

The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness and Gentleness

September 18 – 22, 2024 (updated)

Faithfulness: Wednesday, September 18

Deuteronomy 7: 9 – 11

- In **verse 9**, what does it mean that God is faithful? How does God demonstrate His faithfulness, and how is that connected to the mercy that He shows toward us? (*Lamentations 3: 22 – 23; Hebrews 10: 23*)
- According to **verse 11**, how should we respond to God’s faithfulness? How does our obedience to God’s word constitute evidence of our faithfulness? (*2 Timothy 2: 11 – 13*)

1 Corinthians 10: 12 – 13

- How is God’s faithfulness connected to His willingness to help us resist temptation? What is the “way of escape” that God provides when we encounter temptation, and how is that a reflection of His faithfulness to us? (*2 Thessalonians 3: 3*)
- Similarly, how is God’s faithfulness related to His willingness to forgive us when we sin? What does this indicate about the love that He has for us? (*1 John 1: 8 – 10*)

James 2: 14 – 17

- How would you describe the difference between having faith, and being faithful? How are the two connected, and how does James illustrate this point? (*Hebrews 11: 1*)

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- Consider how this passage can be employed to refute the false belief that faith alone is the source of salvation. How do our actions prepare us for an eternity in heaven? (*Deuteronomy 7: 11*)

Gentleness: Sunday, September 22

1 Peter 5: 6 – 7

- In general, consider God's gentleness. How does God demonstrate His gentleness, and how does this characteristic complement His power? (*Romans 11: 22*)
- How should we respond to God's gentleness?

Matthew 11: 28 – 30

- Describe the overall message presented by Jesus in this passage. How does Jesus describe His character, and what does He mean when He says that His yoke is easy and His burden is light?
- What are some other examples of Jesus' gentleness (or meekness)? For instance, how does Jesus being described as a shepherd serve as an illustration of His gentleness? (*Psalms 23; Isaiah 40: 11; John 10: 27 – 30*)

2 Timothy 2: 24 – 26

- In **verse 24**, how does Paul describe the character of a servant of the Lord? From **verse 25**, how should we focus these qualities on others? (*1 Peter 3: 15 – 16*)
- What is the intended outcome of our focus on applying these character traits? How can our approach assist someone in overcoming their sins and repenting? (*Proverbs 15: 1; Galatians 6: 1*)