

The Arrangement of the Fruit of the Spirit (concluded)

by Wayne Goff

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In **our relationship with self** there first must be faithfulness — the foundation. “Faithfulness” is the conscientious performing of one’s duty. It makes the true disciple reliable, trustworthy, and accountable. This foundation is what leads one to “gentleness” (meekness of humility) which reminds him of his true station in life and to “self-control,” or personal discipline.

We see this elsewhere in the New Testament: “*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly** than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith*” (Rom. 12:2–3). Does not this Scripture point to our own humility which helps us accomplish self-control (sober-mindedness)?

Sadly, there are many who *profess* Christianity and their love for the Lord who are **not** faithful in the performance of their duty! In their relationship with themselves, they are missing the foundation of faithfulness, the key to self-improvement! Look at one example of this found in the book of James:

“*But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ... If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and **does not bridle his tongue** but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their trouble**, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world**”* (James 1:22, 26–27).

Faith in our hearts creates *faithfulness* in our lives, and we *humbly* walk with God (Micah 6:8). “*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

Thanks, Tim, for pointing out these beautiful truths from Galatians 5 and God’s “fruit of the Spirit”! There is a mountain of material in God’s Word that is opened to our minds as we organize the fruit in this way. Dear reader, love God, love others, and love yourself in the way God’s Word instructs us!

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