

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Faith

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Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

I. Faith [the assent of the mind to the truth of what God has revealed]

A. Faith is God's gift to us so we can even now grasp (hold and know) eternal things

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

B. Faith goes past believing in God—To living our belief with sure confidence in God

Jas 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God...the devils also believe, and tremble.

II. Faith is a fruit of the Spirit (not the root)—The ability to believe comes from God

Eph 2:8 by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

Php 1:29 ...unto you it is given...not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Eph 1:19 ...the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...

A. Since faith is a fruit—If you have faith—You can know you have been born again

1Jn 4:7 ...for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God...

1Jn 2:29 ...every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

1Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...

1Jn 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him...

B. Prior to being born again—No one will or can believe in and come to Jesus

1Co 2:14 ...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 3:3 ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

Joh 10:26-27 ...ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep...My sheep hear my voice...

Act 13:48 ...and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

Psa 65:4 Blessed *is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee...*

1Co 12:3 ...no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Mat 16:16 ...Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

1Co 4:7 For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory...

Rom 3:27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

C. Believing is not a requirement for being born again—Or for getting to heaven

Rom 9:16 So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Rom 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Rom 3:3-4 God forbid...

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

D. Belief is not in the chain of salvation that gets God's children to heaven

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

III. Thoughts on faith and modern Christianity

A. Modern Christianity tends to underestimate the miracle of faith

Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

B. Modern Christianity tends to overestimate the role of faith

—Faith does not give eternal life—Faith gives the assurance that we have eternal life

—The sole and only means, cause and basis of our having eternal life is Christ

—Yet the means to our understanding that Christ is the cause and basis is faith

C. There is a distinction between believing in Christ and believing in faith

—Don't put faith in faith—Man's faith is too unfaithful to be trusted for eternal life

IV. What is the purpose of faith?

A. Faith is given so we can know the things that God already knows

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

B. Faith is for *Living' Whatcha Been Given*

Rom 1:17 ...The just shall live by faith.

1. Faith is not for getting life

a. The Christians at Rome had already been '*called of Jesus Christ*' (born again)

Rom 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

b. They already had world renowned faith (and faith is a fruit of the Spirit)

Rom 1:8 ...your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

2. Faith in the gospel delivers us to live our lives following Jesus and having peace

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

3. Faith is not for getting things—Faith is for facing things

a. By faith—Habakkuk faced the enemy

Hab 2:4 ...the just shall live by his faith.

b. By faith—The sinful woman came to Jesus to wash His feet with her tears

Luk 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

c. By faith—The diseased woman with the issue of blood came to Jesus

Luk 8:48 ...Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

C. Faith is for pleasing God

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*...

V. What if I had no faith?

A. Having no faith does not equate to having no chance of getting to heaven

B. ‘No faith’ is not: ‘*Jesus not having me*’—Jesus has me (whether I believe it or not)

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Heb 13:5 ...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

C. ‘No faith’ is me not knowing that Jesus has me (all the way to the other side)

Mar 4:35 ...Let us pass over unto the other side...

Mar 4:38 ...Master, carest thou not that we perish? ...

Mar 4:40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have **no faith**?

D. ‘No faith’ would mean not having the rest that coming to Him would give to me

Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

E. Faith is my good friend—Who introduced me to and keeps me near my best friend

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is...faith,

VI. Faith is not just for me (or about me)—Faith is to be used by me to give Jesus glory

A. Real Christianity is about glorifying Jesus

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Act 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? ...

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

B. Real faith in realized grace demands works

Jas 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

C. Real faith that realizes God's love compels us to go to work

2Co 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us...

Gal 5:6 ...faith which worketh by love.