

Sunday
5th Nov.
2023

The Fruit of
the Spirit
Gal:5:22-23



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

PART 3

GALATIANS 5:22-23

‘GOODNESS’

Paul in Galatians 5:22-23, outlines the Fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These things may sound easy, but they are not.

‘Goodness, Kindness, and Patience’
Deals with our social relationships. In other words, these are relational qualities expressed to other people.

‘Goodness’

Goodness in some way is kindness in action, these three work together, which brings me to this question,

What defines good people?

Goodness sometimes is carelessly applied to charming and physically attractive people in entertainment, politics, and athletics merely because of their professional skill or their ability to elicit a sense of encouragement or admiration, though their character may be exceedingly immoral.

- In Proverbs 31:30 the Bible says,
"Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised."
- If we want to be more biblically correct, we need to learn more about what the Bible means by "goodness."

In Matthew 19, Jesus had an encounter with a rich young man, this is what the rich man asked, “*Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?*” (Matthew 19:16), Jesus'” Why do you call Me good? No one is good but one, that is, God.”

Then he went ahead and told him ... “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” (Matthew 19:16-21). When it comes to goodness, motive really matters.

This fruit of God's Spirit is more inward, touching on every thought, word and action of the godly person. This demands that motives be right before we call any action good.

This means our central and all-influencing motive is loving God and regarding His will in all things. It means that the "good man" is one in whom righteousness (right doing) flows from inward devotion and love toward God.

That's why our goodness to people whether giving or serving should not be the qualification of goodness, but our commitment to God and his work of sanctification in our lives should produce true goodness. Our giving and serving should flow from this attitude.

Our journey of faith in Christ cannot be complete without these virtues. It's good to have faith, but faith alone is not enough, our faith in Christ is the simple steps we take towards Him, these virtues keep us strong in times of storms.

David said, “surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:6). Yet David was going through the valley of the shadow of death.

Peter's letter to the persecuted and scattered believers throughout Asia, wrote this: 2 Peter.1:1-9 NIV.

“To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:”

Who were those people? 1 Peter:1

- To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, **Galatia**, Cappadocia , Asia and Bithynia, 2who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

• **2 Peter. 1:** “Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter.1:2-8).

Conclusion:

- Peter is encouraging persecuted to make effort, what are some of the efforts we can do today to cultivate to our fruit? In the Bible the most profound and absolute sense of goodness is founded in God alone.

Even though there are good and bad individuals (Matthew 5:45); though it is possible for Christians to do good works (Ephesians 2:10); though everything created by God is good (I Timothy 4:4).

Though God Himself judged and pronounced the creation "very good" (Genesis 1:31), Jesus declares that God alone is good (Mark 10:18). Only God's goodness is absolute. Your goodness and mine will not survive these challenging times.