

The Fruit of Faithfulness

Galatians 5:22

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

October 27, 2019

Introduction

- “Old Reliable” breaks down!
- Our society values dependability
- The current cultural struggle to make commitments
- Review of the “Fruit of the Spirit”
 - The foremost fruit of “Love”—the giving of ourselves to God for the benefit of others.
 - The fruit of “Joy”—an attitude of the heart based on spiritual realities.
 - The fruit of “Peace”—tranquility of mind, an inner repose or quietness.
 - We cannot know the peace of God until we are at peace with God!
 - We experience the peace of God by practicing the presence of God by believing prayer, by proper thinking, and by practicing God’s Word.

The Fruit of Faithfulness

A. The Meaning of “Faith”

1. Can mean the act or state of believing in someone or something.
 - a. Paul talks a lot about “faith” in Galatians—mentioned over 20 times.
 - b. Salvation is by God’s grace through faith PLUS nothing. Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9
 - c. We live by faith—Galatians 2:20
 - d. We look to the future in faith.—Galatians 5:5
2. Can also mean “faithfulness”—the state of being someone in whom complete confidence can be placed. Someone who is dependable, steadfast, trustworthy.

B. The Model of “Faithfulness”—God Himself

1. Evidence of God’s Faithfulness
 - a. In the midst of human suffering—Lamentations 3:22-24
 - b. In times of pressure, stress, and temptation—1 Corinthians 10:13
 - c. In keeping and perfecting us, developing Christ-like character traits in us. 1 Thess. 5:23; Phil. 1:6
 - d. In forgiving our sins—1 John 1:9
2. The Basis for God’s faithfulness—2 Timothy 2:13 God must be true to Himself

C. The Making of Faithfulness in Us

1. The Basis: Inner, deep seated convictions produced in us by the Spirit of God that enables us to be true to who we are in Christ and keep going when the going gets rough.
2. Specific areas for Faithfulness
 - a. Decisiveness in our **Words!**
 - 1) Paul’s experience at Corinth—His “Yes” means “Yes”
 - 2) Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount—“Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’, ‘No!’”
 - 3) Solomon’s warning about making rash vows—Ecclesiastes 5:2-5
 - 4) Keep our promises unless divinely altered. 2 Corinthians 1:23; 2:1
 - b. Dependability in our **Work!**
 - 1) Two first-century dependable workers: Tychicus and Epaphras Colossians 4:7, 12-23; 1:7
 - 2) God’s requirements for “stewards”—1 Corinthians 4:2; 15:58
 - 3) The Apostle Paul was a “finisher”—2 Timothy 4:7
 - 4) Obstacles on the course of faithfully serving the Lord.
 - 5) Let’s strive to hear these words from Jesus: “Well done, good and faithful servant”