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**Bible Study – March 16, 2016**

**“LIVING A FRUIT FILLED LIFE” – Galatians 5:16-26**

**LIVING A FRUIT FILLED LIFE**

Scripture:

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness,idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy,drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.**

The final three are graces that guide the general conduct of a believer who is led by the Spirit: Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

**FAITHFULNESS – trustworthy or reliable.**  *It* implies steadfast adherence to a person or thing to which one is bound as by an oath or obligation.

**God’s Faithfulness Does Not Fail**

“My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lamentations+3%3A20-23&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-20377a)] his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations **3:20-23**

**Faithfulness Demands That We Trust God**

**“**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Our Faithfulness Serves Witnesses to Others**

**“**but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” **Luke 22:32**

**GENTLENESS** - Sensitivity of disposition and kindness of behavior, founded on strength and prompted by love.

**Gentleness Reflects the Heart of God**

“Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” **Philippians 4:5**

**Gentleness Keeps the Peace**

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” **Proverbs 15:1**

**Gentleness yields God’s Blessings**

 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” **Matthew 5:9**

**SELF-CONTROL** - (*temperance*, KJV) is the translation of the Greek word *enkrateia*, which means "possessing power, strong, having mastery. *Word Studies of the New Testament* adds that it means "holding in hand the passions and desires" (vol. IV, p. 168). The word thus refers to the mastery of one's desires and impulses.

**It is the Call of Every Christian**

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.

**1 Peter 1:3-7**

**Self-Control Causes Us to Restrain Our Reaction**

“Those with good sense are slow to anger, and it is their glory to overlook an offense.” **Proverbs 19:11**

**Self-Control Causes Us to Watch Our Words**

Those who guard their mouths preserve their lives; those who open wide their lips come to ruin. Proverbs 13:3

**Self-Control Protects Us from the Enemy**

Like a city breached, without walls, is one who lacks self-control. **Proverbs 25:28**