



*Chalmette
Church of Christ*

January 4, 2009

“The Fruit of the Spirit (Part 3)”

The fruit of the Spirit is meekness.

Many confuse meekness with weakness. It is a word misunderstood by both the world and the church. Those in the world describe a meek person as one who is weak, timid, even cowardly. Some in the church perhaps would define a meek person as one who is quiet and never says anything bad about anybody. However, the Bible makes it clear that meekness is strength under control. The word is used to describe a formerly wild animal which has been tamed. The beast still has enormous strength, but now it is controlled.

To further illustrate that meekness is not weakness consider two character illustrations from God's word. For example, Moses was the greatest man of the Old Testament. He, like no other, typified the Messiah who was to come. We learn in Numbers 12:3. "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." Would anyone dare say Moses was a weak man? He was God's spokesman before the tyrannical and evil Pharaoh. He endured the complaining Israelites for 40 years. Jesus was a meek man. Yet, we see Jesus drive the moneychangers from the temple and bear the reproach of the cross, which demonstrates Jesus was not in any way a weak man.

Meekness is a willingness to submit to the

authority of the Lord and always choosing to do what is right. Such a person has placed all of his talents, abilities, ambitions, etc. under the control of Christ.

Take time to be holy,

Be calm in thy soul;

Each thought and each motive,

Beneath his control.

A person who is meek has the ability to listen, knows when to say the right thing, and is able to make tough decisions. Whenever these characteristics develop in a Christian man, you likely have an elder in the making. Some think the key to power and greatness is to be loud, boisterous, and run roughshod over people. However, meekness is the opposite. It is strength under control. Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Mat. 5:5).

The fruit of the Spirit is temperance.

Temperance is defined as self-control. In our society most individuals freely give in to every passion and lust in order to gratify the flesh. Many of the maladies that plague our culture today could be solved if only our citizens could control these fleshly appetites. The wise man wrote, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Pro. 25:28). Paul before discussing the fruit of the spirit spoke of the works of the flesh:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envies, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21).

Despite what the world may say, God does hold us responsible for our actions and will one day judge each individual accordingly (2 Cor. 5:10). The only way to overcome the works of the flesh is through self-control, which is a fruit of the Spirit.

Conclusion

In order to produce the fruit of the Spirit one must be willing to hear the Spirit's voice. This can only be done by hearing the word which has been delivered by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:21). The only way that a Christian or non-Christian is to know what God expects of him is to heed divine revelation. Paul wrote:

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual (1 Cor. 2:11-13).

How does an alien sinner receive the forgiveness of sin? The Psalmist said, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word" (Psa. 119:9). How does one remain faithful? Again hear the Psalmist, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119:11). How do we know we are producing the fruit of the Spirit? By taking hold of the Spirit's revelation, the

Bible, and following its teaching explicitly. Paul believed in the all-sufficiency of the Bible in producing the fruit of the Spirit when he wrote, "And now brethren I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified" (Acts 20:32).

By: Barry Grider

Stacey Ritter asked for prayers of the church on Sunday. May God bless her in her Christian walk.

MISSING!

There are 3 missing towels from the church building. If you have the towels, please return them as soon as possible.

WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network

House to House Heart to Heart

Two students at the Memphis School of Preaching

Curry Montague— Budapest

Morrne Stephanus- In Africa

Roger Scully- Morgan City Church of Christ

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Plowing the field with oxen
2. Killed the oxen to cook a feast
3. Bethel and Jericho
4. Jericho

Elisha

1. Elisha said, "As the Lord of hosts lives, whom I serve, were it not that _____ I would give you neither a look nor a glance."
 2. What did the Shunammite woman ask her husband to do for Elisha?
 3. What was going to happen to the two children of the widow of a member of the company of prophets?
 4. How many times was Naaman to wash in the Jordan to be made clean?
 5. What did Elisha pray concerning the men who came to him while he was in Dothan?

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of January— Looking for volunteers. Please sign up if available.

Upcoming Events

January 18- Singing and Fellowship Meal

Prayer List

Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Muriel Jones
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Maggie Fletcher
Bill Burchett
Buck Hall
Sherry Towle
Bob Spurlin
Catherine Grant
Kathleen Grant Dunn
Sonny Adams
Betty Grisham
Paul Roberts
Melinda London



*All of our brethren scattered
across the United States

* Our men and women who are
serving in the military:

- Ryan Neal

Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

www.chalmettechurchofchrist.org

Chalmette Church of Christ
Post Office Box 1165
Chalmette, LA 70044

Grass Cutting

Schedule

