

Fruit Of The Spirit

Faithfulness

(He 11:6)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons covering the "Fruit Of The Spirit."
 - a. Thus far we have examined six different characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - i. Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, and Goodness.
 - b. Today we are going to examine the seventh characteristic, Faithfulness.
3. Faithfulness
 - a. The Greek word from our text in **Ga 5:22** is "πίστις" or "pees-tees"
 - i. It is found 243 times in 227 verses.
 1. It is translated faithfulness or the equivalent 241 times in the ESV.
 - a. 239 times KJV; NKJV
 - b. 240 times NASB95
 - b. This word defined.
 - i. "persuasion, i.e. credence; mor. conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), espec. reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstr. constancy in such profession; by extens. the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself:—assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity." (Strong, J. (2009). Vol. 1: A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible (58). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.)
 - ii. "primarily, "firm persuasion," a conviction based upon hearing (akin to peitho, "to persuade"), is used in the NT always of "faith in God or Christ, or things spiritual...faith," has the secondary meaning of "an assurance or guarantee, e.g., Acts 17:31; by raising Christ from the dead, God has given "assurance" that the world will be judged by Him" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (43). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 - iii. Thus we see that faithfulness here is a persuasion and conviction with an expected assurance.
4. With that in mind let us examine this most important word "Faithfulness."

I. How Is Faithfulness A Persuasion?

- A. Faithfulness is a persuasion based in substance and evidence
 1. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."¹ (NKJV)
 - i. **Ac 17:1-4** "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Fruit Of The Spirit

Christ.” 4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.”

- B. This substance and evidence is found in two places
 - 1. The abundant physical evidence.
 - i. **Ro 1:19-20** "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."
 - 2. The perfection of the Scriptures.
 - i. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."
 - ii. **Ja 1:25** "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."
- C. Thus...
 - 1. Our faithfulness is based on us being persuaded by the substance & evidence.

II. How Is Faithfulness A Conviction?

- A. When one is persuaded they have a choice to make
 - 1. Either they choose to be convicted/convinced about what they know or they choose to ignore/challenge what they know.
 - i. The first leads to salvation, while the latter leads to eternal damnation.
- B. Conviction leads to salvation because it shows one's love for Christ
 - 1. It puts in motion the necessary reality of obedience.
 - i. **Jn 14:15, 21, 23** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments...21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him...23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
 - ii. **II Jn 6** "And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it."
- C. Thus...
 - 1. Our faithfulness is based on us being persuaded by the substance & evidence which in turn convicts us to love Christ by being obedient.

Fruit Of The Spirit

III. How Is Faithfulness An Assurance?

- A. When one is convicted it is because of not only being persuaded by the facts but also by the hope in the assurances God gives
 1. God is a faithful God that has proved His majesty and excellence.
 - i. He not only created everything...
 - a. **Ps 33:6** "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."
 - ii. He kept His promise.
 - a. **Gn 3:15** "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." (NKJV)
 - b. **I Co 15:3-4** "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures"
 2. There is no one that we can have more assurance in than He whom is perfect in keeping His promises.
- B. The most important assurance we have from God is this...
 1. Those that are faithful to God have a home prepared for them and those that are not faithful time Him have a home prepared from them as well.
 - i. The home of the faithful resides in the heavenly kingdom with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.
 - a. **Jn 14:1-3** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."
 - ii. The home of the faithless resides from the sight of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.
 - a. **Mt 10:28** "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."
- C. Thus...
 1. Our faithfulness is based on us being persuaded by the substance & evidence which in turn convicts us to love Christ by being obedient to Him. This conviction is culminated in the assurance we have in God to keep His promise which is our hope.

CONCLUSION

1. "An old minister worked into the night on a sermon for his small congregation. His unsympathetic wife chided him for spending so much time on a message that so few will appreciate. To this the minister replied: "You forget, my dear, how large my audience will be!" If angels are looking, nothing on earth done for Christ is trivial." (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times. Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.)
 - a. As just illustrated faithfulness to our God is never trivial. It is always worth it.

Fruit Of The Spirit

2. Question: Have you been persuaded, then convicted, and assured so that you are faithful to our living God?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby always abounding in this most wonderful characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - b. In not why not, make it right today. Do not delay we too have been assured we do not know when that time will come when our life on this earth will be no more.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**