

## FOUNDATIONS, THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LESSON #6

**Intro. We are down to the last three in the list of the fruit of the Spirit.**

1. We have talked about love, joy, peace longsuffering, kindness, and goodness

- *I want to remind you these are the fruit of the "Spirit"*
  - a. It's not all up to us to produce this fruit
  - b. It's the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
  - c. Our responsibility is to be open and receptive to His working in our lives
  - d. As we allow Him room in our hearts, His fruit will grow

### **Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

## **I. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS \_\_\_\_\_**

### **A. IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, WHEN THE WORD "FAITHFULNESS" IS USED IT MEANS \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Faithfulness means something or someone can be \_\_\_\_\_
- a. As with all the other fruit of the Spirit, it is true of God

**1 Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV)** *God is faithful*, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- b. This is one of the most important things we can remember about God, ***He is faithful***
  - c. What this means is, we can count on Him
- *One of the greatest virtues we can possess or demonstrate in our lives is faithfulness*

**Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV)** Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?

- *The following story is lengthy, but it's worth taking the time to read because it gives us real insight into what faithfulness is all about*

**Matthew 25:14-30 (NKJV)**

14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

15 "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

16 "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

17 "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

18 "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

19 "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

21 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

22 "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

23 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

24 "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.'

30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- *The parable of talents gives insight into how God judges faithfulness*

**ex.** *The lord gave talents; 5,2,1; and then left. After a certain amount of time; he returned to see what was done with what he had given. 2 gained more / 1 just buried it.*

2. God places certain things into our hands and then watches to see \_\_\_\_\_

## **II. WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT TWO AREAS WHERE GOD WATCHES FOR OUR \_\_\_\_\_**

### **A. HE WATCHES FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS IN \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **Luke 16:10-13 (NKJV)**

10 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

1. One of the greatest tests of faithfulness is with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. God puts resources in our hands and watches
  - b. God desires to put resources in our hands
  - c. One of the greatest areas of testing is in what we do with what we have

**Malachi 3:10 (NKJV)** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

**quote:** *Corey ten Boom was asked why God had entrusted so much in her hands and she said, "I hold everything with a loose grip".*

## **B. GOD WATCHES FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS IN \_\_\_\_\_**

1. Ministry is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. We are all called to serve in some function in the body

**Colossians 4:17 (NKJV)** And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

- b. The same could be said for any one of us
  - c. God has placed some function of service in our lives to fulfill

### **Romans 12:4-8 (NKJV)**

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,  
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.  
6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;  
7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;  
8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- d. At every church service various members of the body are exercising their gifts

**ex.** *Children's church, nursery, music, ushering, preaching, giving, picking up people for church, being engaged in worship, being friendly to visitors, etc.*

- e. All of you right now are exercising your gift in the seat you're in; your presence makes a contribution to the whole

2. We have to allow God to reveal to us our \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Too many don't recognize the significance of their contribution
  - b. Some feel if they're not here they won't be missed, nothing is further from the truth

- *Our place is vital*

### **Acts 9:10-12 (NKJV)**

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.

12 "And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

- c. All of us have been given grace for some purpose in the body
- d. God watches to see that we are faithful

- *We need to see our significance / be an encourager / be a worshipper*
- *We have no idea the impact our lives will make until we're faithful with what God has put in our hands.*

3. God has given all of us an \_\_\_\_\_

- a. We all have a purpose in being here
- b. We're not meant to live just random lives
- c. We have responsibilities, to make Him known, to share His love, to work His works

- *We are His body and being such must be a "faithful" body*

**Matthew 24:46 (TLB)** Blessings on you if I return and find you faithfully doing your work.

## **III. A \_\_\_\_\_ TO CULTIVATE FAITHFULNESS**

### **A. OUR FAITHFULNESS OVER WHAT WE HAVE, DETERMINES WHETHER WE WILL \_\_\_\_\_**

**Matthew 25:29 (NKJV)** 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

**Luke 16:10 (NKJV)** "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

1. Here's our biggest problem with faithfulness: we hate to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV)** For who has despised the day of small things?

- a. There is a principal of increase
- b. We need to show faithfulness with the little in order to receive more

- *Faithfulness means trustworthiness*

**Quote;** "God is not looking as much for people who trust Him as much as He is people He can trust."

- *If we are faithful with what He has given; He'll give us more*

**B. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS WHERE WE ALL CAN SEE THE NEED FOR \_\_\_\_\_**

1. The more we allow the Spirit of God to move in our lives the more \_\_\_\_\_
2. Our faithfulness isn't dependent on mere \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. We will never be faithful because of our own initiative

**Ephesians 5:18 (NKJV)** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

- b. This "*be filled with the Spirit*" is written in the progressive sense, "*be being filled*"

- *How to "be being filled"*

**Luke 11:13 (NKJV)** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

- c. We need to ask, daily, "Father I ask for the fullness of the Spirit to be released in my life and I allow the Spirit of God to move in and through me."

**Prayer and Confession:** *Father, thank You for being a faithful God. I never have to worry about whether You will be there for me. Holy Spirit, I give You access into my heart, to cultivate the fruit of faithfulness. Help me to be trustworthy and dependable over all that You have put into my hands; my time, my finances, and my life. I believe that as I'm faithful over the small things, You will put greater things into my life. Father, fill me with the Holy Spirit and His fruit, in Jesus' name.*

## **FILL IN THE BLANKS FROM LESSON #6**

### **I. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS     (FAITHFULNESS)**

**A. IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, WHEN THE WORD "FAITHFULNESS" IS USED IT MEANS           ("TRUSTWORTHINESS")**

1. Faithfulness means something or someone can be     (depended on)
2. God places certain things into our hands and then watches to see           (what we'll do with them)

### **II. WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT TWO AREAS WHERE GOD WATCHES FOR OUR           (DEPENDABILITY)**

**A. HE WATCHES FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS IN           (FINANCES)**

1. One of the greatest tests of faithfulness is with           (our money)

**B. GOD WATCHES FOR OUR FAITHFULNESS IN           (MINISTRY)**

1. Ministry is           (service)
2. We have to allow God to reveal to us our           (significance)
3. God has given all of us an           (assignment)

### **III. A           (SELFISH REASON) TO CULTIVATE FAITHFULNESS**

**A. OUR FAITHFULNESS OVER WHAT WE HAVE, DETERMINES  
WHETHER WE WILL \_\_\_\_\_(RECEIVE MORE)**

1. Here's our biggest problem with faithfulness: we hate to \_\_(**start  
small**)

**B. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS WHERE WE ALL CAN SEE THE NEED  
FOR \_\_\_\_\_(IMPROVEMENT)**

1. The more we allow the Spirit of God to move in our lives the more  
\_\_\_\_\_ (**faithful we'll become**)
2. Our faithfulness isn't dependent on mere \_\_\_\_\_(**will power**)