

Fruit of the Spirit - Part 4

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Today

Fruit of the Spirit

- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

What Is The Fruit of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is

- love, joy, peace,
- longsuffering, kindness, goodness,
- **faithfulness**, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Me + God

Me + Others

Me

FAITHFULNESS

Faith (pistis) is conviction of the truth of anything. It is synonymous with trust or belief.

In the Holy Bible, pistis relates to God and it is the conviction that

- God exists
- is the Creator and Ruler of all things
- Provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ

Faith is not blind. It takes intellectual, emotional, and physical dedication to come to put your faith in something or someone.

Sees the invisible; Believes the incredible; Receives the impossible

FAITHFULNESS

“God delights to increase the faith of His children. We ought, instead of wanting no trials before victory, no exercise for patience, to be willing to take them from God's hands as a means. Trials, obstacles, difficulties and sometimes defeats, are the very food of faith.”

"The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety."

- George Muller

FAITHFULNESS

Faith is a result of rational understanding of the mind. Knowledge is an essential element in all faith:

- So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

Faith is a voluntary decision, which is an act of will AND understanding.

Faith is a God-given ability to trust the future that God has promised. We trust God even when He is silent and see no miracles:

- “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

The most important thing about faith is not faith itself but the object of that faith. All religion have faith (eg. Shintoists, Buddhists, Muslims, Mormons, Jehovah.)

Real life saving and sanctifying faith must have as its object Jesus Christ. Sincere but misplaced faith will lead down the road to doom.

FAITHFULNESS

True biblical faith is NOT faith in faith, but is faith in God and in His Word.

It is a confidence and obedience to who God says He is and what He claimed He did in the Bible regardless of our life circumstance and consequences.

COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS **ABOUT FAITH**

1. Faith Is Not A Blind Leap
2. Faith is Not A Blank Cheque
3. Faith Is Not A Bad Choice

WHY IS FAITH IN CHRIST SO IMPORTANT?

“Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).
Without faith, we cannot be saved (John 3:16). Without faith, the
Christian life cannot be what God intends it to be (John 10:10).

1. Faith in Christ frees us from judgment before God (Romans 6:23; John 3:16-17; Acts 4:12)
2. We get to join in the life that is in Christ, the divine life (John 14:19; Romans 6:4-10; Ephesians 4:15-16)
3. We have "peace with God," "peace of God", and "Peace of God" (Romans 5:1; Phil 4:7; 1 Thess 5:23)
4. We receive sanctification (Acts 26:18; Galatians 5:6; Acts 15:9).

1. Faith in Christ frees us from judgment before God

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the [a]gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:16-17

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.;

Acts 4:12

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

2. We get to join in the life that is in Christ, the divine life

John 14:19

19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

Romans 6:4-10

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. **7** For he who has died has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. **10** For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

3. We have "peace with God," "peace of God", and "Peace of God"

Romans 5:1

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Phil 4:7

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Thess 5:23

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify[a] you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. We Receive Sanctification

Acts 26:18

18 to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Galatians 5:6

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Acts 15:9

9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

HOW DO I HAVE FAITH IN GOD?

1. The first step is believing that He actually exists. This step alone is not enough. As James 2:19 explains, even the demons believe God exists.
2. After acknowledging that God exists, the second step of faith in God is commitment. Faith that does not result in action is a dead faith, not true faith (James 2:26).
3. For faith in God to be genuine, we must accept Him as He has revealed Himself in Scripture. We are not allowed to pick and choose the attributes of God that we like and don't like.

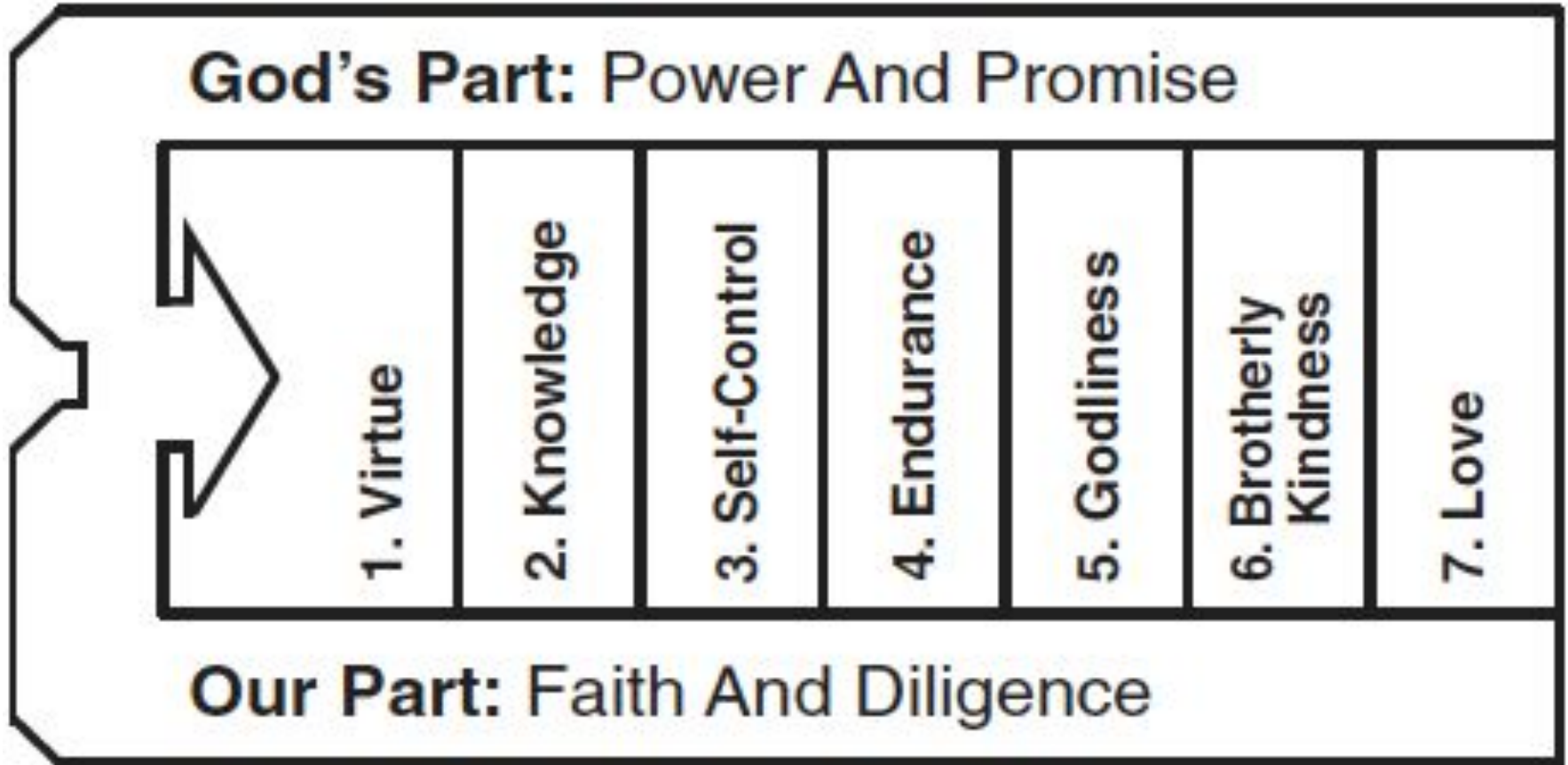
HOW DO I GROW IN MY FAITH?

2 Peter 1:5-11

5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your **faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.** 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 3

HOW DO I GROW IN MY FAITH?



HEBREWS 11 - SUMMARY

CHAPTER OF FAITH

Ultimately, faith is

- With God (Heb 11:4, 5-6)
- Action (Heb 11:7)
- Trust (Heb 11:7-9)
- Obedience (Heb 11:8, 28)
- Sacrifice (Heb 11:24-27)
- Perseveres (Heb 11:29)
- Courage (Heb 11:30-31)
- Simple (Hebrews 11:31)
- Victory (Heb 11:30, 32)
- Power (Heb 11:33-34)

FAITH AND WORKS

“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17)

Why is Faith alone not enough for a believer?

Even the demons believe—and tremble! (James 2:19)

Faith without works is dead because it reveals a heart that has not been transformed by God. When we have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, our lives will demonstrate that new life. Our works will be characterized by obedience to God.

Faith without works is dead because faith results in a new creation, not a repetition of the same old patterns of sinful behavior.

- As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

What Is The Fruit of the Spirit?

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Me + God

Me + Others

Me

GENTLENESS

Gentleness translated as “meekness” does not mean weakness. It involves humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others.

The opposites of gentleness are anger, a desire for revenge, and arrogance.

To be gentle is to recognize that God’s ways and thoughts are high above our own (Isaiah 55:9) - God wants us to give Him control of our lives.

Gentleness means giving up the right to judge what is best for ourselves and others. God is not as concerned with our comfort as He is concerned with our spiritual growth, and He knows how to grow us far better than we do.

We tend to think it is gentle to go easy on people and try to justify actions that God has called sin. Or to let someone continue in sin without speaking the truth. But Paul says, "If anyone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1) *

GENTLENESS

We are to correct others with gentleness instead of arguing with someone or out of anger, knowing that their salvation is far more important than our pride (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

We will forgive readily, because any offense toward us is nothing compared to our offenses against God—offenses He’s already forgiven (Matthew 18:23-35).

The goal becomes less about ourselves and more about preaching the gospel (Philippians 1:15-18).

- John the Baptist was a fiery preacher, yet he showed true gentleness when he said, “[Jesus] must become greater; I must become less” (John 3:30).

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Me + God



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Me

SELF-CONTROL

Self Control (or temperance)

- egkrateia or enkrateia from en = in + kratos = power to rule
- Literally a holding oneself in or the ability to take a grip of oneself.
- Colloquially "Get a grip!"

Describes the personal rule or mastery over fleshly impulses that are impossible without the Holy Spirit's help.

One of the proofs of God's working in our lives is the ability to control our own thoughts, words, and actions. It's not that we are naturally weak-willed, but that our fallen nature is under the influence of sin.

The Bible calls it being a "slave to sin" (Romans 6:6).

It is easy to emphasize the "self" part of self-control. Yes, the "en" in enkrateia does mean "in" and speaks of believers being controlled by an inward strength. However, the inward strength refers to the power of the Holy Spirit in us, not our own intrinsic power.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we are incapable of knowing and choosing how best to meet our needs. Even if we knew what would be best (eg. not smoking), it will continue to enslave us again.

SELF-CONTROL

When we are saved by Christ's sacrifice, we are free (Galatians 5:1) - freedom from sin. "Our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin" (Romans 6:6).

Now, as the Spirit gives us self-control, we can refuse sin.

Believers need self-control because the outside world and internal forces still attack us (Romans 7:21-25).

In our lives, these defenses might include avoiding close relationships with sinners, meeting with other believers, and meditating on the life-giving Word of God.

Self-control naturally leads to perseverance (2 Peter 1:6) as we value the long-term good instead of the instant gratification of the world.

Self-control restricts the indulgence of our foolish desires, and we find the liberty to love and live as we were meant to.

SELF-CONTROL

Our job is to walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16), and we can trust that God will take care of the rest!

By walking in the Spirit, we fully acknowledge that we don't have the power.

We can freely cry out to God in time of urgent need (when our fleshly impulses feel like they will overwhelm us, which they will without the Spirit's help), trusting in God's provision of power to walk (for what God commands, He always enables), submitting or yielding to the Spirit's leading, guiding and empowering and in the end experiencing the victory of Spirit enabled "self" control.

WHERE DO YOU NEED SELF-CONTROL?

1. Body

- Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and you are to glorify God with your body (1 Cor 6:19, 1 Cor 6:20).
- This includes getting proper rest (avoiding the extremes of laziness and being a workaholic) and exercise and eating a healthy diet of moderate proportions, so as to avoid the problems that come from eating junk food and being overweight, and controlling your body also requires godly control over your sexual desires.

2. Mind

- Our culture, feeds us through the media with ungodly ways to think and live.
- To be godly, you must control your mind (Phil 4:8; Col. 3:1, Col 3:2, Col 3:3, 4).
- To control your thought life, control what you read. Fill your mind with the Bible and with books that help you grow in godliness.
- Control what you expose your mind to (TV, movies, Internet, etc.) *

WHERE DO YOU NEED SELF-CONTROL?

3. Emotions

- You are not the helpless victim of your emotions.
- The fruit of the Spirit are promised to all that walk by the Spirit.
- If you live by constantly yielding to your emotions, you will not grow in godliness.
- Self-control means controlling your emotions for a higher goal.

4. Time

- “I don’t have time” is an excuse
- The question is, do you want to be godly? If so, cut out of your schedule the unnecessary things that get in your way of spending time with the Lord.

5. Finances

- We often complain that we don’t have enough money to pay bills, let alone to give consistently to the Lord’s work.
- Usually the problem is that we do not properly manage what the Lord has entrusted to us.

WHERE DO YOU NEED SELF-CONTROL?

6. Tongue

- Abusive speech or words that tear down others (even if we're j/k) are sinful (Col 3:8).
- Angry words and name-calling are sins (Ep 4:29, 30, Ep 4:31, 32).
- Lying is sin (Ep 4:25).
- Talking inappropriately about sex and telling dirty jokes are sins (Ep 5:3, 4).
- Gossip and slander are sins (Eph 4:31; James 4:11).
- Taking the Lord's name in vain is sin (Exodus 20:7; Matt. 6:9).
- To please God, you must learn to control your tongue (James 3:1-12).

WHERE DO YOU NEED SELF-CONTROL?

7. Relationships

- We must take the initiative to distance ourselves from anyone that pulls us toward the world or the flesh.
- Be careful about relationships with unbelievers, especially those that yoke you unequally, whether in marriage or in business (2 Cor 6:14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 7:1).
- If you are single, it is best to not date unbelievers, even to witness to them.
- If you develop friendships with unbelievers, be careful to keep in mind the aim of being a godly witness (Luke 5:29, 30, 31, 32; 1 Pet 4:1, 2, 3, 4, 5).
- Positively, work on developing godly, loving relationships, beginning with your mate and children.
- Practice biblical love on a daily basis.
- Ask God for a more mature person (men with men, women with women) who can help you grow in Christ.

SELF-CONTROL

You have called me to say no.
Not no to you
or no to others,
but no to myself.
I must say no to
selfish desires,
wrong thoughts, and
dangerous emotions.
I must say no to
the world's values,
sin's temptations, and
my desire to control

what only God can rule.
But left to myself,
I have little desire
or power to say no.
So you have given me
exactly what I need.
It's the only thing
that will solve my
problem.
You have given me
your Spirit.
So, when necessary,
I am able to say no.

By Paul Tripp - New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional

GO

- 1. Trusting in God**
- 2. Living by Faith**
- 3. Absolute belief in the Word of God**