

## FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT 9-WEEK STUDY

May 6: Faith(fulness)

TEXT: Galatians 5:22-23

INTRO: We have been set free by Christ. We are no longer under the bondage of the law. But we need something - Someone - to control our life from within. That Someone is the Holy Spirit. Transformation must begin in the heart and work its way out. What's on the inside will always, without exception, make its way to the surface. We can gauge our spirituality not because we avoid certain sins and keep the list of rules we have set for ourselves, but by the qualities listed in Galatians 5. We could never attain these attributes by keeping the law. We need the Spirit to empower us.

### THE SEVENTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS FAITH OR FAITHFULNESS

TEXT: Acts 1:8; Lamentations 3:22-23; Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 10:23; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Proverbs 28:20; Hebrews 11:6; Luke 18:8; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

DEFINITIONS: (Listen to the video to help you fill in the blanks.)

- KJV says "faith" in Gal. 5:22, but the idea of "faithfulness" (not just faith) appears in the Greek. The word was common in secular Greek to express \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- Faithfulness would include being full of belief and \_\_\_\_\_ in God and all that God promises. It's \_\_\_\_\_ trust in God's trustworthiness.
- Dependability, \_\_\_\_\_ and stability. Fidelity which makes one true to his \_\_\_\_\_ and faithful to his task.

DISCUSSION: (Look up the verses given and answer the questions/discuss)

- Who sticks out in your mind as great examples of faithfulness in the Bible or your life? (Hebrews 11)
- The disciples prove that we need the Holy Spirit to be faithful. When the Lord Jesus Christ needed them the most, they were faithless. At Pentecost came the filling of the Holy Spirit. What happened after that? What made them different? (Acts 1:8, growth of the church in Acts)
- What should happen when we reflect on God's faithfulness to us? (Lam. 3:22-23; Deut. 7:9)
- Share or meditate how God has been faithful to you through a trial or difficult time? (1 Cor. 10:13)
- When people are not faithful to their church, their word, their spouse, etc., what does that reveal about their relationship to the Holy Spirit? (Heb. 10:23; 2 Cor. 5:7)  
*It's difficult to accuse someone of not being filled with the Spirit, but it's not difficult to recognize unfaithfulness to church, commitments, family, etc.*
- What does Proverbs 28:20 say will happen to a faithful person?
- Why do you think it is "impossible" to please God unless we have faith? (Heb. 11:6)
- Is faith(fulness) increasing or decreasing today? Why or why not? (Luke 18:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-5)

DECISION:

- In the Christian life, success usually looks like endurance and faithfulness. Sometimes, just sticking with our commitments *is* success in God's eyes.
- The closer we are in our relationship with the Holy Spirit, the more we will be people of our word. People who are not faithful and loyal are not controlled by the Spirit.
- How loyal am I to God? Does my faith place God as the first priority in my life? How?
- What obstacles are there to my faithfulness? Why do I have difficulties trusting God?

Take some time to pray over the Wednesday prayer sheet attached to the Realm post.