

# Fruit of the Spirit — Part 6

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## What the Holy Spirit wants to produce

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **Faithfulness** — trustworthy, dependable, steadfast in doing what is right before God

### How? Abide —

- **John 15:4-5**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

- Jesus is Faithful Witness, abide in Him, be faithful

## GOD IS FAITHFUL

- **Psalm 89:2,8**

Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens... O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

- **Psalm 119:90**

Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

- **Psalm 37:3**

Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

**God is faithful —  
and He is wanting to work His faithfulness  
into and out of our lives!**

## *Tragically — in scripture and in society there is a shortage of faithful people.*

- **Psalm 12:1**

Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

- **Micah 7:2**

The faithful man has perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net.

**Today** — there are three areas of life where we need to be found faithful — there are obviously more — but don't miss that in being faithful in *these* areas, we are being faithful to God!

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## Faithfulness —

in receiving and standing for God's truth

- Characters in this story: King Herod, his unlawful wife Herodias, John the Baptist
- **Mark 6:17-27**  
For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. Because John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom." So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison...
- **John the Baptist** — faithful to stand up for God by telling truth to the King; rebuking the Pharisees and Sadducees
- **King Herod**
  - a) Feared John — had a reverential respect for him — knew John was just and holy
  - b) protected John from Herodias' desire to kill him
  - c) did many things, responded to truth, heard John gladly

***But — because Herod wasn't faithful in standing for God's truth, he imprisoned John — then an "opportune day" came where his **unfaithfulness, compromise, cowardice, and convenience met** — and he had John killed.***

**When we're not faithful in standing for God's truth —  
"opportune days" come —  
where compromise, cowardice and convenience meet —  
and disobedience, disaster, and even death happen.**

**Being exceedingly sorry after the fact —  
is no substitution for being faithful in the moment!  
Herod's sorrow didn't restore John's head...  
unfaithfulness has a cost!**

***Application** — We **MUST** be faithful to receive and stand for God's truth — regardless of the cost!*

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### **Faithfulness —**

In stewarding God's gifts and purposes

- **Parable of the Talents** — The master gave five, two, one talents to three servants, so they would produce more; he leaves, then comes back to settle accounts and see how they did.
- **Matthew 25:19-21**  
After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'
- same response to servant given two talents, two more given to him; well done, good, faithful servant

**Gifts and purposes have been given to you to steward —  
to bring increase in God's kingdom.**

**There will be an accounting when Jesus returns —  
to see how you stewarded what you were given.**

**Faithfulness is prerequisite to both personal joy and kingdom promotion —  
faithful over few things, ruler over many things —  
enter into the joy of your Lord.**

- **1 Corinthians 4:2**  
Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

**We're stewards of God's gifts and purposes —  
we must be found faithful! TIME!**

**Question** — *What about the servant given one talent?*

**Answer** — *He buried it, nothing in it for him, too selfish, wicked and lazy*

- **Matthew 25:26, 30**  
"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant... cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Notice** – no “well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy” – just wicked and lazy, unprofitable, darkness, weeping, gnashing of teeth

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## Faithfulness —

in our relationships (these principles help all relationships)

- **Friendship of Jonathan**, son of King Saul, and **David**, the young giant killer
- **1 Samuel 18: 1,3,4**  
Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.
- next few chapters tell of the amazingly faithful relationship these two young men had
- **Jonathan** repeatedly – loved David as his own self, provided generously, informed of threats, defended character, reaffirmed covenant, risked own life, sacrificed self.
- **David** – performed covenant obligation to Jonathan’s descendants after Jonathan was killed.

## Faithfulness in relationships is everything from...

- **Proverbs 11:13**  
A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.
  - **Proverbs 27:6**  
Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.
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## Faithfulness —

- **Faithful** — trustworthy, dependable, steadfast in doing what is right before God
- **Faithfulness** in receiving and standing for God’s truth
- **Faithfulness** in stewarding God’s gifts and purposes
- **Faithfulness** in our relationships

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## Discussion Questions

1. One of Jesus’ names is “Faithful Witness.” How can we become more like Him?
2. Has there been a time in your life you have had to stand up for God’s truth? Was there a cost?
3. Do you think the master was fair in his treatment of the servant with one talent?
4. To be faithful stewards of God’s gifts and purposes, we must be found faithful in TIME! Do you struggle with this? What do you propose to do about it?
5. Are you faithful in your relationships with your friend – children – spouse?
6. Share an example with the group of how God has been faithful to you.