

The Fruit of the Spirit

Week 6: Faithfulness

Introduction:

This week we talked about the flavor of faithfulness. Specifically, Holy Spirit led and empowered faithfulness to God and others. The word used in Galatians 5:22 is the same Greek word (Pistis) typically translated “faith”. In casual Greek, it was also used to describe someone who was reliable, could be depended on, kept their commitments and obligations, proving themselves worthy of trust. In this message, we will look at several truth about faithfulness:

1. Faithfulness (like all the other flavors) is a characteristic of God. God promised His faithfulness in numerous scriptures (Exodus 34:5-6) but more importantly has exhibited that aspect of His nature. Think Abraham (Gen 12 and following), David, Joseph and even Job. Ultimately in Christ is the faithfulness of God revealed to humanity. Jesus was likewise a tremendous example of faithfulness to God the Father and His plan as well as to the people He served both in His life and death (Philippians 2:6-8). He is faithful to you and me (1 John 1:9, 1 Cor. 10:13), something we depend on!!

2. His Faithfulness draws me to be faithful to Him. My heart is stirred by all He has done and is doing in my life. My response is a desire to be faithful to Him. Not by obligation or fear, but motivated by love, respect and appreciation.

3. Faithfulness to God is the foundation for all other faithfulness in our lives. Pursuing Spirit led, Word guided, living naturally results in faithfulness to our spouses, families, jobs, friends and relationships.

4. Why is Holy Spirit led and empowered faithfulness important? Because 1) my natural self (the flesh) still offers resistance. Even with good intentions, I need the Holy Spirit empowerment to be successful. (Galatians 5:16-17), and 2) Because faithfulness can be inconvenient, challenging and even hard... all things that I naturally try to avoid. Yet I find the strength for faithfulness through prayer, time in the Word, worship and other fellowship with God and His Spirit.

5. Faithfulness brings results. God uses people to bless, minister to, and encourage other people. To meet needs, share the Gospel, and otherwise advance the Kingdom. He promises that faithfulness is both fruitful and will be rewarded (1 Cor. 15:58, Hebrews 6:10)

Discussion Questions:

1. Share about a time someone has shown great faithfulness to you. How did it impact your life? How do you feel towards those who you can always rely on? Also, give one instance that you have experienced God's faithfulness in your life.
2. What are specific things that you are trusting for and depending on God for each day? How is he faithful in providing these? (*This is God's faithfulness to us*). What do you feel He is relying on you to do with your life? In what ways can we be faithful to what he's called us to do as Christians? (*This is our faithfulness to Him*).
3. What sort of things get in the way of people committing themselves to God and others and then being faithful? How can that be overcome in our lives?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-8. This speaks to the dedication of Christ as an example for our dedicated relationships with one another. What are 6 key words or phrases that characterize a committed, faithful relationship between ourselves and others?
5. Read 1st Corinthians 15:58. How is it that our work for God is never in vain? How can we trust that God will be faithful to his Word, even when we may not see immediate results?