



## Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self-Control

June 22

**RECAP:** The Fruit of the Spirit—those supernatural characteristics that every believer should progressively and comprehensively bear in their lives as evidence of their salvation. These we cultivate by faith. This week we explore the final three: faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**SONG:** Many songs of these verses exist, [here](#) is one.

### FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 16)

- How is Evenrude's story ("a better way") a helpful depiction of works vs. grace?
- What take-aways can be gleaned from the three conversions in Acts 16?
- Why is it helpful to have testimony/evangelistic messages from time to time?
- Why should every sermon have something of the Gospel? What is the difference between a Gospel-centred sermon and an evangelistic sermon?

**RE-READ PASSAGE:** Gal 5:16–24

### QUESTIONS:

1. **What is the Fruit of the Spirit in your own words?**
2. Is there any rhyme or reason to these fruits coming where they do?

**FAITHFULNESS** ('faith'; a guarantee, someone who is trustworthy [in the OT it meant someone of substance, morally upright, a strong pillar, reliable])

1. **Can you think of a biblical character who was faithful?**
2. Can you think of someone you know who you would describe as faithful?
3. **Would you describe faithfulness as being in short or great supply these days?**
4. *Dt 32:4- God is faithful.* As faith in God diminishes (Lk 18:8) should it surprise us that there is little faithfulness?

5. **How is faith in the Gospel and the Spirit's work essential for true faithfulness?**

6. **Give examples of how Christians should be faithful.**

**GENTLENESS** (or meekness; [litt. a wild horse that has been tamed] gentle-strength or God's strength under God's control)

7. **Why is the world obsessed with power? How do men and women tend to display a worldly power?**

8. **'Meek is week' is a worldly motto. Yet what two famous Bible figures are described as meek or gentle? (Nu 12:3; Mt 11:29; 2 Cor 10:1)**

9. If worldly power is unbridled, how might we speak of meekness as bridled power?

10. **Through the Gospel how does God harness our natural powers and grant further supernatural powers?. How are these directed?**

11. Can you give practical examples of what this gentle-strength looks like?

**SELF-CONTROL** (temperance, self-mastery, mastery from within)

12. Look back to the 'works of the flesh' in vv. 19–21. Can you think of a modern list of how people's lives are out of control/ governed by sinful selfish desires?

13. How might an unbeliever's life be 'out of control'/a believer's life be 'under control'?

14. For the believer, how does this extend even to thoughts, emotions and attitudes?

15. If the Holy Spirit indwells the believer how is mastery a work of grace through faith from within?

"Against such things there is no law." (i.e. they are right)

16. *V. 23b- i.e. we fulfil the Law in these things through faith.* How does God use such fruit as a witness (Mt 5:16).

### BIG QUESTIONS

1. What has been helpful in studying the Fruit of the Spirit?
2. How can we help each other "walk in the Spirit" and thereby produce much fruit?

**Next Week:** The Armour of God, Eph 6 (June-July)