



Fruit of the Spirit

Session 6 – “The Fruit of Faithfulness”

Galatians 5:16-23 (NKJV) – ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: ^[a]adultery, ^[b]fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, ^[c]murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ ^[d]gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

I. REVIEW

- A. Previous weeks – The Fruit of Love, Joy, Peace, Patience
- B. Last Week – Patience
- C. The fruit of patience allows us to wait on God’s timing and His best plan for our lives
- D. Impatience has the potential to cost us greatly and keep us from God’s best.



II. The Fruit of Faithfulness

A. Faithfulness Definition – Trustworthy, sure, true, loyal, reliable.

1. Faithfulness means I must be TRUE and LOYAL to and/or represent accurately the one I am being faithful to.
2. Cambridge Dictionary – The quality of being faithful to someone or something
3. Webster – Steadfast in affection or allegiance – LOYAL

B. Faithfulness was strongly emphasized and required throughout the Bible.

1. **2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV)** – *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

2 Timothy 2:2 (CSB) – *"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

- a. This passage describes the quality of a person we are to commit ministry and leadership to; one who has developed the fruit of faithfulness
2. **1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NIV)** – *¹This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. ²Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*
 3. Faithfulness is one of the primary character traits that must be found in individuals who are entrusted with leadership and managing the Lord's business



4. **Matthew 22:14 (KJV)** – *For many are called, but few are chosen.*
 - a. Why are many called and few chosen? We are not separated unto our call until we are counted faithful.
 - b. **Revelation 17:14 (NIV)** – *They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is LORD of lords and King of kings-and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers*
 - c. Few are chosen because few are faithful
 - d. One primary reason why people do not fulfill their God-given potential is because they do not comprehend the full scope of faithfulness and they do not embrace it.
FAITHFULNESS IS IMPORTANT!

5. **1 Timothy 1:12 (KJV)** – *And I thank Christ Jesus our LORD, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*
 - a. Paul states that God counted him faithful – and put him in the ministry
 - b. Enablement, ability and promotion are connected to the fruit of faithfulness manifested in our lives.

6. Examples of Faithfulness
 - a. Faithfulness to Jesus
 - b. Faithfulness to your spouse and family
 - c. Faithfulness to your employer
 - d. Faithfulness in handling money/finances
 - e. Faithfulness to church family and spiritual authority
 - f. Faithfulness is being true to your words in each of these areas.



III. Essential Keys to Developing Faithfulness in your life

A. **2 Timothy 2:1 (KJV)** – *Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

TRUSTING GOD – DEVELOPMENT IN FAITHFULNESS

1. Faithfulness to God and others begins with strong dependence upon the Lord.
 2. To be strong in the grace of God is the opposite of dependence upon yourself or others.
 3. Relying on yourself and your ability to perform will cause you to eventually wear out, burn out, or fail.
 4. The more I trust God to take care of me, the more I become developed in the fruit of faithfulness.
 5. I am faithful to the one I trust!
- B. Be strong by staying within the measure of what God has assigned you to.
1. Remain faithful to what you know God has assigned you to.
 2. God's grace is available to perform everything He has called you to; not those things He never called you to.
 3. Without God's grace – the fruit of faithfulness will not be present; His grace is available in those things He assigns us to.
 4. MANY find it impossible to be faithful because they have taken upon themselves TASKS/ASSIGNMENTS that God never called them to.



C. **2 Timothy 2:3 (KJV)** – *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

1. The ability to ENDURE HARDNESS = promotion
2. EXAMPLE = soldiers in basic training are harassed and pressured in order to be prepared for battle.
3. Our reaction to HARDNESS determines whether we ENDURE and are PROMOTED or WIMP OUT and get busted.
4. God doesn't put WIMPS on the front lines and certainly not into leadership. (Consider how God reduced Gideon's army)
5. The Fruit of Faithfulness – keeps us going when times are tough or when the opposition is great.
6. Consider the early church leaders and the struggles they faced. They were faithful even unto death.

D. **2 Timothy 2:4 (NIV)** – *No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.*

1. Faithful people and good soldiers make PLEASING GOD a higher priority than their involvement with the necessities of life.
2. A good and faithful soldier does not live for himself
3. A soldier who lives for himself will justify running from a fight
4. A good and faithful soldier in God's army does not entwine himself with other stuff that will keep him from obeying the Lord.
5. FAITHFULNESS involves being available to the lord more than any other priority in life.
6. NEB = "He must be wholly at his commanding officer's disposal".

E. **2 Timothy 2:5 (NIV)** – *Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules*

1. Training and Discipline are a MUST!
2. Training and discipline are connected to FAITHFULNESS
3. Training must be consistent/not in spurts



4. Part of our training involves discipline =
 - a. Reading the Word
 - b. Studying the Word
 - c. Attending church regularly
 - d. Walking in love
 - e. Walking in forgiveness
 - f. Giving of our finances and ourselves
5. Winning at anything involves practice, hard work, disappointment and trials.
6. Every winner realizes that FAITHFULNESS and DISCIPLINE accomplishes something/REWARD.
7. There are NO SHORTCUTS to faithfulness

IV. Rewards of the Fruit of Faithfulness

- A. We are entrusted with precious things and qualified to lead – 2 Tim 2:2
- B. We will develop and be able to teach and disciple others
- C. We develop understanding in all things – 2 Tim 2:7
- D. **PROMOTION** and eternal reward = **Matthew 25:21** *Well done, good and faithful servant – you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the Joy of your Lord.*