

The Body (Church but not the Building) of Christ!

From the Desk

Of

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The Fruit of the Spirit

*Faithfulness (Lecture 1)*

Let us say at the outset that we dare NOT claim ownership of any of the Gifts (Ministry; Gift or Fruit of the Spirit). Anything God chooses to bestow upon or work in us (Typically the Fruit of the Spirit) is for the purpose to serve one another and MUST be to the Glory of God.

Our God besides creating the vastness of all that exists on earth and in the HEAVENS also created people. He then draws people to Himself through Jesus and while the work of salvation and forgiveness of sins is immediate.

The Fruit of the Spirit is a Process of God at work in us.

*Ephesians chapter 4:* In this chapter, Paul lists what have been called the five “ascension” or “gift” ministries (we feel “[equipping ministries](http://www.truthortradition.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1096)” is more accurate). However in Galatians chapter 5 we read of something that is not an exercising of a gift or an expression of POWER but a PROCESS of Him at Work in us. The aim of God is that if we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and the interaction of people we should begin to bear fruit and HOPEFULLY good fruit. Let us remember that trees that do not bear fruit, are after pruning and caring, cut down (Wow). If the gift Ministries are going to be effective and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit prominent we will need to see a passion for The Fruit of the Spirit. The electronic age (Even in the church) does not help because it takes away from human interaction.

The fruit of the Spirit is vital to the individual and the Body of Believers. This fruit is our ability to tolerate and be forbearing. If there is NO involvement and interaction (In all things BUT must include things of a Spiritual Nature) we will find very little or NO growth in our characters. Our tolerance level of each other will be non-existent and this will impact on the function of the Five Fold Ministries and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. All this just seems to disappear from the Church Gatherings and our personal lives.

People will be afraid to be active because of NO or a very low level of tolerance. This in turn halts the function of the Gifts and the EVIDENCE of the Ministries. The end result is immaturity and our gathering together becomes a shallow meaningless time waste. (Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23 a must)

While the first fruit LOVE is VERY important so we saw also the importance of JOY. We need to qualify right now and declare that none of the Fruit of the Spirit is the soppy emotion of loose living or a book of words. This LOVE, Joy and Peace etc must be void of a motive or agenda (And we must not be satisfied with a shallow substitute of these Fruit) and demonstrated in an unselfish way. We have just completed “Goodness” and my if ever there is a need for us to look in the “MIRROR” (The word of God) it is now because the lack of human interaction is showing all over our society and in our churches.

In this Lecture we look at the seventh Fruit of the Spirit (Faithfullnes) and by the time we have studied ALL nine we will see that each and EVERY fruit is VITAL to our CHARACTERS and to showing the sinners the CHARACTER and PASSION of God. There is a “SCARY path we take in The Fruit of the Spirit BUT where must never ignore the demands placed on us and our CHARACTER. The Fruit of the Spirit is the FULLNES of God revealed in Jesus and His Character. Too glibly we say “To be like Jesus” and very often the attraction is to His Power, His miracle Working and WHAT we perceive His control. Satan desired exactly that and FELL

Great men have and will continue to fall if we focus on the Dynamics of the Power of God and SPURN the Pruning Shears that will cause us to grow in Character. If our CHARACTER is WEAK how will we COPE with the Power of the Almighty? Yes it will be by His Grace BUT in the measure we allow the Holy Spirit to work the Character and nature of God in us. We are the poorer if we lack character growth BUT it is also seen by the outsiders and they will never understand any excuse or reason we give them.

Our focus should be to Grow up in Him and all else will function at the Will of God and not the GREED of our HEARTS. Growing Up in Him is our Divine Protection and HE will receive the Glory. NO claiming of OWNERSHIP. It is all His and we ought to just be an instrument available to Him.

“Faithfulness” is translated from the Greek word pistis. In this context it can mean either “faith” or “faithfulness,” and here “faithfulness” is the better translation. While [**“faith” is trusting God**](http://www.truthortradition.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=692) and thus believing His promises, “faithfulness” is continued faith or perseverance. It is a steadfast adherence to God and His will. We trust God because God is trustworthy, but more than that, we are to continue in that faith day after day, thereby being “faithful” toward Him. In addition, we are to be faithful in earthly things also. The Christian is to be a faithful person: a faithful friend, a faithful neighbor, a faithful parent, a faithful child, and faithful in [**prayer**](http://www.truthortradition.com/modules.php?name=News&new_topic=21), [**giving**](http://www.truthortradition.com/modules.php?name=News&new_topic=23), and other Christian virtues. Many people have “faith” for a short time, and while any faith is better than none, the fruit of the new nature, faithfulness, is being full of faith day after day after day. Those given a trust must be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).

I have taken the liberty to add a full chapter (Mathew 25) on Faithfulness and not only every believer BUT more so those of us who confess that we are called to MINISTER should take strong heed of what our responsibility is to ourselves to others and LASTLY to God.

I believe that if this chapter does not speak to our hearts then anything more I have to say will not challenge us at all.

1 [Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-1/)

2 [And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-2/)

3 [They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-3/)

4 [But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-4/)

5 [While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-5/)

6 [And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-6/)

7 [Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-7/)

8 [And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-8/)

9 [But the wise answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-9/)

10 [And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-10/)

11 [Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-11/)

12 [But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-12/)

13 [Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-13/)

14 [For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man travelling into a far country, *who* called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-14/)

15 [And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-15/)

16 [Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-16/)

17 [And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-17/)

18 [But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-18/)

19 [After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoned with them.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-19/)

20 [And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou delivered unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-20/)

21 [His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-21/)

22 [He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou delivered unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-22/)

23 [His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-23/)

24 [Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-24/)

25 [And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-25/)

26 [His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-26/)

27 [Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-27/)

28 [Take therefore the talent from him, and give *it* unto him which hath ten talents.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-28/)

29 [For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-29/)

30 [And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-30/)

31 [When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-31/)

32 [And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-32/)

33 [And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-33/)

34 [Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-34/)

35 [For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-35/)

36 [Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-36/)

37 [Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed *thee*? or thirsty, and gave *thee* drink?](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-37/)

38 [When saw we thee a stranger, and took *thee* in? or naked, and clothed *thee*?](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-38/)

39 [Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-39/)

40 [And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-40/)

41 [Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-41/)

42 [For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-42/)

43 [I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-43/)

44 [Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-44/)

45 [Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-45/)

46 [And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Matthew-25-46/)

We must not down play all the other fruit of the Spirit.

Here is yet another of the MORE painful pruning and sacrificial processes we are going to have to endure because the human nature tends to be selfish and self centered. Faithfulness is ALMOS being a slave to God but working freely and from a willing HEART. It is for the GOOD of Others to do, be FAITHFUL as an example.

God Bless

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