

"The Application of Grace"

Galatians 5-6

Part 7

Introduction: Tonight, as we come back to our study of Galatians, we are stepping back into chapter 5 where Paul is explaining the Fruit of the Spirit.

Notice Galatians 5:19-23

Here in these verses Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the Fruit of the Spirit. The word "Fruit" is singular which means this is all one fruit. It is the Fruit of the "Spirit" which means it is not something that we can produce in our own power, but it is only produced by the Spirit. There is no law or set of rules that we can follow that will produce this fruit in our lives. There is no law or set of rules that will lead us into a holy life. A holy life only comes by the power of the Holy Spirit living out the life of Jesus Christ in and through us. This life is only produced in the believer by the Spirit of God when we walk in the Spirit.

In our study we have been looking at what this life looks like as we walk in the Spirit. As the Spirit controls us He will then produce the Fruit of the Spirit. So far, we have looked at 6 of the 9 virtues of the Fruit of the Spirit.

- a. Love
- b. Joy
- c. Peace
- d. Long-suffering
- e. Gentleness
- f. Goodness

This now brings us to where we are this evening.

➤ **"The Fruit of the Spirit"**

➤ **Part 3**

Notice Galatians 5:22-23

- g. Faith

This word speaks of faithfulness. It is steadfastness, constancy, or allegiance; it is carefulness in keeping what we are entrusted with. It is staying true to God and to our

commitments. It is being faithful no matter what the surrounding situation is like. The Greatest example would be Jesus as He was sent into this world to be the Savior of the world. Regardless of the tests and the trials He never strayed from His mission, but He was faithful to what the Father had called Him to do. Some other examples of faithfulness are found in Hebrews 11 where we find a list of faithful people. What was the key to their faithfulness?

Hebrews 11:13-14

¹³ *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

¹⁴ *For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.*

These people remained faithful as they kept their focus upon what God had promised and not on what was happening around them. They had faith in the unseen promises of God. The key to our faithfulness is to be surrendered over to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to live the faithfulness of Jesus Christ through our lives. It happens as we walk by faith in what the Word of God says about us.

Hebrews 10:38a

³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith:*

h. Meekness

This refers to a humble gentle attitude that expresses itself in a soft manner. This virtue does not in any way seek vengeance or revenge. As the Holy Spirit lives this virtue in us it will manifest itself with controlled strength. There will be the ability to bear reproaches and offenses without bitterness and resentment; the ability to provide a comforting influence on someone who is in a state of anger, bitterness, and resentment. The opposite of this would be arrogance. The person who is not controlled by the Spirit will seek to retaliate with sharp bitter words and always looking to get in the last word. This person will desire to inflict pain back on the person who has caused pain in their life. The opposite of meekness can be seen in much of the world. Let us notice how James uses the word.

James 1:21

²¹ *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*

Here in James the word "meekness" has the idea of having a teachable spirit. It has the idea of accepting the Truth no matter how painful it may be. Notice the words of Barclay on the teachable spirit.

"The teachable spirit is without resentment and without anger and is, therefore, able to face the truth, even when it hurts and condemns. The teachable spirit is not blinded by its own overmastering prejudices but is clear-eyed to the truth. The teachable spirit is not seduced by laziness but is so self-controlled that it can willingly and faithfully accept the discipline of learning."

So, what does this look like in our lives as we are controlled by the Holy Spirit? We will be someone who has control of their emotions even when offended. We will be willing to admit when we are wrong, and we will be willing to listen when the Truth is taught. As we are filled with the Spirit we will welcome the Truth that is spoken into our lives because we will desire with all we have to live our lives to glorify our Lord.

i. Temperance

Temperance refers to self-control. This is having control of our emotions and desires. It is very important that Paul uses this word here. Let us keep in mind that the Judaizers who had infiltrated the churches of Galatia had come in teaching that a believer had to be under the Law or they would live a life of licentiousness, or a life given over to sin. But here we can clearly see that it is not the Law, it is not a set of rules, and it is not some "program" set up by the church that gives the believer power over his or her emotions or desires, but it is the Holy Spirit. It is only the power of Jesus Christ lived through us by the Spirit that will free a person from being controlled by their emotions. We absolutely cannot control the flesh in our own power... not now and not ever! Don't fall into this trap. The only One Who can control the fallen flesh is the Holy Spirit! Our part is to walk by the Spirit, acknowledging we don't have the power, and then trusting in His promises and power.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

⁴ *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Notice Galatians 5:23 again.

Paul ends this list with a very interesting statement. He tells his readers that there is no law against these virtues. In other words, these virtues are produced by the Spirit and there is no law against them that can stop them and at the same time there is no law that can produce them in a believer's life. These virtues are only produced in the believer's life if the believer is walking in the Spirit. Let us also remember that the flesh can counterfeit these virtues as well. But the person who is controlled by the Spirit will manifest each of these virtues, not just a couple. These virtues come as a package for the Holy Spirit will produce each one when He controls our lives.

Notice Galatians 5:24

Here is the reason why the Holy Spirit is able to manifest these virtues in our lives. It is because the sin nature has been crucified with Jesus Christ. Before we were saved, we were controlled by our sin nature, and we were free from righteousness.

Romans 6:17-20

¹⁷ *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

¹⁹ *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

²⁰ *For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

Then when we were saved, we were baptized into the body of Jesus Christ and as a result we were crucified with Jesus and now the sin nature has been stripped of his controlling power.

Romans 6:3-6

³ *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

⁴ *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

⁵ *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

⁶ *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Notice Galatians 5:25

The word "IF" can also be translated "SINCE" because it is not a question as to whether we live in the Spirit because we do. He illuminates the Word of God, He ministers to us in everyday life situation, He blesses us with spiritual blessings such as wisdom, comfort, discernment and so on. Therefore, since we live in/by the Spirit, Paul tells us that we should also walk in the Spirit.

Notice Galatians 5:26

Here Paul gives a warning to the saints. Do not be desirous of vain glory. What is he speaking of? When a believer begins to walk in the Spirit there may be the desire to think highly of his or herself and therefore accepting the glory for their walk. But this would be vain glory because if there is any holiness scene in our lives it is because the Holy Spirit has manifested the Fruit of the Spirit. If there is holiness in our lives it is not because we have somehow trained the flesh to live in holiness. That is not possible. There is no good thing in our flesh. Therefore, as we walk with the Spirit and He manifests His Fruit all the glory belongs to the Lord and none to us. This vain glory leads to the believer thinking they are better than other believers, which then leads to envy and strife. Paul wants the believers he is writing to to understand that this potential was in every one of them. This potential is also in each and every one of us. Notice the words of Spurgeon.

"We call it glory, but if vain glory it is marred by vanity if it arises from anything done by us. Glory for you or for me because of anything that we can do is too absurd an idea to be entertained for a moment. (Why is this to be avoided?) For, whenever a man is proud, and blustering, and vain-glorious, he is sure to provoke somebody or other, and then they who are so provoked fall into another sin, the sin of envying one another."

Conclusion:

This section of Galatians is one of the most important passages for us as believers. God desires for us to live in a way that Jesus is seen in us. He is committed to making us like His Son and he promises to complete what He has started. We cannot live the Christian life on our own. We will do not but fail miserably because we do not have the ability. But

God has given us His Spirit to live the life of Jesus in us. There are two important verses to keep in mind.

Ephesians 4:30

³⁰ *And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

The Holy Spirit loves the believer, but when the believer does that which He hates (because of His holiness), He is grieved. Sin grieves the Holy Spirit and He refuses to fill an unclean vessel. So, we must abide in fellowship by confessing our sin.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

¹⁹ ***Quench not the Spirit.***

Notice the words of George Zeller on this verse.

"Think of a campfire. A campfire can do many things. It can warm the campers, boil water, cook hot dogs and marshmallows. If someone comes along and throws a bucket of water on the fire, then it can no longer do its work. The fire has been quenched. The Spirit of God is like a mighty flame, and He is able to help the believer burn brightly for the Lord. He wants to get us on fire for the Lord. He wants to work in us to produce the wonderful fruit of the Spirit in our lives. He wants to do a mighty work in us, conforming us to the image of God's Son. He desires to live out the life of the Lord Jesus Christ in us. We quench the Holy Spirit whenever we do not allow Him to do His wonderful work in us. How do we quench the Spirit? How do we put out His fire and hinder His working in us? We do this whenever we say "NO" to God, whenever we are unwilling to yield to Him and do His will. Think of a stubborn mule who insists on going his own way. How can God control us if we insist on having our own way and resisting what God wants us to do? Thus, we are quenching God's Spirit whenever we are resisting His will and opposing His Word and refusing to yield to Him."