

Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.9)

“Appealing Faithfulness”

(Galatians 5:22)

“The fruit of the Spirit is ...faithfulness” (NKJV)

Introduction: *We are currently in a sermon series called “fruit-filled living.” We have been examining the Spiritual fruit God wants to produce in us and our lives... speaking of fruit... Bananas are so appealing and loved by many! They are one of the most popular fruits in America, (we import 4 over million tons a year.) But the Bible tells us of another healthier, more appealing fruit than the banana... The fruit of the Spirit is...Faithfulness. Paul mentions “faith or faithfulness” in this letter to the Galatian’s 20 times in 6 chapters, using it 3 different ways to show us, just how appealing faith is ...*

I. Faithful confidence:

In the original language of the N.T. *the noun-faith and verb –believe are two different parts of the same word. Looking at these two different parts we see...*

A. Faith is an attitude –

1. Faith is not an effort toward salvation, but rather the giving up of effort. (Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
2. Faith in itself does not save – it is simply the means by which the sinner accepts the salvation God is offering. (Js. 2:19; Rom.3:25; 5:15)

If someone out of the goodness of their heart wants to give you a gift, you must receive that gift to make it your own. But the gift is given freely, it is not a reward of your acceptance. Salvation is a gift received by faith – There is no merit in the faith. All the merit lies in the object of our faith. And the object of saving faith is God, who through Jesus Christ has become our Savior from the penalty of our sins through His death, burial and resurrection. (1 Cor.15:1-4)

B. Faith is an action – Faith is not merely intellectually acknowledging or accepting certain facts. Rather it is an act by which one makes a lifetime commitment of him/herself to complete reliance and dependence upon God.

1. Faith was present in the experience of many people in the Old Testament. (Gen. 15:6; Ex. 4:31; 14:31; Hab. 2:4; the testimonies of Hebrews 11)
2. In the New Testament, "faith" covers various levels of personal commitment.
 - a. Genuine saving faith is a personal continual attachment to Christ. (1 Jn. 5:1-5)
 - b. Saving faith involves personally depending on the finished work of Christ's sacrifice as the only basis for our forgiveness of sin, gaining eternal life, and our acceptance into heaven. (2 Tim. 1:12)

What day? From this day until the day of our final redemption in glory!

C. Faith is an attribute – Someone might say, why should I have such a faithful confidence in God?

1. Because the Bible and our own personal experiences tell us God is faithful.
2. God’s people testify that He is faithful...(Heb 10:23; Duet 7:9; Isa 49:7)
3. God’s word is faithful – (Ps 119:86)
4. God’s forgiveness is faithful – (1 Jn.1:9)

5. God’s Son is a faithful, and is our merciful high priest – (Heb.2:17)

6. What else could be said about God accept - *great is thy faithfulness* (Lam 3:23)
So when you and I have an attitude of confidence and commitment toward God, with our whole life, we have an appealing faithful confidence that leads to...

II. Faithful conviction:

Because Christian’s not only have a faithful confidence by which they are saved, and commit their whole lives to God, *they also are to establish faithful convictions to live by.* (Gal 2:20)

The word Paul uses for faithfulness as a fruit of the Spirit is the Gk. word which means faithful & trustworthy, to be loyal and steadfast devotion. (i.e.) This kind of faithfulness does not begin with God and then back off. Rather it is a result of establishing godly convictions and living by them. So, if you want to build your faithfulness, you must...

A. Know what determine your convictions – Paul told Timothy (2 Tim 3:15-17)

Your convictions and mine ought to be based on doctrine – our doctrine on the word of God. We get sound doctrine from the teaching, reading and studying of God’s word

B. Know what your convictions are – every Christian should have convictions about...

1. *The words you speak – (Mt.12:34; Col. 4:6)*
2. *The way you conduct yourself – (Phil. 1:27; Col. 4:5-6; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; 1 Pe. 1:13-16; 2 Pe. 2:12)*
3. *The kind of spirit you possess – (Eph. 5:18-19)*
4. *The way you faithfully attend worship - (Heb. 10:25),*
5. *The way you give your offering to the Lord – (Lk.16:10; Mt.25:14-30)*

C. Know what challenges your convictions –

1. The neglect of systematic spiritual growth (2 Pe. 1:5-8)
2. Persuasion –(Gal. 1:6)
3. Peer pressure is another- (2 Tim.4:10)
4. New gimmicks (2 Tim. 4:3)
5. Idleness is another trap – (1 Tim.4:14) I

If we’ll be faithful to live by godly convictions that are based on right doctrine – we’ll get our duty right which will allow us to have...

III. Faithful character:

I believe one day we are all going to stand before the Lord, and He is going to ask us, *were you faithful to what I called you to do, where I placed you to do it, and when I asked you to do it?*

A. God will look at the little things – Lk.16:10

B. God will look at the given things – Mt.25 we see 3 servants each given talents.

C. God will look at the gifted things – (Rev 2:10; 1 Cor 4:2)

D. God will look at the character things – (1 Sam. 16:7; Heb. 4:13)

You see faithfulness is where the rubber meets the road. Christians are called to be faithful! That is the characteristic of Christ and Spiritual fruit, the Holy Spirit wants to produce in us today.