
Walking In The Spirit, Part IX (The Personal Relationship)

The Walk of Holiness

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Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part IX (The Personal Relationship)

Lesson Text

Galatians 5:22–26 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Psalms 15:1–4 (AV)¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? ² He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. ³ *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not.

Introduction

Over the past eight messages, we've been looking at the power of Walking in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Today, we will look at the final category of the Fruit of the Spirit we are to produce to defeat the three tricks of the enemy (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life):

- The Divine Fruit from our Relationship with God (Love, Joy, Peace) – Overcoming our Flesh
- The Brotherly Fruit from Relationship with Each Other (Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness) – Overcoming our Eyes
- The Personal Fruit from our Relationship with Self (Faith, Meekness, Temperance) – Overcoming our Pride

So finally, we look at our interpersonal relationship within ourselves. That is, who we are when no one is looking, when no one is around, when the lights go out at night.

There is a saying that goes “you can fool all of the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time”. But I want to add another line to that, which is, “you can't fool yourself, and you can't fool God!”

1 Samuel 16:7 (AV)⁷ But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

God knows your heart! And you know who else knows your heart? You do!

It is this last category of fruit that is designed to change our heart and create God's divine character within us.

Series and Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part IX (The Personal Relationship)

“Walking in Personal Faithfulness, Personal Meekness, Personal Temperance, and Personal Relationship within One's Self”

I. Walking in Personal Faithfulness

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, ***faith***,²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The first divine character trait we must allow the Holy Spirit to produce within us is Faith or Faithfulness; to Stand on God's Word.

- Psalm 15:1 (AV)¹ LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
- Psalm 15:4 (AV)⁴ ... *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

Faithfulness is the fidelity (loyalty, reliability, dependability, trustworthiness) to swear to our own hurt and change not; to stand on God's Word

And herein lies our problem, we are always changing. We may not like it when people try to make us change (hence. the problems with Brotherly Relationships), but we change all the time.

It is really a quandary because when it comes to our bad behavior towards each other we need to change, but when it comes to our commitment to God and his Word we need to swear to our own hurt and change not.

When people hurt, or are being hurt, they change. They change their friendships, their marriages and families, their jobs and careers, and even their church and ministry relationships.

Malachi 3:6 (AV)⁶ For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

It is the essence of this character trait of God's that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to develop within us. Why? Because we need to stop consuming each other.

John 15:16 (AV)¹⁶ ***Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.***

II. Walking in Personal Meekness

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ ***Meekness***, temperance: against such there is no law.

The second divine character trait we must allow the Holy Spirit to produce within us is Meekness; to Submit to God's Word.

Meekness is similar to Gentleness in that it takes on the traits of humbleness, quietness, humility, and submissiveness.

Whereas Gentleness is the controlled power to be compassionate and kind to those who are cruel. Meekness is the strength of character to humble oneself against their own will and submit to the will of God.

A lot of times I will have people come to me and say, "I prayed to God, and he said...." I don't argue with them when they pull the "God Card." Although I wonder because some of the stuff they say doesn't sound like God.

Jeremiah 29:8–9 (AV)⁸ For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that *be* in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed. ⁹ For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Anybody can exert their own will, emotions, and desires; and most usually do. But Meekness is the power to humble oneself and submit to the Will of God.

Luke 22:41-42 (AV)⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, ⁴² Saying, **Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

Philippians 2:7-8 (AV)⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus humbled himself to the will of the father, and we need the Holy Spirit to humble ourselves.

Luke 9:23 (AV)²³ And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

III. Walking in Personal Temperance

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law.

The final divine character trait we must allow the Holy Spirit to produce within us is temperance; to Respond to God's Word.

Temperance is a disciplined mind that is not overcome by its emotions. It is the essence of self-restraint, self-denial, and self-control.

Ephesians 4:26–27 (AV)²⁶ Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: ²⁷ Neither give place to the devil.

Many times, the problems that we face in life is not so much what people do to us, but how we react to what they do to us. And most of the time, these reactions are out of anger.

And so, we make permanent decisions based on temporary situations, driven by our emotions. Temperance gives us the power to stop reacting to our emotions and start responding to God's Word.

Psalms 119:11 (AV) ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Philippians 2:5 (AV) ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2 Timothy 1:7 (AV) ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

IV. Walking in Personal Relationship within One's Self

The key to our Personal Relationship and the Holy Spirit is the Power that is Produced within us to develop the character that God needs and requires from us.

The Holy Spirit Produces the Power of Faithfulness:

- The Character to Not Change but Stand on God's Word.
- Psalm 15:4 (AV) ⁴ ... *He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.*

The Holy Spirit Produces the Power of Meekness:

- The Character to Humble yourself and to Submit to God's Word.
- Luke 9:23 (AV)²³ And he said to *them* all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

The Holy Spirit Produces the Power of Temperance:

- The Character to not React but to Respond to God's Word.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 (AV) ⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Luke 10:19 (AV)¹⁹ **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Walking In The Spirit, Part IX (The Personal Relationship))

Lesson Text

- Galatians 5:22–26, Psalm 15:1–4

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Walking in Personal Faithfulness*

II. *Walking in Personal Meekness*

III. *Walking in Personal Temperance*

IV. *Walking in Personal Relationship within One's Self*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. How do you like your potatoes prepared (e.g., baked, fried, homestyle, mashed, boiled)?
2. What is your favorite Christmas movie and why?

II. Into the Bible

1. Romans 8:13 (NASB) states, "for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
 - a) Describe "living according to the flesh." How is this associated with death?
 - b) Can a believer who is not successful in giving up all sin achieve eternal life? Why or why not? Give scriptural references.
 - c) How is it possible to put to death the deeds of the body? Why does this act come with a promise of life?

III. Life Application

1. Reflection: Has there ever been a time in your life when you were not happy with yourself? What self-maintenance strategies will you apply in the future if ever faced with this again?
2. What have you learned in this series that will help you remember that God loves you? How will you better extend His love to others?