

Series: Faith By The Numbers
Title: Reformative Fruits of the Spirit
Text: (Gal 5:22-24)

Transforming Fruits of the Spirit:

These are how we respond to adversity.

These Transform us on the inside.

Love, Joy, Peace: Interior fruits; can be faked or masked.

Love **Vs. Self Love / Selfishness**
Voluntarily giving of myself to meet another person's basic needs without having the motive of personal reward.

Joy **Vs. Frustration / Self Pity**
The spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when my soul is in fellowship with God.

Peace **Vs. Worry**
To be safe from harm of spirit, mind, and body.

Transform before you can Conform: (Rom 12:1-2)
To change the way we Act, we must first change how we Think

Conforming Fruits of the Spirit: (Rom 8:29)
Un-Conform us from the World & Conform us to Christ.

Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness: Outward Manifested

Longsuffering: Def~ *an enduring temperament that expresses itself in patience with the shortcomings of others.*

Gentleness: *Freedom from Harshness, Softness in manner*

Goodness: *Conforming our lives and conversations to behave benevolently toward others.*

Benevolent: A disposition to do good; possessing love to mankind, a desire to promote their prosperity & happiness.

Goodness is actually an outer demonstration of the inner yielding to the fruit of love.

Mercy is the primary catalyst for yielding to the fruit of the Spirit~Goodness.

But distributing benevolence with a heart of mercy to the underserved, I know I will receive that same mercy back from God, both here and in the kingdom to come.

Reforming Fruits of the Spirit:
Faith, Meekness, Temperance:

Reforming us into a New Creature: (2 Cor 5:17)

Justification from the Penalty of Sin and
Sanctification from the Power of Sin are both
experienced by Faith.

Every Victory in the Christian life is experienced
because of the fruit of the Spirit~**Faith**.

By Contrast, Every Defeat in the Christian Life is
experienced because of the work of the flesh~**Doubt**.

I. What is the Definition of Faith? (Heb 11:1)
***Practically Explained: My Confidence Level in God
& His Word.***

Dissect and Define
(Heb 11:1) *Now faith is ...*

The primitive Hebrew root of this word means to
bind, tie, or a rod that holds something fast, like a
boat to a dock.

*the substance of things **hoped for**,*

*the **evidence** of things not seen.*

(Heb 11:6)
But without faith, it is impossible to please him:
So Faith is vital to pleasing God.

Step 1: for he that cometh to God (Explain)

Step 2: must believe (Assured if 2 things) w/o doubt
Step 2A: that he is,

***Step 2B: and that he is a rewarder of them that
diligently seek him. (He will Follow Through)***

***Faith is a Personal Measurement of the level of
confidence in what Christ has done and will do IN
Me, Through Me, and For Me.***

Justification is dependent upon faith information, but
Sanctification is dependent upon faith in a Personal
Relationship.

Gen 3: Eve doubted God's goodness to her.
She thought God was holding something back.
Man has always rejected the personal relationship
with God for the acquisition of information.
Man Assumes Knowledge is Power.
The knowledge of doing good on our own is
man's attempt to become his own god.
Knowing God is Power.

To satisfy man's penchant for knowing how to be like
God, he was given information in the form of
laws, commands, statutes, and judgements.
This was to take God's people out of the bondage of
barbaric behavior and to civilize them.

The purpose of each covenant God made with man was to picture the day when acquisition of information about God would become secondary to the development of a personal relationship with Him.

That day Came after Christ died and Rose Again,
Now Man accepts by Faith Christ's Atonement as payment for our sin, experience justification and freedom from the penalty of Sin.

To live this life dead to self & alive in Christ, we must live it by faith.

Yielding daily to faith will allow God to work in our lives.

Eventhough this makes us uncomfortable, God's power comes upon us to make us feel comfortable when we respond in faith.

When we run from the leading of faith, we are clinging to the fleshly alternative of Doubt.

This causes us to make decisions based on information rather than on our personal relationship with God.

What is DOUBT? *An attitude of unbelief, characterized by rebellion and disobedience to God.*

When we choose Doubt, we declare God to be a liar and presume to take control ourselves.

When we doubt, we are rejecting the boundaries of authority and choose instead to indulge in what the flesh thinks, wants, or feels.

Reasons for Doubt.

Mind Driven: Doubt b/c of Intellectual reasons.

Emotionally Driven: Doubt b/c of what they feel in their flesh.

An over emphasis on the music portion of the services can contribute to this also if not balanced with discipleship and preaching.

Willfulness: Doubt certain truths b/c their faith may disqualify them from doing what they want or from doing something the way they want to do it.

A whole church can be like this if the pastor is willful & unwilling to change. they place heavy burdens on their laborers.

To keep from living our fleshly desire of Doubt, we must yield to faith we have in the person & character of God, not our information about Him.

Reject your thoughts, desires, & feelings of doubt, & have faith in the God that took up residence inside you.

Faith will bring the power of God, not b/c you know more about Him, but b/c you know Him.

Develop our personal relationship with God by yielding to the Fruit of the Spirit~Faith.

(Dan 11:32) *And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.***

The More we get to know Him, the greater our Trust.

The Greater our Trust, the Greater our Faith.

It's not how much do we know about Him, but How well do we know Him.

(John 8:32) *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

II. Meekness:

Seldom noticed but usually appreciated.

In an evangelical sense, humility; resignation; submission to the divine will, without murmuring or peevishness; opposed to pride, arrogance and refractoriness. **Galatians 5:23.**

In the greek, the root word had to do with “*reducing Friction.*”

Meekness: *the ability for God's people to negotiate among others without causing friction.*

Friction arises from 3 components in any situation.

There are Your Weaknesses, Their Weaknesses, and the Devil, who tries to get us to improperly to each other's Weaknesses.

When approaching any situation involving friction, you have a bucket of oil, or a bucket of sand.

We decide if things are going to move forward smoothly or involve friction, by yielding to the fruit of the Spirit Meekness

Friction happens because someone's Pride is up:
(PROV 13:10) *Only by pride cometh*
CONTENTION: *but with the well advised is wisdom.*

(PROV 17:14) *The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off **CONTENTION**, before it be meddled with.*

(PROV 18:6) *A fool's lips enter into **CONTENTION**, and his mouth calleth for strokes.*

What is the Fleshly Benefit of Discord?

Our Fleshly Pride is satisfied if we can win the argument.

How are we to handle our pride?

(PROV 22:10) *Cast out the scorner, and CONTENTION shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.*

By using Meekness, we are able to help a person utilize their own strengths to overcome their own weaknesses.

Illus: In a Friction can cause a fire to start. Conflict is like a fire, and we have a bucket of gas in one hand, and a bucket of water in the other. Which one will you decide to use?

Meekness is not Weakness, but Power, under control:

(Gal 6:1-3)

Meekness Vs. Discord

Def~ Any disagreement which produces angry passions, contest, disputes, litigation, or war.

Discord can exist in any relationship.

Illus: Cain and Abel.

Values of Meekness vs. the dangers of Discord:

(James 3:13-18)

How can we alleviate Friction?

How does the Illustration of a bucket of oil, or a bucket of sand translate into your work environment?

III. Temperance Vs. Self-Indulgence

Temperance~ def. Spirit-controlled in all of life's pleasures.

Self-Indulgence~ def. When self Control ceases to control itself.

Temperance is listed last, but it is not the “Least” of all fruits, but the “Completion” of all the fruits.

It takes temperance to put us into a position of being Spirit-led believers.

Temperance DOES NOT MEAN Self-Control.

Temperance is Holy Spirit Control in all Life's Pleasures.

God has created pleasures for us to enjoy, the devil seeks to take those pleasures and turn them into objects of lusts.

To enjoys God's pleasures in a lustful way.
The absence of Spirit control is the single most fleshly action that produces habitual sins.

To fully enjoy the benefits God offers, we must yield to the fruit of the Spirit -Temperance.

We have a tendency to strive toward obtaining a level of righteousness in our own power that ultimately makes us self-righteous. "*Legalistic Sanctification.*"

God wants to develop our souls to yield to the inner man's leading of temperance.

God wants us to be under His control in the unpleasurable and the pleasurable circumstances of life.

The only way to avoid temptation completely is to sever your relationship with the outside world, like the cults do.

The devil tries to get us to give up the pleasures of life and to do good in our own power. Then he puts a temptation in our path, knowing that overcoming it in our own power is not enough to sustain victory. We eventually indulge in our fleshly desire, experience guilt, and thus are crippled in our evangelistic outreach.

1. As a result of God's work on our behalf, sin should be decreasing in our lives, not increasing. (Rom 6:1-2)
2. God destroyed the power that sin had over us so that we could serve someone other than self. This someone that we would serve (through submission to His leading) will bring us freedom. (Rom 6:6-7)
3. God does not want us to yield to those old desires anymore. The Power they had over us is gone, but the fleshly desire for them is still there. To destroy the desire, we must yield to God's power in our life. (Rom 6:12-14)
4. If we indulge fleshly appetites, they will grow stronger. If we feed our Spirit-led pipettes, they will grow stinger as well. Be Careful!!! God will never feed a fleshly appetite, but we will-after we tire of performing in our own power. (Rom 6:16,18)

Self Indulgence:

When we reject the Fruit of the Spirit~Temperance, we self indulge based on our Appetites.

3 Types of Appetites:

Some Appetites need to be satisfied: (Good Appetites)
We don't have Good Appetites naturally, we have to develops them by purposely feeding them.

Feeding them only temporarily satisfies them.

It is good that it is only temporary because we would never feed them otherwise.

If we feed good appetites they will grow.

What are good appetites.

God & I time, Church attendance, service, soul winning, family time, worth ethics, nutritional food, Exercise. (Mat 5:6)

These appetites must be regularly filled or the cares of this world will draw us dry.

God promises to feed us in these, this appetite leads to greater blessings.

Some Appetites need to be starved: (Sinful Appetites)

These appetites should never be fed.

When they are fed even slightly, they become insatiable.

They start off small, a look here, a click there, thought.

They are never fully satisfied and they will control us if indulged.

Some of these are in (Gal 5:19-21)

The more frequently recognized appetites:

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, Porn, Sex, Gambling.

Anger & Pride are every bit as destroying as Drugs, but we overlook those.

Other examples are the Devils counterfeits to the Fruits of the Spirit. These look acceptable, but are to be avoided.

Self Love, Frustration, Worry, Quick Temper, Harshness, Meanness, Doubt, Discord.

This is what the bible says about the dangers and disappointments of feeding appetites that God intends for us to Stave out.

(Ecc 6:7,9) Lust

(Ecc 5:10-11) Covetousness

(Eph 5:11-12) Bad Behavior, Childish naughtiness)

Some Appetites need to be Suppressed:

These are appetites that God gave us naturally, and was intended for our good pleasure, but if indulged in without restraint will lead to lusts that will eventually control us.

Food, sleep, relaxation, possessions, money, sexual relations with your spouse, work play, sports, news/talk radio, TV, Internet, etc.

(1 Cor 6:12) Paul realized the importance of controlling Good Appetites, and starving Bad ones, because he didn't want to be the servant of anything other than the Spirit of God.

Temperance is being under the control of God, not self.

Appetite control will require us to “*Put OFF*” the old man and “*Put On*” the new man. (Rom 13:14)

Even though we will fail from time to time, we must repeatedly take steps to “Walk in the Spirit.”

All of the fruits of the Spirit hang on the Fruit of the Spirit~ LOVE.

How can we develop our inner man to the position where we are abiding in Christ effectively enough to act and respond under the influence of the nine fruits of the Spirit?

- Here are some commitments to make on our part, and let God do the rest.

- Pray every day the God will allow circumstances in our lives that will break our outer man.

- Pray that those circumstances will cause us to yield to the inner man, allowing God's light to shine through that hole in our soul.

- Cultivate a heart for knowing God by developing our relationship with Him early, every day. (Don't eat until you have prayed; don't sleep until you have read, feed no fleshly appetite until your spiritual appetite is full.

- When we become aware of someone with a need, ask the Spirit how we should respond and individuals. (make it personal) If we are led to give, respond with the Fruit of the LOVE, giving of ourselves willingly without thought of return.

- If we will yield to love, then more often than not, the other fruits of the Spirit will fall in line because the “*Greatest of these is Love.*”