

Fruit of the Spirit

Part 5

**Authority over Your Life**

**Overview:** The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience (longsuffering, endurance, constancy), gentleness (kindness), goodness (loving-kindness, virtue), faith, humility (meekness) and self-control (discipline, moderation) Gal 5:22-23.

**ABC Definition:** Love, joy, peace, patience, **gentleness**, goodness, faith, humility, self-control.

**Overview:** God changes us from the inside out as we partner with Him from the outside in. Our success in growing in the FOS culminates (i.e., at the peak, resulting) in the **gentleness of Christ** (2 Cor 10:1).

A. The Power of the Fruit of the Spirit (FOS)

1. The FOS is the manifestation of the outward character of the Holy Spirit (HS) into our own being. As more and more we become one with the HS, His character becomes our own.
2. Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.
3. Joh 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

B. Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit (FOS)

1. You start on the escalator by using the love which God shed into your heart as a motivation to exercise your will to have the discipline to do something special for God.
2. Moving up the Escalator.
  - a) You continue to move up the escalator of the FOS by constantly pairing what God has given you with what you achieve by exercising your will and discipline.
  - b) These pairings are: love/self-control, joy/humility, peace/faith, patience/goodness.
3. The four sets of pairings are like the legs of a ladder and the apex of the ladder is Gentleness.

C. Growing in Gentleness

1. Gentleness grows in you as you learn to receive and use the gentleness which flows from God. This gentleness comes to you as you practice walking in the love, joy, peace and patience which God has already given you.
  - a) The end result of God's love, joy, peace and patience in you is your walking in gentleness.
  - b) As you walk in the light of God's **love** (Rom 5:5), experience **joy** in His presence (Psa 16:11), remain in **peace** as your eyes are fixed upon Him (Isa 26:3), and you are strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all **patience** (Col 1:11); then your receiving of His **gentleness** becomes a normal part of your lifestyle (2 Cor 10:1).
2. You produce gentleness, which comes as a result of your exercising self-control, humility, faith, and goodness.
  - a) God's glory is shown through His goodness. His glory in you is released as you walk in self-control (moderation), humility, and faith. The product of His goodness is gentleness.
  - b) As you exercise **self-control** (discipline), practice humility by putting God and His Word in first place, walk by faith and not by sight, and see His glory/goodness manifested in your life (because of the previous three); then you, as a servant of the Lord, will not strive; but you will be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient (2 Ti 2:24).
3. The Holy Spirit is never pushy nor forceful but always gentle. When Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended like a dove upon Him (Matt 3:16). Since you desire to be led by the Spirit of God (Rom 8:14), you also should be not only gentle as a dove but also harmless as a dove (Matt 10:16).

#### D. Authority over Your Life

John G. Lake said that if you desire dominion over demons, disease and death, you need to start with your body (or self). If you do not start with your body/self, you will open doors through which the demons can attack, control or influence you. Gentleness is probably the best indicator of your having dominion over your body and self.

In Gen 1:26 and 28, God has given you (i.e., man) authority and dominion over everything which moves upon the earth. You move upon the earth, so you are included. You have the legal right to exercise free will to guide and control yourself. You can do this through speaking to your body and self and acting in accordance with what you have commanded your body and self. Do it so as to:

1. Live as a little child.
  - a) Mark 10:15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.
  - b) Matt 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
  - c) Little children totally trust their fathers (i.e., they have total faith in their fathers). You and I need to do this also, to totally trust our Heavenly Father. This can be achieved only if you submit to God in humility.
2. Live as a servant to all.
  - a) Matt 23:11 But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.
  - b) John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.  
John 13:15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.
  - c) Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.
3. Live as the temple of God.
  - a) Exo 25:8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.
  - b) 1 Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
  - c) Hag 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD .
4. Live as Jesus did.
 

Psa 18:35 Thou has also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath held me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Also in 2 Sam 22:36.

  - a) Live like Jesus, not only in the way He did, but in His obedience to the Father.
    - 1) Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: v.8 .... he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
    - 2) Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
  - b) 1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.
  - c) John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.  
1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.

**Summary:** As you let the Holy Spirit lead, guide and control you, His character will manifest in your life as the Fruit of the Spirit, and you will become a manifested son/daughter of God, part of the church without spot or wrinkle, as you continue to be like Jesus in all that you say and do.