "Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,

[01:12:52:12 - 01:12:54:22]

but through love serve one another."

[01:12:57:05 - 01:13:00:02]

What he's saying here, he's painting a very different picture of freedom.

[01:13:01:03 - 01:13:18:02]

Because even in that one verse you can see he's starting to put parameters of it. And what he's saying here is that true freedom, true gospel freedom, and I'm going to paraphrase with 10th Keller, says true freedom is not the absence of boundaries and parameters. It's the presence of the right ones.

[01:13:20:08 - 01:13:25:13]

True freedom, it frees us to live according to who we are in Jesus.

[01:13:26:22 - 01:13:28:13]

In terms of my identity,

[01:13:30:13 - 01:13:39:21]

in the same way that if I took a fish and I pulled it out of water and I'm holding it in my hands and I just lay it in the boat, I go there, I'm setting it free. Am I really setting it free? No, I'm killing it.

[01:13:41:04 - 01:13:48:03]

I want to let it set it free. I'm going to set it free to live according to its reality, of its true identity as a fish. I'm going to put it back in the water so it can swim.

[01:13:49:09 - 01:14:01:00]

Within the confines, within the bookends of its design. And that's what Paul says, that we were set free not to walk by the freedom of our flesh,

[01:14:02:10 - 01:14:04:10]

but the freedom of who we are in Christ. So who are we?

[01:14:06:03 - 01:14:11:15]

What does it mean? What is that freedom? What is that identity that we were created to? He said to love one another.

[01:14:13:00 - 01:14:17:16]

Joy, peace, patience, kindness, etc., do those things.

[01:14:19:00 - 01:14:21:21]

Ah, here we are again, back in the tea box.

[01:14:23:12 - 01:14:26:18]

How do I do those things? Because I can't. I don't know how to get there.

[01:14:27:22 - 01:14:28:14]

What do I do?

[01:14:30:14 - 01:14:36:23]

A few things that Paul says here, he wants us to understand when we consider that sin in us that we contend with.

[01:14:38:03 - 01:14:45:10]

Verse 24, he says, "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

[01:14:46:20 - 01:14:59:03]

And what Paul's saying here is if you're in Jesus, if you are in Jesus, this flesh, this sin that works in you, it's real. You contend with it, but it's not who you are.

[01:15:00:03 - 01:15:23:18]

It is not your identity anymore. It's been nailed to the cross. It has died. It is no longer who you are. That means you don't have two identities inside of you, two selves that are battling for air superiority. And if I can just be nicer enough or just be better enough than I win and this other, this thing diminishes inside of me and the true identity wins out. He's saying no.

[01:15:25:08 - 01:15:27:01]

When you are in Christ, you are one thing.

[01:15:28:11 - 01:15:32:00]

You belong to God and that sin nature was nailed to the cross.

[01:15:34:09 - 01:15:50:19]

He makes that distinction. It doesn't define you anymore. He's saying that who you are has been, is you belong to Jesus, that you have this indwelling Holy Spirit that binds you with Christ. And that Holy Spirit is what defines you. It is Jesus that defines you.

[01:15:52:06 - 01:15:54:08]

And I know you because I know me.

[01:15:55:10 - 01:15:56:19]

And when I hear that, this is what I think.

[01:15:58:03 - 01:16:05:05]

I sure don't feel like I'm filled with the Holy Spirit all the time. I feel you don't know what I'm tempted to or what I contend with.

[01:16:06:07 - 01:16:06:21]

Yes, I do.

[01:16:08:09 - 01:16:12:10]

I do know what you struggle with because I know my own heart.

[01:16:13:23 - 01:16:35:02]

And I'd argue that the struggles that you deal with as a Christian, the fact that you struggle isn't necessarily by definition evidence that you don't have the Holy Spirit. I would argue that it's evidence that it might be evidence that you do have the Holy Spirit. Why? Because if you didn't have the Holy Spirit, I promise you this, you would not struggle against your sin.

[01:16:36:20 - 01:16:41:09]

If you did not have the restraints of God holding you back, you would have no issue with it.

[01:16:42:11 - 01:16:48:16]

It is a mercy of God, the way he reels us in, the way he doesn't let go.

[01:16:51:06 - 01:16:52:10]

So how do you grow? What's it say? Galatians 5, 16.

[01:16:53:15 - 01:16:56:03]

What's it say? Galatians 5, 16.

[01:16:57:15 - 01:17:01:07]

Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.

[01:17:02:21 - 01:17:05:06]

The first thing I want to see here is what Paul is not saying.

[01:17:06:06 - 01:17:11:01]

Paul is not saying that if you walk by the Spirit, the desires of the flesh go away altogether.

[01:17:12:09 - 01:17:13:01]

It's not true.

[01:17:14:06 - 01:17:22:17]

We walk by the Spirit is not destroying my flesh. Walking by the Spirit is teaching me to say yes to something that's higher.

[01:17:25:01 - 01:17:31:10]

When I see, when I walk by the Spirit is teaching me to turn and lift my gaze and to choose something greater.

[01:17:33:16 - 01:17:35:15]

It turns my eyes to Jesus.

[01:17:37:22 - 01:17:40:01]

So how do we bear this fruit of the Spirit in our lives?

[01:17:41:18 - 01:17:42:16]

It starts like this.

[01:17:43:20 - 01:17:51:07]

It starts by realizing that laundry list of attributes that Paul lays out when he talks about the fruit of the Spirit.

[01:17:52:10 - 01:18:00:03]

Those attributes first are first the attributes of God in Christ before they will ever be attributes of you.

[01:18:01:15 - 01:18:03:15]

Those are the attributes of Jesus.

[01:18:04:19 - 01:18:07:06]

His heart, the Spirit.

[01:18:09:09 - 01:18:18:03]

Jesus is the embodiment of that entire list. And he has lavished those gifts on you from beginning until end.

[01:18:20:00 - 01:18:20:04]

Joy.

[01:18:21:20 - 01:18:26:03]

He celebrates and rejoices over you when he called your name.

[01:18:27:06 - 01:18:40:05]

The joy that Jesus feels before the foundations of the earth when he knew that you'd be sitting here in this moment. The joy that Jesus felt when he knew and you answered his call. And you say, "Yes, Lord."

[01:18:42:03 - 01:18:49:10]

Peace and patience that Jesus demonstrates to you that he demonstrates to me. Man, does he demonstrate that to me. The patience of Jesus.

[01:18:50:18 - 01:18:56:07]

When he doesn't annihilate me for some of the things that I've dealt with in my life.

[01:18:57:12 - 01:19:13:22]

The patience of Jesus when he watches me lumber forward trying to do this thing in my world that's called the Christian life. The kindness and gentleness of God where he protects you from the consequences of the sin that you deserve and he hems you in that you don't even see.

[01:19:15:00 - 01:19:16:06]

The faithfulness of God.

[01:19:18:04 - 01:19:20:08]

Jesus leaves the 99 to find the one.

[01:19:21:12 - 01:19:23:07]

Guess what? You're the one.

[01:19:24:15 - 01:19:25:16]

That is a faithful God.

[01:19:27:01 - 01:19:35:12]

And so we read about the fruit of the Spirit. Those attributes are first the attributes of Jesus. And it gets better than that.

[01:19:37:08 - 01:19:39:18]

Galatians 2 20. I have been crucified with Christ.

[01:19:40:22 - 01:19:44:00]

It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.

[01:19:45:04 - 01:19:51:14]

And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith and the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.

[01:19:52:18 - 01:20:03:18]

What this is saying is you got to catch this. That Christ through his Holy Spirit. Has come and is no longer I that live but it is he that lives in me.

[01:20:04:18 - 01:20:08:12]

And that means Christ with all of his attributes.

[01:20:09:21 - 01:20:16:22]

That list that we just said the fruit of the spirit the character of God. It is an indwelling reality in my inmost being.

[01:20:18:23 - 01:20:27:12]

And so when Paul calls these attributes the fruit of the Spirit what he's saying is first they are the fruit of the spirit. They are not the product of you.

[01:20:28:15 - 01:20:30:22]

I don't care how good your grip is.

[01:20:32:12 - 01:20:39:05]

How how how much you can adjust your body. You cannot generate those things or sustain those things on your own for any measurable time.

[01:20:40:07 - 01:20:46:04]

And not in any meaningful way. It is Christ in you the hope of glory working those things out.

[01:20:47:10 - 01:20:53:22]

And the second thing is this is that it is a fruit. And it is a fruit. And it is a fruit. And it is a fruit. And it is a fruit. And like all fruit like all things it has to grow.

[01:20:55:11 - 01:21:00:14]

And so for we for us as Christians, it is our job to cultivate these things in our heart.

[01:21:01:15 - 01:21:13:21]

We begin to cultivate how am I cultivate. I am not creating something that's not already there. What I'm doing is I am working to bring the inner realities of Christ attributes that have been poured into me and to tease them out into my life.

[01:21:15:09 - 01:21:21:15]

How do I bring those things out. To create the ways that I am. To create the ways that I bring them from the inside to the out.

[01:21:22:15 - 01:21:23:09]

How do I do that.

[01:21:25:21 - 01:21:28:06]

We become more familiar with who Jesus is.

[01:21:29:21 - 01:21:37:06]

We ruthlessly pursue him because when we do that we become more familiar with who we are in him. We read scripture.

[01:21:38:19 - 01:21:39:11]

We come to church.

[01:21:40:22 - 01:21:56:07]

We sit and we and we recite the psalm back and forth. We kind of play catch. We play catch with scripture. We lift our voices and we sing to God. Even we don't feel like it especially when we don't feel like it. That's not an act of routine worship. That's an act of obedience.

[01:21:57:23 - 01:22:11:18]

That we're trying to work waking up our hearts. We confess. We take communion and we do that and we do that over and over again. Guess what the heart of Jesus becomes ingrained in us in a cellular level.

[01:22:13:06 - 01:22:14:05]

And what happens then.

[01:22:15:06 - 01:22:18:00]

I step into the tea box of my life.

[01:22:19:14 - 01:22:30:14]

And I stand there and I close my eyes. And I'm not trying to manufacture a swing. But I'm just trying to agree with the one that is already inside of me.

[01:22:32:02 - 01:22:32:10]

That's it.

[01:22:33:11 - 01:22:50:02]

I remember the faithfulness of Jesus. I remember the joy and peace and kindness of Jesus. I remember all those things that he's lavished upon me. I remember his character and I see the way that it transforms me. And guess what happens.

[01:22:51:09 - 01:22:52:23]

One day it surprises you.

[01:22:54:16 - 01:23:07:09]

One day it surprises you that you're going to be wronged. And someone's going to do something terrible to you. And what are you going to do instead of lashing back and responding. You're going to catch yourself and you're going to respond with a gentle word. Where did that come from? Where did that come from?

[01:23:09:07 - 01:23:09:12]

Right?

[01:23:11:21 - 01:23:13:04]

Now one day you're going to get angry.

[01:23:14:22 - 01:23:22:11]

And that thing that's on your tongue that could cut someone to the quick. You don't say it. But instead, you turn it into a question and say, "Hey, are you okay?"

[01:23:23:19 - 01:23:25:07]

I'm like, "What's going on with you?"

[01:23:27:03 - 01:23:35:08]

When you feel tempted and self-control, it seems like a fantasy to you. But all of a sudden you're able to practice moderation.

[01:23:37:03 - 01:23:42:13]

Or you're in private and you can get away with that thing you've gotten away with a million times. And you just said, "No, I'm not going to do it this time."

[01:23:44:06 - 01:23:49:12]

And all those things, the Spirit is breaking through the soil and is producing its fruit.

[01:23:51:18 - 01:23:58:09]

Over time you realize that you're obeying God, but not because you're trying to earn your way into His graces, but because you love Him.

[01:23:59:11 - 01:24:01:05]

Because there's a part of you that you want to obey.

[01:24:02:06 - 01:24:14:03]

Because you know now on a cellular level that it is for freedom that Christ has set you free. And it is by walking by the Spirit that you get to taste that to the core of your being. Amen?

[01:24:15:11 - 01:24:15:16]

Amen.

[01:24:15:16 - 01:24:27:10]