

Lesson 22

God's Standards for Life

For each one of us making it to this lesson, we have come to what may be looked back upon as the best part of this course. God's standards for life, as we will see today: can be summarized in the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is not something we set about as our goal we are aiming at and doing well in this area or that. The Fruit of the Spirit is actually the *evidence* of Christ at work within us.

When Christ is operating unobstructed we have: love flowing through us, joy surrounding us, peace permeating our hearts and minds. See, it is the byproduct of Christ's rule; and the evidence of surrender to His Spirit.

That is why this is the BEST lesson. God's Standards for Life are what we have as the goal of each one we disciple or counsel. As Paul said we want them to grow up to the measure of Christ (Ephesians 4). That then takes us to the way or process of such Christlikeness and it is His personality, lived in us reflecting Christ as our Master.

Note what Scripture is the very first teaching element of lesson 22, it is printed right there on the opening page of the lesson:

Galatians 5:22-25 (NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Now look again at the lesson title and think of the connection: God's Standards for our lives as Believers are clear, they are noted as the Fruit of the Spirit. That will be the lesson for this week. What God's Standards are for life in the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in us.

Look at Page 400's boxed note: God has begun His good work in you and purposes to mature (perfect) you throughout your life (based on Romans 8:28-29; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Philippians 1:6; James 1:2-4). You are responsible to walk in God's way and to **cooperate with His work in your life** (based on Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:10, 2:6-7).

Our study this week is how to cooperate with His work in our life by:

EXHIBITING THE _____ OF JESUS CHRIST = THE
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (APRIL 16)

Look at Principle 100 on p. 401: The key to **fruitfulness** in your life is to fear (have reverence for) God (Psalm 111:10, 145:19; Proverbs 1:7, 3:8, 9:10, 14:27, 19:23; Ecclesiastes 8:12-13, 12:13-14) and consistently keep His commandments in every aspect of your life (be a doer of the Word) (based on Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Matthew 7:24-27; John 14:21, 23; 15:10-11; James 1:25; 1 John 3:22).

Look at Page 403's boxed note: In every relationship and in every situation, you are to **exhibit the character of Jesus Christ** through your obedience to God's Word (based on Matthew 5:13-16; John 15:1-10; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17; Colossians 2:6-7; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 1:2-10).

Next week we will be enlarging this chapter's lesson as we dive into:

TRUSTING _____ TRUTHS ABOUT GOD (APRIL 23)

Look at Principle 98 on p. 401: God's standards are always consistent and are never subject to the whim of the moment. **His commands are changeless** (Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25); they do not fluctuate with the age in which you live (based on Psalm 19:7-11, 119:89, 160; Proverbs 30:5-6) **because God Himself is changeless** (based on Exodus 3:14-15; Malachi 3:6; John 8:57-58; Hebrews 1:10-12, 13:8).

Then, the last week of Lesson 22 we dive into one of the most practical of all the applications of Spirit-filled, fruit-bearing, life and that is:

UNDERSTANDING THE _____ OF SUFFERING (APRIL 30)

Principle 104: Do not be surprised at trials, even if they seem fiery; instead, rejoice in them because God uses them to develop Christlike maturity in your life (based on Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13). Be prepared to be reviled **and to suffer** persecution because of your commitment to Jesus Christ and your faithfulness in being obedient to God's Word (based on Matthew 5:10-12, 10:16-28; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-19). If you should **endure suffering** for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed of the Lord (based on Matthew 5:10-12; Luke 6:22-23; James 5:10-11; 1 Peter 3:13-17, esp. verse 14, 5:6-10).

Principle 105: Establish and maintain biblical standards that will encourage you and your children (if any) toward godliness. Identify godly traits that need to be developed within you, along with corresponding biblical responsibilities and activities which will demonstrate Christlikeness (based on Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:4, 4:1, 4:17-6:9; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:12-24; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; 2 Peter 1:2-10).

Now as we turn to Galatians 5:22-25 we begin a study of what may possibly be the most important element of all our Biblical Counseling & Discipleship. We teaching those that we both counsel in their emergencies, as well as those we disciple for the long-term changes that God wants above all else for them to be:

EXHIBITING THE CHARACTER OF JESUS CHRIST = THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (APRIL 16)

Back to Principle 100 on p. 401: The key to **fruitfulness** in your life is to fear (have reverence for) God (Psalm 111:10, 145:19; Proverbs 1:7, 3:8, 9:10, 14:27, 19:23; Ecclesiastes 8:12-13, 12:13-14) and consistently keep His commandments in every aspect of your life (be a doer of the Word) (based on Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Matthew 7:24-27; John 14:21, 23; 15:10-11; James 1:25; 1 John 3:22).

Then over to Page 403: In every relationship and in every situation, you are to **exhibit the character of Jesus Christ** through your obedience to God's Word (based on Matthew 5:13-16; John 15:1-10; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17; Colossians 2:6-7; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 1:2-10).

Today God expects the evidence of Christ's rule over every part of our life to show up by the growing crop of His fruit in our life as His child¹. That fruit grows in the good soil of a surrendered heart; and that good heart is made good by God, in a process called the new birth. Remember, that is where we started way back in Lesson 1?

SALVATION IS A _____ TRANSFORMATION: INSIDE TO OUT

We all were born bearing fruit, only it was bad fruit – that is why God saved us, He wanted to change us from being a bad tree bearing bad fruit into being a good tree bearing good fruit. Fruit means change and that is what God is seeking in your life and mine this morning.

Twenty-six hundred years ago God explained the new heart that bears fruit in Ezekiel 36. Turn there with me and see what He says.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you (that is when God gives us the good heart of Mark 4:8 & 20);

I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh (then God removes the hard, crowded, and shallow hearts);

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes (then God gives us the power of His Spirit so we can do what God expects);

and you will keep My judgments and do them (that is our responsibility to respond in the fruitfulness that God expects from us).

There is no heart God can't change. There is no life, no past, no sin, no stain, no failure, and no habit that God can't change if you will let Him. Are you letting the Lord change you? Are you responding? Is Jesus Christ controlling you more each day?

¹ Drawn from 040725AM from the MP3 CD Walking with Jesus Through the Gospel by Mark, Message 58.
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CHRIST WANTS TO _____ MY ATTITUDES:

This is all about what we do with our minds. This is how we relate to life and people. God wants to come in and transplant the personality of gentle humility, which is Christ-likeness, into each of our lives as believers. This is a life-long process. It is a part of God's Recovery Program, which He calls Sanctification.

Has God said anything about that mind? Yes – He wants to capture our thoughts as 2nd Corinthians 10:4-5 details; He wants to then turn them above and get them tuned to Him as Col 3.1-2 explains; and then He wants to start shaping my Attitudes so that they reflect His Personality. That is what the fruit of the Spirit is all about in Gal 5:22-25.

GOD WANTS TO CAPTIVATE MY _____. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

GOD WANTS TO DRAW MY _____: Colossians 3:1-2

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

GOD WANTS TO TRANSFORM MY _____: Galatians 5:16-

26 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 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. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

SANCTIFICATION: A _____ CHOICE TO SURRENDER

At any point in time, we are either walking in the flesh or in the Spirit. There are fifteen manifestations of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. Of these, eight deal with interpersonal

problems. It is not enough to say that we have always struggled in these areas, or to just say, “Oops, I sinned” and go on.

Instead, the Scriptures show us that a truly spiritual person will be growing in a visible way in each of the nine areas described as “the fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22-23—all of which will greatly impact our relational lives:

But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like:

1. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Love is the absence of selfishness and the presence of affection for others. It is the product of the Holy Spirit present in our lives (Rom. 5:5), so it remains even in the harshest and most difficult times because we don’t produce the love—the Holy Spirit does! The word *agape* is the love of choice, referring not to an emotional affection, physical attraction, or a familial bond, but to respect, devotion, and affection that leads to willing, self-sacrificial service (John 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 3:16-17).

Ask yourself: *Can others trace my progress in expressing God’s love? Am I less selfish and self-seeking than I was last month?*

2. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Joy is the spiritual quality that releases us from circumstances because our happiness is based on unchanging divine promises and eternal spiritual realities. It is an exuberance about life, through Christ. Christian joy is not a shallow emotion that, like a thermometer, rises and falls with the changing atmosphere of the home. Rather, Christian joy is a deep experience of adequacy and confidence in spite of the circumstances around us. The Christian can be joyful even in the midst of pain and suffering. This kind of joy is not a thermometer but a thermostat. Instead of rising and falling with the circumstances, it determines the spiritual temperature of the circumstances. Paul put it beautifully when he wrote, “*I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content*” (Phil. 4:11). Joy is a gift from God; as such, believers are not to manufacture it but to delight in the blessing they already possess (Rom. 14:17; Phil. 4:4).

Ask yourself: *Do those who know me and watch my life see me as a joyful person?*

3. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Peace is the internal serenity that only God can give. Jesus said not to live tomorrow’s challenges today, but to trust what lies ahead to Him. Troubles are not absent; rather, God is present! When the Holy Spirit is not grieved, the Dove of Peace is able to alight on the heart. Peace is an inner calm that results from confidence in one’s saving relationship with Christ. The verb form denotes binding together and is reflected

in the expression “having it all together.” Like joy, peace is not related to one’s circumstances (John 14:27; Rom. 8:28; Phil. 4:6-7, 9).

Ask yourself: *Has peace become more and more a way of life for me this year?*

4. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Patience (“longsuffering” in KJV) is the absence of personal irritation at the actions of others. It is a willingness to stick with things. It is that bearing long with people that Paul spoke of in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Patience is also one of the supreme attributes of God. It is His character that is revealed as being gracious and longsuffering. (See Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; 2 Peter 3:9.) This is patience or the ability to endure injuries inflicted by others and the willingness to accept irritating or painful situations (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 1:15-16).

Ask yourself: *Am I more patient than I was three months ago? Or less? If I am not increasing in patience, is it because I am not yielding and submitting to the Holy Spirit?*

5. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Kindness is a beautiful reflection of God in our lives, by having Christ's compassion in our heart. It is when we chose to avoid an abrasive manner in our dealings with people. It is when we choose to live out Ephesians 2:8 and 4:32. Kindness is seen as sensitivity toward others that produces deeds of self-sacrifice and love—even toward the unlovely and undeserving. Kindness will soften any word or act that might hurt another.

Ask yourself: *Is my character showing an increasing tendency toward personal kindness in the way I treat others?*

6. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Goodness is being Godlike, which is the opposite of fallen humanity. The example of Jesus should be our guide for life—everywhere we are we should touch those around us with His goodness. It is a conviction that a basic holiness should permeate everything we have and do.

Ask yourself: *Am I a visibly better person than last year? Does the Lord and the godly mentors He has put in my life, see me doing good to all those around me?*

7. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Faithfulness refers to a trustworthy and dependable life involved in loyal commitments. A faithful person keeps their own life in order so that you can count on them. Like Psalm 15 speaks of, this type person always keeps their word. Faithfulness is the same as loyalty and trustworthiness (see Lam. 3:22; Phil. 2:7–9; 1 Thess. 5:24; Rev. 2:10).

Ask yourself: *Am I making strides in reliability and dependability?*

8. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Gentleness is better translated “meekness,” which is the opposite of asserting ourselves. It means we do not need to force our way in life. The Lord said that the meek were the ultimate winners (Matt. 5:5). Those who are servants of the Lord must not strive (2 Tim. 2:24). They must resist selfish ambition because that is a reflection of Satan, not God (James 3:14-16).

Ask yourself: *What shape is my personal agenda in? Is it intact and my rights being defended? Or, is it as Christ desires—in hopeless shape, crucified with Him and fading?*

9. ARE YOU INVITING CHRIST'S _____ TO ABIDE IN YOU?

Discipline (“self-control” in KJV) refers to restraining passions and appetites (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Pet. 1:5-6) and is defined by the Greek Dictionary as “a virtue, which consists in mastery of the appetites and passions, especially the sensual ones.” By the Spirit’s power we become able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. The only force that can control our flesh is the Holy Spirit. When yielded to the Spirit, we become vessels that are worshipful sacrifices to Him, and no longer to self. Self cannot control self; flesh is not able to harness flesh. Only the Spirit can discipline us.

Ask yourself: *Do others see me as graciously under the control of God’s Spirit of Discipline? Am I beating under and giving knockout blows to my flesh—like Paul in 1 Corinthians 9:27?*

CHRIST WANTS US TO _____ HIM TO TRANSFORM OUR PERSONALITY

When God’s Spirit is at the helm, there is a remarkable change in our homes, churches, and lives. We see that as believers we are in the same family—God is our Father. We are headed toward a common goal—heaven. We serve a common Master—Jesus. We follow the same Guide—His Word. And share the same passion—that Christ gets all the glory.

So in our lives the anointing of the Holy Spirit is the **moment-by-moment** appropriation of God’s power over the pests that irritate and nag us in life. Only the Holy Spirit can free us from frustrations and irritations. Only the Holy Spirit can quiet us and bring us to contentment.

At salvation we received all of the Holy Spirit. But **to possess** Him and **to be controlled** by Him are two vastly different conditions. It’s the application that matters.

The fruit of the Spirit is actually a list of Christ's personality traits when the Holy Spirit runs our lives. There are 9 evidences called the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23:

LOVE

JOY

PEACE

LONGSUFFERING

KINDNESS

GOODNESS

FAITHFULNESS

GENTLENESS

SELF-CONTROL

The Holy Spirit pours His **LOVE** over my **STRIFE**, and brings **PEACE**.

The Holy Spirit pours His **JOY** over my **ENVY**, and brings **PEACE**.

The Holy Spirit pours His **PEACE** over my **DISPUTES**, and brings **PEACE**.

The Holy Spirit replaces my personality with Christ's. The results are dramatic, life changing and overflowing. There is always enough left over for others, an overflowing life is meant to be shared. The fruit of the Spirit is for me. The overflowing life is for others.

DISCUSSION TIME

Here is our plan for tonight:

1. *Go back through this lesson* and each of you choose one of the paragraphs or lines of this lesson that struck you personally, as we studied.
2. Then, *go around the table and explain* what truth the Lord touched to your heart, and invite the members of your table to pray with you about that area in the week ahead.
3. *Mark on your study booklets* the name of your tablemate, next to the truth of that line or paragraph so that you can remember what to pray for.
4. *Pray for them in that area*, as well as your area that you shared, this week.
5. Next week, or on Sunday, *find them and tell them you prayed*; and ask how they are seeing the Lord at work in their lives because of inviting Christ to transform their personality.

This is New Testament edification. This is building up one another in Christ. This is Bible-based, Spirit-empowered Biblical admonition (remember *noutheteo* is to allow God to use us to place a Scripture truth upon the mind of a believer).

This is how we can do Biblical counseling and discipleship where ever we are, for as long as we live. Amen!

FOR FURTHER STUDY

One of my favorite illustrations of what God wants to do is the documented change that took place in a generation of people from 1910-1931. To understand what God can do when He

changes a heart turn with me now to Galatians 5.19. As I read these verses let me introduce you to the people of the 8 tribes that C. T. Studd worked among for 21 years. Their biography was written by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5.16-21

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are:

adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, *(these headhunting tribes constantly stole women, violated them, and treated them as their own personal livestock – and had done so for generations);*

idolatry, sorcery, *(the cannibals were lovers of the dark, they were worshipping demons, fearing spirits, and total servants of the Devil and had been for centuries);*

hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, *(these tribes men killed for sport, loved to eat the flesh of their enemies, swore oaths of revenge and hatred, and had no regard for human life);*

selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; *(these primitive savages lived to eat, drank themselves drunk, danced naked around the fires to the worship of their spirit masters, and sank in revelry until they passed out to sleep on the ground until daylight.)*

of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

So modern history testifies to what will happen to those who accept the Word. To illustrate that go back with me to 74 years ago this month, and meet a living legend named² CT Studd. After serving 15 years in China and 6 in India, he invested his final 21 in the heart of Africa's vast, dark jungles among the fierce, cannibal, head-hunting pygmies.

Once³ a lean and fit professional athlete, C.T. is now gaunt and emaciated. He is hunched over, halting with each step. But in July 1931 he is surrounded by thousands of glistening black bodies wearing banana leaves. The pygmies of the heart of Africa's jungles have come to hear their beloved Bwana for the last time. He speaks to them only after over two hours of singing the songs he had so lovingly taught them:

“Wounded for me, wounded for me,
there on the cross He was wounded for me,
gone my transgressions and now I can sing,
all because Jesus was wounded for me!”

There in front of his cot sit 5,000 former headhunters.

Once their bodies were the habitation of dark, foul fiends from the pit – now they are temples of the Living God.

² Born 1858, and went on after salvation to serve in China 1885-1900; then to serve in India 1900-1906; returning to organize a mission in England 1906-1908; and finally to expend his life in Africa from 1910-1931. His beloved wife Mrs. Studd died in 1929. And finally C.T. died July 1931.

³ Norman Grubb, CT Studd, p. 216-217.

Once they were naked and grossly immoral lovers of darkness -- now they are not only clothed in Christ but also modestly clothed in banana leaves.

Once they lived as a continuation of generations of murderer, years of darkness, and lives of savagery – now before their beloved father in the faith they sit in an immense sea of white-toothed smiles.

Once they were all mortal enemies, never without the weapons of war. But no weapons of war are left, only the bond of love. With faces turned heavenward these former enemies sit shoulder to shoulder, singing of the sweet by and by and that beautiful shore they will someday see.

That congregation of saints were converted and transformed by the Lord through the simple, passionate preaching of the truth of God's Word in the Bible. Why have believers all through the ages seen lives transformed by the preaching of the gospel? Because they simply obeyed what Jesus left them and us to do.

THINK OF WHERE WE HAVE COME IN AMERICA TODAY

What about America today? The same sins abound, we just call it by different names. We are surrounded by a nation of individuals who seem to try to get their own way all the time. Listen to the list Paul gave in Galatians 5:19-21; and the modern form of these sins our culture has developed.

ADULTERY/FORNICATION: is seen in people's repetitive, loveless, cheap sex;

UNCLEANNESS: is seen in America's stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage;

LEWDNESS: is seen in people's frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness;

IDOLATRY: is seen in people's trinket gods;

SORCERY: drugs, occultic entertainments of all kinds and our modern magic-show religions;

HATRED: is prompting paranoid loneliness;

CONTENTIONS: seen in daily cutthroat competition;

JEALOUSIES: evidenced in all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants;

OUTBURSTS OF WRATH: we are awash with brutal tempers;

SELFISH AMBITIONS: has left us with an impotence to love or be loved;

DISSENSIONS: we are a land of divided homes and divided lives;

HERESIES: people obsessed with small-minded and lopsided pursuits;

ENVY: the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival;

MURDERS: we kill our unborn, and euthanize our aged, and ignore the starving poor that circle our planet while we sip our exotic drinks and complain about the long lines at the mall and restaurants

DRUNKENNESS: we are a nation of uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions;

REVELRIES: college years have become an orgy, life is a weekly wait for the next party, and mindlessness reigns.

Our only source of hope, as we live, serve, and walk through these “perilous” times is the amazing truth of:

THE PERSONALITY CHANGES THAT CHRIST CAN BRING

When we invite the control of our lives, and surrender each day to the Spirit of God, Christ is reflected in these nine incredible ways, from our lives. Galatians 5:22-23’s list of Christ’s personality formed into His followers:

1. LOVE is the absence of selfishness. It is the product of the Holy Spirit present in our lives. Can others trace my progress in expressing God’s love? Am I less selfish and self-seeking than I was last month?
2. JOY is the spiritual quality that releases us from circumstances. Do those that know me and watch my life see me as a joyful person?
3. PEACE is the internal serenity that only God can give. Troubles are not absent. Rather, God is present! Has peace become more and more a way of life for you this year?
4. LONGSUFFERING is the absence of personal irritation at the actions of others. It is that bearing long with people that Paul spoke of in I Corinthians 13. Patience is also one of the Supreme attributes of God. Ask yourself, am I more patient than I was three months ago? Or less? If we are not increasing in patience it is only that we are not yielding and submitting to the Holy Spirit.
5. KINDNESS is a beautiful reflection of God in our lives. It is the absence of an abrasive manner in my dealings with people. It is a chosen reflection of Ephesians 2:8 and 4:32 in my life. Christ’s kindness in me will soften any word or act that might hurt another. Is my character showing an increasing tendency toward personal kindness in my way with others?
6. GOODNESS is being Godlike! It is the opposite of fallen humanity. Am I a visibly better person than last year? Do people see me doing good to all those around me?
7. FAITHFULNESS is a trustworthy and dependable life. The kind of person that keeps their own life in order so that you can count on them. Am I making strides in reliability and dependability?
8. GENTLENESS is the opposite of asserting yourself. Those who are Servants of the Lord must not strive II Timothy 2:24. They resist selfish ambition [James 3:16] because it

is a reflection of Satan not God. Remember Jesus described Himself as 'Meek and Lowly' [Mt 11:29]. What shape is my personal agenda in? Is it intact and my rights being defended? Or, is it in hopeless shape, crucified with Christ and fading?

9. SELF-CONTROL is defined by the Greek Dictionary as "a virtue, which consists in mastery of the appetites and passions, especially the sensual ones." The only force that can control or flesh is the Holy Spirit. When yielded to Him we become vessels that are worshipful sacrifices to Him and no longer to self. Do others see me as graciously under the control of God's Spirit?