

CHIEF

MINISTRIES

November 2023

Just a quick update. I sent all the TDCJ newsletters to the Dallas address last month. I haven't heard whether you received the front and back pages. I received mine (paper, I use it for confirmation of receipt) in 3 days from the mailing, allowing for the process at TDCJ each of you should have received your newsletter on your tablet by the 1st of October. If you did not receive the front and back of each page by October 1st, please let me know; I will follow up with Huntsville.

Well, this is the last month of the series on the Fruit of the Spirit and almost the last month of the year. I know I have said this before, but it seems like the days (hours of the day), just poke along, but then here it is the end of the year and where has the time gone? Although Chief was to be out on parole by 8/2021, he would've been off paper in January 2024. I know he would've been successful even with the restrictions of parole and his health, but he is free now, totally healed, and restored. That is my consolation in my loss of him.

So, let's get started, according to Galatians 5:22-23, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

This month we are going to look at Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

FAITHFULNESS

In the times we live in with half of all marriages still ending up in divorce, and with many people getting back-stabbed in the workplace with people they thought they could initially trust – this particular quality is one that is really needed in our day and age. This quality is not only needed in our own personal relationship with God but it is also needed in our own personal relationships with our friends and our families.

Once you are saved and have entered into a true personal relationship with the Lord – one of the first things you will really have to grab a hold of is holding fast to the Lord and staying faithful to Him for the rest of your eternal life. Once you are saved and have entered into a true personal relationship with the Lord, there is no turning back – ever!

This is what got the Jewish people in major trouble with God the Father back in the Old Testament. They could not stay faithful and loyal to Him on a consistent and regular basis. There were times when God the Father was literally calling them harlots and adulterers because they would not stay faithful to Him, especially when they kept chasing after other gods.

God the Father really holds this particular quality in high esteem, and this is one quality that He will really expect you to operate very strongly in – not only in your own personal relationship with Him, but also in your other personal relationships with your family and friends.

In other words, He wants you to be faithful and loyal to your spouses, to your children, to your parents, and to your good friends. Too many people are bailing out from their spouses and their children if they hit a few minor speed bumps in their marriages. Too many spouses are having affairs behind their spouse's back, thereby destroying all of the trust and faithfulness that may have been built up in the early years of their marriages. Too many fathers are bailing out of their marriages, and then forgetting and forsaking their own children – and sometimes for good, never wanting to see any of them ever again!

If God brings you a wonderful mate, wonderful children, and good and wonderful friends – then He will expect you to stay loyal and faithful to all of them in your own personal relationships with them. A true friend will stay by your side for life – through thick and thin and for better or for worse.

With the self-centered and materialistic world in which we now live, where many people's only goals and ambitions are to get as much as they can out of this life while they still can – I am afraid this is one quality that is in very short supply. Most people are lucky if they manage to make 2 or 3 good, loyal, and faithful friends in this lifetime.

This is one quality that God the Father is really watching all of us on. He is watching who is going to stay true, loyal, and faithful to Him – and who will stay true, loyal, and faithful to the friends and family that are brought into our lives. We all need the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit worked into us to help us keep loyal to God, family, and friends. Just as God will stay faithful to you in His own personal relationship with you – He will expect you to stay loyal and faithful in your own personal relationships with the other people in your life. So what does that look like?

Faithfulness, in the context of the fruit of the Spirit, refers to a quality of character that involves loyalty, trustworthiness, and reliability in one's commitments and relationships. It is a reflection of God's own faithfulness and is an essential aspect of living out one's faith. Here are some aspects of faithfulness as described in the Bible:

- **Loyalty and Dependability:** Faithfulness involves being loyal and dependable in fulfilling one's promises, commitments, and responsibilities. Psalm 119:90 (NIV) - *"Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures."* Proverbs 20:6 (NIV) - *"Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?"*
- **Trust in God:** Faithfulness includes trust and confidence in God's promises and character. It means remaining steadfast in faith even in challenging circumstances. Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) - *"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."* 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV) - *"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*
- **Consistency:** Faithfulness is marked by a consistent and unwavering commitment to living according to God's principles and values. 1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV) - *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."*
- **Reliability in Relationships:** Faithfulness is demonstrated in relationships by being trustworthy, keeping one's word, and being there for others in times of need. Proverbs 3:3-4 (NIV) - *"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man."* Proverbs 17:17 (NIV) - *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*
- **Perseverance:** Faithfulness involves perseverance and endurance in the face of challenges and trials, remaining faithful to God and His calling even when circumstances are difficult. Revelation 2:10 (NIV) - *"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."* Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) - *"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."*

What faithfulness is not according to the Bible:

- **Unreliable or Inconsistent:** Faithfulness is not characterized by unreliability, inconsistency, or a lack of commitment. It is the opposite of being fickle or unreliable. Proverbs 25:19 (NIV) - *"Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble."*
- **Breaking Commitments:** Faithfulness does not involve breaking commitments, being untrustworthy, or failing to keep one's word. It requires honoring promises and obligations. Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 (NIV) - *"When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow."*
- **Lack of Trust in God:** Faithfulness is incompatible with a lack of trust in God's faithfulness and promises. It involves maintaining confidence in God's character and His Word. Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) - *"And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

In summary, faithfulness, according to the Bible, is marked by loyalty, dependability, trust in God, consistency in living out one's faith, reliability in relationships, and perseverance in the face of challenges. It is a reflection of God's own faithfulness and is a foundational aspect of the Christian life. Faithfulness should not be confused with unreliability, breaking commitments, or a lack of trust in God's faithfulness.

GENTLENESS

Many men may draw back a bit from this next fruit, which is the quality of gentleness. However, Jesus was fully incarnated into a human flesh body – but this incarnation was done as a man – fully Man and fully God. Since Jesus walked our earth as a man – the Son of Man – study His actions very carefully when you read the gospels and how He handled different types of people. There were times that He would engage and set people straight, like He did with some of the Scribes and Pharisees. But there were other times that He dealt with people very gently, with kindness and love. His gentle way of handling some of these people is what really jumps out when you really study how He handled different types of people.

Jesus is the perfect role model for all of us to study and learn from – especially with how He handled people while He was walking down here on our earth. For men in particular, His actions and behavior towards others should be a major study for all of us and we should seek to pattern our own daily walk after Him. One of the divine qualities that He (Jesus) had operating in Him with great abundance was the quality of gentleness.

The quality of gentleness is another major quality needed in our world today. So many people have been beat up and hurt in their dealings with other people – that just a gentle word, a gentle touch from another Christian can really open up the door for that person to be able to receive Jesus and His healing, saving, and deliverance power into their lives. For those of you who knew and remember Chief, he had a gentleness about him, he also had a strength, but in his gentleness, he would meet the needs of others with a word of encouragement, prayer when there was family issues, death, loss of relationship with family or needs where the person receiving never know where the blessing, a soup, coffee, stamp for that important letter to a loved one or ring for graduation came from. And yes, he could set you straight if you were not living or doing right, initially in private but if unheeded would step you down. That is the Jesus model we should all try to live by. Once you really start walking in the Holy Spirit with His divine fruits operating and flowing through you – you will be able to feel and sense when you should handle a certain person or a certain type of situation with more of a touch of gentleness rather than with any kind of stern rebuke or condemnation. There is a time for tough love – but there are also times when just a gentle and loving touch is all that is really needed to properly handle a certain situation.

The Holy Spirit will guide you in all of this. Just realize that the quality of gentleness is one of the 9 fruits of the Spirit, and this is one of the fruits that He would really like to get worked into your personality, especially in being able to use it when dealing with and helping out others. For those of you who are parents this fruit is very easy to get out of balance with the way you are correcting your children. Sometimes more of a tough love approach is needed, but at other times more of a gentle approach will be better suited for the situation. If all your children ever hear from you are stern words of rebuke and criticism, and it is never properly balanced out with words and actions of love, kindness, and gentleness – then after a certain period of time your children will start to pull away from you, and they then will have no more desire to want to establish any type of good, solid, loving relationship with you. This may be how you were dealt with as a child and rebellion led you to poor choices and ultimately prison. Just a possibility, at the same time no discipline also leaves a child thinking there are no boundaries and therefore can do whatever they want without consequences. Again balance is the key here!

Not only will other people love and gravitate towards you more if you learn how to walk in this quality – but you will be at much more peace with yourself since you won't always have to be fighting and striving with others when trying to help them out.

Gentleness refers to a quality of character that involves humility, meekness, and a calm and gentle demeanor in one's interactions with others. It's the opposite of harshness and arrogance. Here are some aspects of gentleness as described in the Bible:

- **Humility:** Gentleness involves having a humble and modest attitude, not thinking of oneself as superior to others but being willing to serve and consider the needs of others as more important. Philippians 2:3 (NIV) - *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."*
- **Meekness:** Gentleness is often associated with meekness, which is strength under control. It means not responding with anger or aggression, even in challenging situations, but instead maintaining a calm and controlled demeanor. Matthew 5:5 (NIV) - *"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."*
- **Compassion:** Gentleness involves showing compassion and empathy toward others, being sensitive to their feelings, and extending kindness and care, especially when someone is in distress. Colossians 3:12 (NIV) - *"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."*
- **Patience:** Gentleness often goes hand in hand with patience. It means being patient with the shortcomings and mistakes of others and not reacting with harshness or impatience. Ephesians 4:2 (NIV) - *"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."*
- **Restoration:** Gentleness can also be expressed in the context of helping to restore someone who has fallen into sin or error. It means approaching them gently and with the aim of restoring them to a right relationship with God and others. Galatians 6:1 (NIV) - *"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted."*

What gentleness is not according to the Bible:

- **Weakness:** Gentleness is not a sign of weakness or passivity. It is a strength under control. A gentle person can be strong and assertive when necessary but chooses to respond with grace and kindness.
- **Apathy:** Gentleness is not indifference or apathy toward wrongdoing or injustice. It does not mean ignoring or condoning sinful behavior but rather addressing it with love and humility.
- **Arrogance or Harshness:** Gentleness is the opposite of arrogance, harshness, or a judgmental attitude. It does not involve reacting to others with pride, anger, or cruelty.

In summary, gentleness, according to the Bible, is characterized by humility, meekness, compassion, patience, and the willingness to restore others gently. It reflects the character of Christ, who described Himself as "gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29, NIV), and it is a quality that believers are encouraged to cultivate in their lives as they follow His example. Gentleness does not equate to weakness, indifference, arrogance, or harshness.

SELF-CONTROL

Last, but not certainly least, is the quality of self-control. This one is huge, and I mean huge! Once you start to enter into a true sanctification process with the Lord – expect the Holy Spirit to move on you very early with this specific quality. The reason for this is that we all have a certain amount of character flaws operating in our personalities. There are some bad and negative qualities that will have to go. The Bible tells us that our spirits and our flesh will war against each other in this life. Our flesh wants immediate self-gratification at all costs and will stop at nothing to try and get it. Our spirits know that some of our fleshly desires are not right for us and as a result, there will be a tug of war between the two – and sometimes it will be a major tug of war. And the only thing that will be able to control and curb some of the desires of our flesh is the quality of self-control.

We all live in a very self-centered and materialistic type world today, many people have very poor impulse control. If they see something they immediately want, they will do anything they can to try and get it. They will not be denied until they get what they are going after. These people are obviously very weak in the quality of self-control. This is why the Bible tells us that if we can learn how to really walk in the Holy Spirit, then we will not fulfill the lusts of our flesh. Due to our fallen and sinful natures, all of us are weak to some degree in the quality of self-control. This is why God the Father made sure to have this fruit listed as one of the 9 fruits of His Holy Spirit. We all need God's self-control operating in our lives and in our personalities if we are going to have any hope of getting cleaned up and properly sanctified to the degree that He would like to get us to in this life. If you do not have God's self-control operating through you – you will have very little victory over such things as bad tempers, judgmental and critical spirits, an unforgiving spirit, and ungodly vices.

Once the Holy Spirit starts this sanctification process within you – be prepared for some major battles and tugs of wars with Him once He starts coming after some of the negative qualities operating in your personality. But if you are willing to yield to Him and allow Him to start to work all 9 of these fruit into your personality – then you will find yourself starting to grow in ways and in areas that you never thought were possible in this life. His supernatural power in this area will blow you away once you see how far He can really take you to become the person that God would like you to become in Him in this lifetime.

Self-control, in the context of the fruit of the Spirit, refers to the ability to exercise restraint over one's desires, impulses, and emotions. It is the capacity to govern oneself, making decisions that align with God's principles and resisting temptations. Here are some aspects of self-control as described in the Bible:

- **Discipline over Desires:** Self-control involves having discipline over one's desires and appetites. This includes managing cravings for food, possessions, or other gratifications in a way that aligns with God's will. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 (NIV) - *"Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*
- **Temperance in Speech and Actions:** Self-control extends to one's words and actions. It means being mindful of what one says and does, avoiding impulsiveness, and instead acting with thoughtfulness and wisdom. Proverbs 16:32 (NIV) - *"Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."*
- **Resisting Temptation:** Self-control enables believers to resist temptations and make choices that honor God. It empowers them to say 'no' to sin and to live in a manner consistent with their faith. James 1:14-15 (NIV) - *"but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."*
- **Patience and Endurance:** Self-control involves patience and endurance, especially in challenging circumstances. It means persevering in faith and obedience even when faced with trials and difficulties. Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV) - *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."*

What self-control is not according to the Bible:

- **Self-Indulgence:** Self-control is not self-indulgence or excessive indulgence in pleasures and desires. It involves moderation and restraint rather than overindulgence.
- **Impulsiveness:** Self-control is the opposite of impulsiveness. It does not involve reacting hastily or without thought but rather making deliberate, wise choices.
- **Legalism:** Self-control should not be confused with legalism, which is a rigid adherence to a set of rules for its own sake. Self-control is rooted in a desire to honor God and live in obedience to His principles, not in a legalistic checklist.
- **Perfectionism:** Self-control does not mean achieving perfection. It acknowledges human limitations and the need for God's grace and forgiveness when we fall short.

In summary, self-control, according to the Bible, is characterized by discipline over desires, temperance in speech and actions, resistance to temptation, and patience in difficult circumstances. It is a virtue that empowers believers to live in alignment with God's will and moral standards, avoiding excess, impulsiveness, and sinful behaviors. Self-control is essential for a life of godliness and righteousness.

Here's a summary of faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as attributes within the Christian lifestyle:

1. **Faithfulness:** Faithfulness is the quality of being loyal, trustworthy, and steadfast in one's commitments, particularly in keeping promises and remaining true to one's faith.
 - Demonstrates loyalty and reliability in relationships and commitments.
 - Involves trust in God's promises and character, even in challenging circumstances.
 - Reflects consistency in living according to God's principles.
 - Includes forgiveness, generosity, and kindness.
 - Emulates God's own faithfulness.
2. **Gentleness:** Gentleness is characterized by humility, meekness, and a calm and compassionate demeanor in interactions with others, in contrast to harshness or arrogance.
 - Demonstrates humility and meekness, recognizing one's own limitations.
 - Shows compassion and empathy, especially in times of distress.
 - Requires self-control in words and actions, maintaining a calm and controlled demeanor.
 - Involves patience and endurance, particularly in challenging situations.
 - Seeks restoration and reconciliation gently, aiming to mend broken relationships.
3. **Self-Control:** Self-control is the ability to exercise restraint and discipline over desires, impulses, and actions to align with God's will and moral standards.
 - Requires discipline over desires, avoiding excess and addiction.

- Extends to temperance in speech and actions, promoting thoughtfulness and wisdom.
- Empowers believers to resist temptation and say 'no' to sin.
- Encourages patience and endurance, especially during trials and difficulties.
- Reflects a deliberate and wise approach to decision-making, seeking to honor God.

These attributes, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, are integral to the Christian lifestyle. They reflect the character of Christ and help believers live in accordance with God's principles, maintaining integrity, compassion, and moral virtue in their daily lives.

Conclusion

Each one of the 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit gives you a perfect description of what each one of them are all about, and why God the Father really wants to work each one of these 9 fruits into our personalities. They are all very powerful – and they not only have the ability to help change, transform, and sanctify you – but they also have the ability to touch all of those around you.

- Nothing will draw nonbelievers and believers alike to the Lord than a truly sanctified saint in the Lord who is walking and operating in all 9 fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- If you are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work and transmit all 9 of these fruits up into your personality to some appreciable degree in this life – you will then become a light that will literally radiate the presence of God Himself through your soul and personality.
- You have no idea how many people you will be able to save, touch, witness to, and help disciple if you have these fruits operating through you. These fruits will give you credibility with God and with other people that no degree or title can give you in this life.
- This sanctification process is the ultimate, highest aim and goal with God for our lives.
- For those of you who are not afraid to let God begin this deeper sanctifying work in your life – keep these 9 fruit of the Holy Spirit directly in front of you.
- And then work very closely with the Holy Spirit once He starts to manifest these fruit into your personality.
- These fruit will be coming directly from Him. They will be His love, His goodness, His joy, and His peace that will start to flow into you. But you will still have to do your part in all of this. Once these divine attributes start to be released into your personality by the Holy Spirit – your job will then be to start to walk and operate in them.

If the Holy Spirit starts to release His quality of love into your personality, but you start refusing to walk and operate in that love in your words and actions to others – then He will start to pull it back from you after a reasonable length of time. If He starts to manifest His quality of self-control in you in an effort to try and take out some of the negative qualities that He will not want operating in your personality, and you refuse to rely on that self-control, and you override it and continue to operate in those negative qualities – then again, He will pull it back from you until you are ready to work in cooperation with Him.

This process is a two way street.

- God is more than willing and anxious to do His part – but you will have to be willing to do your part. And your part will be to learn what changes God will want to make with you – and then start to live, walk, and operate in those specific changes once the Holy Spirit starts this supernatural, sanctification process within you.

This part God cannot do for you.

- Jesus gave Peter the power and ability to be able to walk on water. But there was one thing Peter had to do before that supernatural power was released to him. He had to get out of the boat and start walking straight forward on that power.
- It was only when he got out of the boat and started walking straight forward did the supernatural power of God manifest that allowed him to literally walk on water!
- It's the exact same way in this sanctification realm with the Lord. God, through the Holy Spirit, will give you the supernatural power to change, transform, and sanctify you – but you will have to be like Peter and be willing to live and walk in that supernatural power before it can really start to work to change and sanctify you.

Jesus is coming back for a Bride that will be without spot or blemish. He is calling His Church to clean up their act and allow His Holy Spirit to begin this deeper sanctifying work in their lives. However, the choice is up to each individual believer. Sanctification is not something that can be forced upon anyone. God really respects everyone's free will and He will never force His will or His ways on anyone. Let's all be a people who yields to Him and His ways!

Walking with you in this journey,

Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)

If you want to know more about CHIEF Ministries or would like to be a part, please go to www.chiefministries.com

Christ's Heart In Every Felon



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