

The Fruit of the Spirit is Faithfulness

March 11, 2018

Scripture:

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. – Gal 5:22-23

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Gal 2:20

From the Introduction:

While the Christian life takes place “in the flesh”, it is nonetheless lived “by faith”. Not only are we justified by faith, but we also live by faith. This means that saving faith cannot be reduced to a one-time decision or event in the past; it is a living, dynamic reality permeating every aspect of the believer’s life.¹

¹ Timothy George, Galatians, vol. 30, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 201.

1) Its _____.

a) Its basis is the faithfulness of

_____.

b) Jesus Christ was faithful to his

mission, _____ himself for all.

2) Its _____.

a) Its response is one of _____

and belief.

b) Our response of faithfulness is

_____ what Christ did for us.

3) Its _____.

a) Its atmosphere is _____ trust.

b) Our life of faithfulness is grounded in

_____ belief.

Remember:

"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. (Hab. 2:4 ESV)

Reflect:

"By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into a unity within ourselves, whereas we had been scattered abroad in multiplicity." - St. Augustine

Seek:

- 1) Paul tells the Galatians, "the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God" (Gal 2:20). Give at least two examples from the life of Paul in Acts that express the true nature of his life of faith.
- 2) How does your faith life compare to his example?

Share:

- 1) Pastor Mark noted that the Greek word, *pistis*, for faithfulness used by Paul in Gal. 5:22 appears not as a verb form, but as a noun, and means “firm persuasion, conviction or veracity.” If faithfulness determines “who we are” and not “what we do,” then share the importance faithfulness plays to the things of God in your Christian walk.

Serve:

- 1) Knowing that faith requires more than action, it requires a life of service; what considerations do you need to make personally in order to bear the fruit of faithfulness on a daily basis?

Prayer:

This week, make a point in your prayer time to ask the Holy Spirit to grow within you an atmosphere of faith that is wholehearted and unwavering.