

Lesson 5

The Fruit of the Spirit - Faithfulness

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1. Using a dictionary define the word faithful.
2. List as many synonyms for faithful that you can find.
3. What insight do these synonyms give you into what it means to be faithful?
4. Define the word unfaithful.
5. List as many synonyms for unfaithful that you can find.
6. What insight do these synonyms give you into what it means to be faithful?

For Discussion:

A. Read through the Parable of the Talents recorded in Matthew 24:14-30. What does this story teach us about being faithful?

B. What do the following verses teach about being faithful?

- *1 Corinthians 4:2*
- *Luke 16:10*

- *Luke 16:11*

- *Luke 16:12*

For Discussion:

A. The economy of God is different from the economies of men. God rewards faithfulness more than results. If a person is called to be a parent and does that well they will receive an equal reward with the person that is called to preach who does that well. How does that concept encourage you to serve the Lord?

B. The word translated “faithfulness” in Galatians 5:22 is the Greek word “pistis” which is most often translated simply as faith.

- Define the word faith
- List as many synonyms for the word that you can find.
- How do these enhance your understanding of faith?

For Discussion:

A. What insights can you draw from thinking of faith as a fruit of the Spirit?

B. According to the following verses why is faith an important part of the Christian life?

Galatians 3:26

Ephesians 2:8

Romans 5:2

Romans 1:17

2 Corinthians 5:7

Ephesians 6:16

Matthew 17:20

1. Read the story of Jesus on the boat with His disciples recorded in Mark 4:35-41. Then take some time to answer the two questions recorded in verse 40

- Why were they so fearful?
- How is it that they had no faith? (Consider their previous experiences, why should they have trusted Jesus?)

2. What part do the following things play in helping our faith grow?

- Reading the Bible (See Romans 10:17)
- Spending time with people of faith (See 1Samuel 14:6-7)

- Going through difficult experiences

For Discussion:

A. Share an experience from your own life where you needed to exercise faith.

B. Share an experience in your life when you lacked faith and someone else's faith helped you to trust the Lord

C. Make a list of the areas of your life where you need to trust God and believe in His promises.

D. How can you solicit the assistance of other believers to help you trust the Lord through these things?

For Discussion:

A. Based upon what you discovered from these verses, how can we increase both our faith and our faithfulness?

B. What practical steps are you going to take to make this happen?

Faith and Faithfulness

Read 1 Timothy 1:12

1. What attribute did God recognize in Paul that equipped him for ministry?
2. Why is faithfulness essential to serving Christ?
3. Think of the following areas of ministry, how could faithfulness be expressed in each
 - Marriage
 - Parenting
 - Serving in church
 - Giving
 - Prayer
 - Witnessing to a family member
4. Since faithfulness is a key component to serving God, how can you be more faithful in participating in the local church?