

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Lesson Fifteen

THE HARVEST OF THE SPIRIT (continued)

After describing the 17 works of the flesh, we can readily see the beauty of the fruit of the Spirit, and once again emphasize that it is no wonder Paul concludes describing the fruit with the words “Against such there is no law.”

I. A HARVEST FOR OTHERS

LOVE:

The fruit of **love** mentioned in Galatians 5:22 is taken from the same word **AGAPE** as is the word **CHARITY** in I Corinthians 13:1.

This love is a **DIVINE** love which is tender while at the same time ardent and strong. It is a love **DEVOTED** to the well being of others.

This is the love whereby we are able to carry out Christ’s command to “love your enemies.”

Read together Matthew 5:43-48.

This agape love enables us to love the **UNLOVELY**. Some individuals are **DIFFICULT** to love.

I believe it was this love which enabled John, originally referred to as one of the “Sons of Thunder,” to become known as “the apostle of love.” The one whom legend tells us, when he was so old he could no longer preach, would say to the departing congregation, “Little children, **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**”

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1 John 4:7

LONGSUFFERING:

The ability to **PATIENTLY** bear long with the faults and frailties of others, **WITHOUT** murmuring and resentment.

The true fruit of the Spirit is victorious and voluntary. It suffers with a grin. Indeed, it can so cleverly conceal itself that onlookers **MISTAKENLY** imagine that the one in view has **NOTHING** to worry about, and no particular test for patience. That is victory. ²

To be longsuffering is to be **GOD-LIKE**. If it were not for the longsuffering of the Heavenly Father, mankind would have been annihilated long ago.

GENTLENESS:

To have a kind, **GENTLE**, soft **SPOKEN**, even-tempered manner.

Some Bible translators have translated the word **gentleness** to read **kindness**. Gentleness can often be misunderstood to be weakness. **NOT SO!** It requires **GREAT** strength to be truly gentle.

Jesus, our perfect example, is said to have welcomed the little children to fellowship with Him.

LESSER, **WEAKER** personalities would have scattered the children and sent them away.

STRENGTH is required to be gentle. Often it is the **INSECURE** individual who boasts and talks loudly of his accomplishments.

David, after his battle with Goliath, **DID NOT NEED** to wear a badge or button proclaiming his greatness. David’s greatness was evident for all to see.

It is usually the **FEARFUL** one who whistles loudly while walking past the cemetery on a dark night. One with courage can well afford to hold his peace.

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Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Psalm 18:35

II. A HARVEST FOR OURSELVES

JOY:

This joy Paul mentions here is not some EARTHLY JOY or GLADNESS which any heathen might possess.

It is not even dependent on what HAPPENS to us, as some have described HAPPINESS.

This joy is a fruit, a DIVINE possession which ABIDES when our hearts seem to be breaking. Like the **apple** hangs on the **apple tree** even when the weather is stormy, and the sun shines not, this joy is a fruit that is evident in the true Christian.

This joy comes not from everything going well for us, but RATHER it comes from ABIDING in the presence of God.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy PRESENCE is fulness of joy; at thy RIGHT HAND there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

This joy manifests itself at the most unexpected time, even to the SURPRISE of the one possessing it. In the darkest hour there is SOMETIMES a holy laughter that emanates from its possessor.

This joy enables us to OVERCOME almost impossible circumstances.

...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

This joy is an EXCITEMENT, a gladness and a DELIGHT, that enables us to have a deep settled peace and satisfaction.

PEACE:

The state of QUIET REST, repose and harmony with God and His plan for our lives.

There is NO PEACE, saith my God, to the wicked.

Isaiah 57:21

Peace I leave with you, MY PEACE I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

Governments are said to be at peace when there is an ABSENCE of a DECLARED war. Marriages are presumed to be at peace when they are in the state of COLD WAR.

But this peace, this harvest of the Spirit is MUCH MORE THAN a mere absence of fighting.

This peace DEFIES human reasoning. We sometimes find ourselves GETTING WORRIED that we are not GETTING WORRIED.

TEMPERANCE:

I think temperance can be easily defined as SELF-CONTROL. It is TRULY BEING in control of self. With temperance, we can live a life of moderation.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Philippians 4:5

We talk of temperance mostly in the physical realm, but we need temperance in the SPIRIT and SOUL as well.

III. A HARVEST FOR GOD

GOODNESS:

The state of being good. To be GOD-LIKE in character, life, and conduct.

There are people who manifest this attribute, and you just FEEL GOOD for having known them.

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*A good man out of the **GOOD** treasure of the **HEART** bringeth forth **GOOD** things: and an **EVIL** man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth **EVIL** things.*

Matthew 12:35

Cleverness has enabled many a man to “get by” for a time, but eventually any **FAILURE** in goodness of character will manifest itself.

Goodness is the part of the harvest of the Spirit upon which **ALL MINISTRIES** and **GIFTS** of the Holy Spirit can **SAFELY** be built.

FAITH:

Some Bible scholars believe the word **faith** in Galatians 5:22 should have been translated **FAITHFULNESS**, or fidelity.

God is absolutely trustworthy, or faithful. If we desire to be like God, **WE MUST** learn faithfulness.

*Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the **FAITHFUL** God, which **KEEPETH** covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;*

Deuteronomy 7:9

We have learned to **LOVE** and **ADMIRE** those faithful heroes of the Bible. Heroes, who **COULD NOT** have been heroes, had they **NOT** been found faithful.

At some point in our Christian growth, **WE MUST** determine that whether or not we ever become great, one thing we all can do **IS TO BE** faithful.

MEEKNESS:

To be patient in suffering injuries without feeling a **SPIRIT** of **REVENGE**. To have a kind balanced disposition

*But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of **GREAT PRICE**.*

1 Peter 3:4

The fruit, or harvest, of meekness is probably one of the **LESSER** desired by us, but one of **THE MOST** important to God.

*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, **LEST THOU** also be tempted.*

Galatians 6:1

We have Bible examples of very **STRONG** men who were also very **MEEK** men.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Numbers 12:3

Meekness is a **MUST** in those who would be servants of God.

As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:9