

Review: Where we've been

1. Speaking about walking in the Spirit

- A. We've also called it the "exchanged life"
 - 1). We exchange our weakness for His strength – our anxiety for His peace
Our sorrow for His joy – our inability for His ability...
- B. This only happens when we are filled with the Spirit
Eph 5:18 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,
 - 1). Don't be dominated/controlled by wine instead be dominated/controlled by the Spirit
- C. As we yield to Him – as we're filled – a couple things happen
 - 1). The word for filled – picture of wind filling the sails of a boat – propelling it along
 - a). The Spirit will empower us to live the Christian life – living in His power
 - 2). As we remain yielded to Him through the word – we remain connected - abiding
 - a). The life of Christ (the vine) will flow into us (the branches)
Through the Spirit the life of Christ is lived out through us = the Exchanged life

Transition: Just to encourage you – I want to show you that the Spirit is working in you if you are His

- A. Just kind of building up a mini-theology on the Holy Spirit

How the Spirit Works in Our Lives

1. He convicts us - John 16:8

Jn 16:8 (ESV) And when he comes, he will *convict the world concerning sin* and righteousness and judgment:

- A. Next time your convicted of sin THAT is the Holy Spirit moving in your life - take note
- B. If you are never convicted of sin – never confessing anything – what a danger sign

2. He illuminates the truth- John 16:12-13

Jn 16:12–13 (ESV) "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ⁽¹³⁾ When the Spirit of truth comes, *he will guide you into all the truth*, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

- A. Next time your reading your Bible and a passage lights up - that is Him! Thank Him

3. He teaches - John 16:14

John 16:14 (NIV) He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

- A. Next time some thought comes into your mind that opens up a truth - That is Him!

4. He guides and directs - Rom 8:14, Acts 20:22

Ro 8:14 (ESV) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Ac 20:22 (ESV) And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,

- A. Typical way: He will bring a scripture into your mind to lead you
- B. Sometimes it's a bit unusual - Ex. First car we bought – Dodge Colt
 - 1). It would not run and we couldn't afford to fix it
 - 2). This scripture came to mind – He used scripture

James 1:5 (NIV) If any of you *lacks wisdom*, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and *it will be given to him*.

- a). I prayed - God show me what to do - I need a car badly - don't have the money...
- b). This thought flashed in my mind – "*Look behind the carburetor*"
 - 1a). There was a rubber hose that came loose - hooked it up - started right up
 - 2a). I would have never looked behind the carburetor in a million years

- 3). You may be thinking - that's a little too weird for me
 - a). No stranger than - when the disciples needed tax money
"Peter go catch a fish - in its mouth will be enough money for our taxes"
 - b). Why wouldn't my Father help me like that? He loves me!
 - 1a). All I know is the car started and I was driving again
 - 2a). So you can think it's weird – I liked it!
- 4). He may supernaturally lead you
 - a). On the mission field - China - dark alleys - lost - stop and pray - go right to the house
- 5). Lost in a train station – can't speak language
Have no idea what tickets to buy – what train to get on – stop and pray
 - a). Suddenly a person appears out of nowhere that can speak perfect English
Can I help you – leads us step by step – what to do – ANGEL? Why not?
- C. It usually isn't that dramatic – but I'm sure you've had times where He's guided you

5. He leads us by putting burdens on our heart as we seek Him

Ac 13:2–3 (ESV) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ⁽³⁾ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

- A. Our call to England after much prayer - were certain of it - that was Him
- B. Prayer is not just asking God for things – it is reporting for duty
Finding out what He would have us to do

Mt 6:9–10 (ESV) Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Your kingdom come, *your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

- 1). I want your will to be done in my life – just like it's done in heaven

6. He assures us

Ro 8:16 (ESV) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- A. You know you're a child of God - Thank Him for that!

7. He warns - Acts 20:23

Ac 20:23 (ESV) ... the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

- A. He warns us to prepare us for what is about to come
- B. He will also warn us before we sin – don't go there – don't even start that
- C. He may warn us about hanging around a certain person going to a certain place - LISTEN

8. He intercedes

Ro 8:26 (ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

- A. Times we are in such pain - despair - confused we don't even know what to say
 - 1). We open our mouth and only a groan comes out
 - 2). He takes that groan and interprets it & turns it into the perfect prayer

9. He encourages - John 16:7 - word translated "helper" could also be "encourager"

Jn 16:7 (ESV) Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, *the Helper* will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

- A. How many times have you been down spiritually - your head is hanging!
But something happens - you recover - and get back at it again - *that is Him*
 - 1). I've learned to depend upon that – go to Him – Father I need encouragement
 - a). Every bit of discouragement is an opportunity to trust Him for encouragement

Transition: Let's dig into the next few fruits

I. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT CONT.

1. Last time we looked at love, joy, and peace

A. Since these are fruits – you may not have a bumper crop yet – just a little buds of “Love, joy or peace”

1). But as you walk in the Spirit – yielded to Him – these will blossom

These Christlike Characteristics will grow in your life – expressed through your life

Transition: Let’s pick up our fourth fruit out of this 9-fruit cluster of Christlikeness

The Fruit of Patience (Long suffering)

1. It means to have a long temper rather than a short temper

A. It speaks of a patient endurance while under provocation and ill-treatment

Without becoming angry or entertaining thoughts of revenge

1). We see this in Jesus at the cross - exercised towards those who were crucifying Him

Luke 23:34 (NIV) Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

2. Like all the other fruits this is a divine attribute

A. This is what God the Father is like

Ne 9:17 (ESV) ...But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, *slow to anger* and abounding in steadfast love...

1). This was Jonah’s complaint – remember

2). He was called to go down and preach to the Ninevites

a). They were a wicked, brutal people and Jonah didn’t want to go

Question: Why didn’t Jonah want to go? Because he was afraid? I don’t think so

1). He hated the Ninevites and was afraid God would do that God thing and forgive them

2). His fear – If I preach to those people God might use it to cause them to repent –

I don’t want them to repent – I want them to be judged – so no thank you I’m Tarshish bound

After the revival: Jon 4:2 (ESV) And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; (**Not because I was afraid of the Ninevites but...**) for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, *slow to anger* and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. (One who relents from doing harm)

a). I knew you were like this – I knew you were longsuffering and wouldn’t judge them

Question: Aren’t you glad He’s like that? If He weren’t longsuffering you wouldn’t be saved

2 Pe 3:9 (ESV) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, *but is patient toward you*, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1). On your first sin you deserved hell – it’s what you earned = The wages of sin is death

a). You weren’t destroyed because God is patient

He suffered long – and extended you more mercy – more time to repent and believe

2). If I were God – you would have all been toast long ago

a). “Oh yeah! What did you just say?”

3). Fortunately I’m not God! He was patient with us – giving us time to repent

B. This is also what Jesus is like

1 Tim 1:16 (NIV) But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the *worst of sinners*, Christ Jesus might display his *unlimited patience* as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life.

1). Remember: Long suffering doesn’t look to retaliate – again our example is Christ

1 Pe 2:22–23 (ESV) He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ⁽²³⁾ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

- a). If you're the kind always repaying evil for evil = Not Spirit-filled
- 2). The Spirit is wanting to make you like Christ

Ro 8:29 (ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also *predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...*

- a). If you're born again there is going to be a growing family likeness

Question: Want to know what long-suffering looks like? What you're supposed to be like

- A. You've witnessed it in your own life haven't you?
 - 1). He's been long-suffering with you – now be like that to others
- B. I'm amazed at how long-suffering He's been with me – aren't you
 - 1). Then our long-suffering towards others should amaze them
- C. Again I can only do this as I depend upon Him – it is a fruit of the Spirit
 - 1). I choose to do it – because I'm commanded – but I step out in dependence

Transition: So we're supposed to be like Him – let's try to apply this – are we?

3. Are we like Christ in this area of long-suffering

- A. Some people are like nitroglycerin - jostle them and they explode
 - 1). It's no fun being around edgy people like this - everybody winces when something goes wrong
 - a). Are they going to lose their temper – are they going to throw a fit – a tantrum
- B. But we make excuses – It's just the Irish in me etc.
 - 1). Stop that! Be Biblical – call it what God calls it – it's a work of the flesh
 - 2). Do you know what the Scripture says about these works of the flesh?

Gal 5:19-21 (NIV) The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; (20) idolatry and witchcraft; *hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage*, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions (21) and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. *I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- a). Not talking about occasional failure – but if your life is characterized by those things
You are not Spirit filled – and worse – you could be in great danger
- B. What **MUST** we do with works of the flesh – what does the Bible say? All that matters
 - 1). It tells us we must put them to death by the power of the Spirit

Ro 8:13 (ESV) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, (That's Gal. 5:19-21) but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

 - a). That is Spirit-filled living isn't it – seeing a work of the flesh we deal with it
We yield to the Scripture – “My sheep hear my voice and follow”
We depend upon the Spirit and we put it to death
 - b). A proof that you're a child of God is you're willing to deal with sin
 - 1a). You're not comfortable with it – it bothers you
- C. So you're angry – impatient – exploding – what do you do?
 - 1). You confess it – repent of it – depend upon the Spirit to put it to death
Father you said I was dead to sin, therefore, I don't have to give in to this anger any longer. You said that I have been raised to new life, resurrection life, therefore I can live differently. I pray that through your Spirit right now you would help me live that new risen life out. That Christlike life. I pray that you would help me live out His patience.
 - a). That is walking in the Spirit – the yielded life – responding to the Scriptures
 - b). As you do this Paul says the flesh will lose its grip

Gal 5:16 (NIV) So I say, live by the Spirit, *and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

1a). Live that submitted – dependent life

The works of the flesh *will be* exchanged for the fruit of the Spirit

Thought: That is also choosing to live like who you are in Christ

A. Scripture says you have died to sin – why live in it any longer – you don't have to give in

B. Scripture says you're alive to Christ now – you been raised with Him to newness of life

1). So start living like who you are – you don't have to be bullied by sin

You are "In Christ" – united to Him – united to His victory

2). Depend upon the Spirit to live that victory out through you – that risen life

Transition: Let's move on

The Fruit of the Spirit of Kindness

1. A mildness, kindness, a gentleness, to be courteous and fair spoken

A. It is the opposite of being harsh and austere

2. Again it is a divine characteristic

A. Many times when the Bible says that God is good – that word could be translated Kind

3. His kindness is seen in our salvation

A. Because He was patient He gave us time to repent and be saved

Because He was kind He wanted us to be saved – He wanted to give us that time

Tt 3:3–5 (ESV) For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁽⁴⁾ But when the goodness and *loving kindness* of God our Savior appeared, ⁽⁵⁾ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

1). It was His *loving kindness* that caused Him to come to earth in human form

B. It is also His kindness that causes us to turn to Him

Look at the way Paul puts it in Romans 2:4

TURN Ro 2:4 (ESV) Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that *God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

1). He was patient – giving us time to repent

2). He was kind – that caused us to want to repent

Thought: I think we need to take a moment to see how that last verse can be misused

A. Many have used this verse to say we should never speak on hell or wrath to an unbeliever

Because it is the kindness of God that leads to repentance – just tell them about his love

B. While it is true people need to hear about God's love – that isn't all they need

1). I wasn't saved because of a knowledge of His kindness – was because of His wrath

2). That is also necessary – I think many times they work together

a). Can I prove this Biblically? If I can't then let's just move on

TURN: Lk 12:4–7 (ESV) "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁽⁵⁾ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁽⁶⁾ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁽⁷⁾ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

A. See what seems like a contradiction there?

1). V. 5 Fear Him who has the authority to cast you into hell – Yes, I tell you, fear Him!

V. 7 Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows

- B. So – Fear God because He can cast you into hell = for the unbeliever that is a valid fear
 - 1). But don't fear Him because you are worth more than many sparrows
- C. Here it is – taking the Bible as a whole and putting it all together
 - 1). Take the consequences of judgment seriously – fear God as judge
Then let that drive you to the one who is loving and kind – the one you don't have to fear as Father
 - a). Fear Him if you're not going to respond – don't fear Him when you do
 - b). The proper fear of Him drives you to Him so you don't have to fear Him
- D. That is my testimony in a nutshell – feared Him because I learned He would cast me into hell
So I went to Him and discovered His kindness – His love in offering a sinner like me salvation
 - 1). It was this loving kindness that causes me to repent – I want to please Him

4. His kindness is seen in His care for this world

- A. There is a philosophy “Deism” that says God created the world but is uninvolved
 - 1). But that isn't scriptural – He created and He is involve – and He cares
- B. This is the testimony of every believer – He cares
He is the good shepherd who watches over me – who provides – who protects
 - 1). The history of my life testifies to my Kings kindness - goodness
- C. It's not just for the believer it is for the unbeliever too
 - 1). Scripture talks about the common grace of God – given to all mankind
 - a). The beauty of this world – the taste of food
The sun shining, the rain watering the crops of the righteous and the wicked

5. His kindness seen in His concern for His special ones

- A. God is kind to all – but he directs that kindness in a very special way to certain individuals
 - 1). Toward the afflicted – towards those who are in trouble
 - 2). Those who are physically or emotionally afflicted. God cares about those who are in trouble.
- B. Scripture after scripture speaks about his kindness to the poor – to the oppressed

Question: How does He express that kindness? Who does He use now? US – HIS CHURCH

- A. We are His hands and feet
 - 1). The Spirit takes the yielded vessel – produces this fruit of kindness in them
Then sends them out into the world to do God's work
 - a). To those who are poor – He's calling some of us to work with the homeless
 - b). To those who are oppressed – He's calling some of us to work with the trafficked

Point: He wants this fruit to flourish in you – so you can reach out to this hurting world

- A. It might not be in the homeless – or trafficked – but it will be there towards others
 - 1). Be kind – have compassion and you'll shine for the Lord
 - 2). We live in a nation where common courtesy is hard to find
 - a). A nation that has a big chip on its shoulders

David Jeremiah: The world is looking for it. This world of ours is a cruel, violent, uncaring, hurtful place to live. God expects us to bring kindness, joy and love into the lives of the people we touch. That's the reason God left us here, so we could make a difference.

- B. God is kind to the unbeliever – He wants us to follow suit

Lk 6:35 (ESV) But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, *and your reward will be great*, and you will be sons of the Most High, *for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.*

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- 1). It won't be easy but the promise of great reward makes it well worth it
 - a). You will act like Him to the lost – this will open their eyes
 - C. God tells His people to be kind to one another

Eph 4:32 (NIV) Be kind and compassionate to one another, **(here is one way that is shown)** forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Point: This is what the Holy Spirit will produce in you as you submit to Him and rely upon Him
 - A. If you are rude, harsh and discourteous your not Spirit filled - that simple
 - 1). That's the flesh and you need to put it to death
 - B. You need to draw near - submit and depend - so He can begin to produce this fruit in you
 - 1). Then you need to take every opportunity you're tempted to be harsh and choose to be kind instead
Depending entirely upon the Spirit – and that fruit will grow – 30-60-100 fold
 - a). God will use you – the more He uses you the more the fruit of joy grows
 - 1a). It's all connected
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CONCLUSION

1. Longsuffering – kindness – fruits we are commanded to live out

- A. Yield yourselves to the Spirit and they WILL grow
Then choose to express that fruit in your life – depending upon the Spirit and they WILL show