



The Fruit of the Spirit
Lesson 4: The Fruit of Faithfulness & Gentleness

Main Text

Galatians 5:22, 23

The Fruit of Faithfulness

1. What is faithfulness?

Faithfulness is an extremely important fruit to cultivate in your life.

Matthew 25:21

Faithfulness is the best translation of the Greek word. However, it can also mean trustworthiness.

2. Daniel had the fruit of faithfulness.

Daniel 6:1-3

Daniel had an excellent spirit that made him stand out from amongst everyone.

Definition of EXCELLENT: _____

Daniel 6:4

It was Daniel's faithfulness that caused him to stand out.

3. What does the Bible say about faithful people?

Proverbs 20:6

Psalm 101:6

This is the one fruit that causes you to _____

God is actually looking for this character quality.

Proverbs 25:13

Finding a faithful person is refreshing.

4. The fruit of faithfulness equips believers to exercise stewardship over God's goods.

Genesis 2:4-8, 15

God made man to rule over His creation. He entrusted the garden to man to take care of it.

Because of Adam's unfaithfulness, he was banished from the garden.

God wants this fruit developed in us so that we will not lose the privilege of ruling where God has called us to rule.

Proverbs 28:20

Matthew 25:20, 21

The servants who invested and gave back more were called faithful.

5. The fruit of faithfulness enables believers to experience fellowship with the Father.

Numbers 12:1, 2, 5-8

The result of Moses' faithfulness was that God spoke with Him face to face.

Definition of PLAINLY: _____

If we are having a difficult time hearing God's voice clearly, we should check our faithfulness.

Jesus had such an intimate relationship with the Father that every time he was in a situation He would hear the Father's voice plain and clear.

What is the reason for this? – Faithfulness

Hebrews 3:1, 2

God speaks to those He can trust.

6. The fruit of faithfulness enables believers to experience the joy of pleasing the Father.

Matthew 25:21

Faithfulness on our part produces joy and appreciation within God.

Being faithful to God should be _____ in your life.

God is more interested in your faithfulness than in your accomplishments.

7. The fruit of faithfulness is cultivated by being faithful in little things.

Luke 16:10

“Least” does not mean that it is less important. It means least in size and amount.

8. The fruit of faithfulness is cultivated by being faithful with money.

Luke 16:11

9. The fruit of faithfulness is cultivated by always being aware of God’s presence in your life.

John 8:29

Jesus always knew the Father was with Him. This is one of the reasons He displayed faithfulness.

This can be seen in an example of a father teaching his son to ride a bicycle

The son will keep riding the bicycle without fear (remain faithful) as long as he is aware that his father is running next to him as he rides.

The Fruit of Gentleness

1. What is gentleness or meekness?

Gentleness is the attitude of a person that is slow to respond in anger and has control over himself in the face of insults an injury.

The Greek word gives us the picture of a strong willed person who has learned to submit his will to a higher authority. He is not a weak person. He is controlled. This kind of person is controlled even under difficult circumstances.

The presence of a gentle person will bring peace into a situation where others are angry and upset.

Gentleness also means:

- Self-controlled or slow to give and take offense

- _____

- _____

2. The fruit of gentleness enables believers to develop self-control or to be slow to give or take offense.

1 Peter 2:19, 20

This text is talking about when you suffer for being right, not wrong.

When you have gentleness developed in your life you have self-control and do not react when you are falsely accused, slandered, or persecuted.

Numbers 12:1-13

Moses had unjust and slanderous attacks against him.

Numbers 12:3 tells us that Moses was the most humble man on the earth.

Moses did not say a word until Numbers 12:13. When he finally spoke it was on behalf of the people who accused him!

His gentleness allowed God to move on his behalf and vindicate him.

Gentleness gave him self-control to refrain from defending himself. Therefore, God could work for him.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Gentleness is a character trait needed by a teacher and leader as he/she disciples people in their walk with Christ.

Sometimes as we teach people they reject our leadership. If we have gentleness cultivated we will not enter into offense with people who reject us.

3. The fruit of gentleness enables believers to be humble in spirit and lowly in mind.

Vines Bible Dictionary definition of GENTLENESS: The opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; meekness is not occupied with “self” at all.

Philippians 2:3, 4

When the fruit of gentleness is cultivated in your life you are more interested in the welfare of others than in your own welfare.

Exodus 32:30-32

Galatians 6:1

Definition of RESTORE: _____

The Vines Bible Dictionary describes the tense of “restore” as a continuous present tense. This suggests the necessity for patience and perseverance in the process of restoration.

Because restoration does not happen with immediate results, only someone with gentleness can restore a person over a long period of time.

4. The fruit of gentleness enables believers to be teachable.

James 1:21

Acts 18:24-28

Apollos was meek and gentle enough to receive from Aquila and Pricilla.

5. The fruit of gentleness is cultivated through denial of self.

Gentleness is the opposite of _____

Hebrews 11:24

Moses denied himself.

We have the same choice as Moses. We can identify with the world or take a stand as children of God.

Self-denial always comes before gentleness.

Philippians 2:5-8

We are either living for ourselves or living in God’s will.

Colossians 3:1-3