

**Series: Faith By The Numbers**

**Title: 9 Fruits of the Spirit:** Longsuffering

**Text:** (Gal 5:22-23)

What is meant by the word “*Fruit*”?

On Purpose, God has limited Himself in the way in which He will respond to all forms of Adversity.

This was His decision.

The Spirit will lead you to respond in one of these 9 ways, or not to respond at all.

These “*Fruits*” are God’s 9 actions or reactions to all circumstances in life.

The devil , as an angel of light, mimicking God’s true leadings thereby offering us alternative to each of God’s 9 Fruits of the Spirit.

That gives us 20 choice, with 2 of them as obtaining from responding at all.

The problem: we do not have a dynamic enough walk with God to discern the difference between righteous responses under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and Self-Righteous responses under the influence of the flesh.

**Transforming: Love, Joy, & Peace**

(Inner being transformation)

(Rom 12:2) Transforming precedes Conforming.  
Inside Behaviors of man.

These can go undetected.

Acting right outwardly, necessitates as inward change.

These are responses to adversity.

The devil attacks us from the outside to influence us.

Lust of the Flesh to prey on the Mind.

Lust of the Eyes to prey upon the Will.

Pride of Life to prey upon the Emotions.

He uses these outside influences in attempt to destroy the inside.

God works from the Inside out.

The inner man communicates with God.

The Holy Spirit influences the Inner Man.

We yield to His influence it is always conforms the outer being to the image of Christ.

**Conforming: Longsuffering, Gentleness, & Goodness**

(Outer being conformation)

These are evidenced by outward behavior.

After the Transformation of the mind begins, these 3 fruits will cause us to UN-CONFORM from the world and be conformed to the image of Christ.

Transforming Fruits of the Spirit:

Interior fruits, can be faked or masked.

Love Vs. Self Love / Selfishness  
Voluntarily giving of myself to meet another person's basic needs without having the motive of personal reward.

Joy Vs. Frustration / Self Pity  
The spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when my soul is in fellowship with God.

Peace Vs. Worry  
To be safe from harm of spirit, mind, and body.

Transform before you can Conform: (Rom 12:1-2)  
To change the way we Act, we must first change how we Think

### **I. Conforming Fruits of the Spirit:**

#### ***Longsuffering***

Def~ *Expresses patience w/the shortcomings of others*

The spirit of calmness that is expressed toward other people who have "shortcomings".

The Transforming Fruit of the Spirit, (Love, Joy, Peace) ***expressed by patience*** when others fall short of our expectations of them.

When we LOVE people without thought of return, we experience an absolute JOY in all circumstances.  
This JOY leads to freedom from WORRY.

***The Devil's Goal is to Hide the Gospel:*** (2 Co 4:3-10)  
When people recognize God for who He is, they trust Him as their savior.

***Christians go through all kinds of attacks, troubles, disappointments, & persecutions, BUT ITS HOW WE RESPOND TO THEM that affects the Gospel.***

Our godly response of longsuffering will cause the light of Christ within us to be made evident to others.

The only way to let our light shine in this dark place ***is for things to happen to us*** that will bring attention to the image of Christ within us.

He cannot shine through us unless we allow those circumstances to wound our outer man (Flesh) and let the Inner man display the image of God to others.

By not Yielding to the fruit of the Spirit we put a "Bushel over our light."

Our inconsistency in yielding to the Spirit that actually leaves us embarrassed or unwilling to share our faith with others.

***There is no other fruit that leads more people to Christ than yielding to the fruit of longsuffering when faced with disappointment in others.***

***God's longsuffering toward us was probably driving force behind our own salvation.***

*(Rom 2:4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

God expresses a calm attitude toward our shortcomings for long periods of time, and we experience great benefits from His longsuffering attitude.

We judge others who come short of our expectations.

*(2 Cor 10:12) For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

We are UNWISE to compare others to us.

***The Devil's Fleshly Counterfeit is a Quick Tempered Irritability that negatively excites our passions.***

A Quick Temper is means our passions being inflamed due to irritation caused by people falling short of our expectations of them.

***This Drives people away from the Gospel!***

Do you have a Quick Temper with the short-comings of others?

If so, it is hindering your service to the Lord.

***It is hiding the Gospel from people.***

If the Devil cannot get you to be Selfish, Frustrated, or Worried, Then he will try and lead you to be proud.

In Our Pride, we expect others to act a certain way.

The devil knows that our pride will cause us to get irritated with the short comings of others.

It causes us to lose respect with our family & peers.

(Prov 19:11)

***The Descretion*** (or, proper judgement)

***of a man deferreth*** (or, delays)

***his anger; & it is his glory to pass over*** (or, overlook)  
***a transgression*** (or, violation).

## **II. Conforming Fruits of the Spirit:**

**Gentleness:** *Freedom from Harshness, Softness in manner*

*Our Manner* is the way we act in relation to our duties of life, behavior, demeanor, and conduct.

Gentleness is to be Mild Mannered.

***Do some people bug you?***

Why do some people bug you?

It's all about them. Their Selfish.

It is not them, per-se' like their DNA that bugs you?

NO. *It's their manner that bugs us.*

Responding to people with the influence of the Spirit in Gentleness is a result of us deciding to forgive people for their insensitivities.

(Eph 4:31-32) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

**Bitterness:** *Compressed Feelings*

**Wrath:** *Feelings of getting even*

**Anger:** *Passions of mind*

**Clamour:** *Argumentativeness*

**Evil Speaking:** *Gossiping*

**Malice:** *Desire for physical injury*

**Kind to one another:** *Outward demonstration of gentleness*

**Tenderhearted to one another:** *Inward demonstration of gentleness*

**Forgiving one another:** *Upward demonstration of gentleness*

**Harshness:** *Roughness in manner, temper, or words.*  
Our reaction to those we perceive as violating us.

If we act on these desires, then it will cause others to hate everything about us.

*It is hiding the Gospel from people.*

God wants us to respond to people in a gentle way, especially when faced with the failures of others.

(Ps 18:35) *Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.*

My harshness is a direct result of me being offended, because I was taking the failures of others personally, as if they didn't care that their failure affected me.

(2 Tim 2:24-26) *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

*those that oppose themselves - i.e.. that do harm to themselves because of their short comings.*

**SO! How do we be Gentle?**

**We yield to the fruit of the Spirit -Gentleness by Forgiving people (Eph 4:31-32)**

(Eph 4:31-32) *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

**Step 1: Forgiving one another: UPWARD**  
*demonstration of gentleness.*

Pray: Ask God for the grace to forgive people for their short comings and insensitivity.

Praying for someone gives you a tender heart for them  
You can pray for those you don't love, but you can't stop falling in love with people when you consistently pray for.

**Step 2: Tenderhearted to one another: INWARD**  
*demonstration of gentleness.*

Through prayer, you choose to love them as Christ loves them.

**Step 3: Kind one to another: OUTWARD**  
*demonstration of gentleness*

Choose to act tenderly toward them.

(Titus 3:1-2) *Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, 2 To speak evil of no man,*

*to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.*

### **III. Conforming Fruits of the Spirit:**

**Goodness:** *Conforming our lives and conversations to behave benevolently toward others.*

**Benevolent:** A disposition to do good; possessing love to mankind,  
A desire to promote the prosperity & happiness of another.  
Actions intended to benefit another rather than yourself.

This is very much the world's definition of a ***Good Person.***

***For a Christian:*** when we yield to the fruit of the Spirit - Goodness, we are being conformed/molded to act/ talk in such a way that promotes happiness and prosperity toward everyone.

***This is a quality we appreciate in God himself!***  
(Ps 31:19) *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*

(Ps 107:8-9) *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! 9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*

***Goodness is actually an outer demonstration of the inner yielding to the fruit of love.***

***Mercy is the primary catalyst for yielding to the fruit of the Spirit~Goodness.***

Our willingness to yield to the inner man's desire to show love will cause the outer man to conform in behavior to be benevolent.

***A Heart of Love Produces an Action of Goodness.***

when people see goodness demonstrated by others toward them, it leads them to repentance.

*(Rom 2:4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

This Fruit of the Spirit is very Evangelistic.

The reason we struggle to yield to Goodness, because of our unwillingness to offer to others the response of ***Mercy.***

**God never gives us permission to Judge anyone but ourselves.** Judgement is reserved for God.  
***We are Hiding the Gospel from them!***

God's command to demonstrate mercy and grace are seemingly tough demands when responding to those who have done us wrong.

**Remember: If we are unforgiving toward others, God will be unforgiving toward us. (Matt 6:15) *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, NEITHER WILL your Father forgive your trespasses.***

**If we do not show Grace to others, God will not show Grace to us.**

The reason we prefer to judge others rather than show mercy is to justify indulging in a fleshly alternative of Meanness.

**Meanness:** is the opposite of Goodness.  
*Def. Refusing to be liberal with charity, thus avoiding any personal expense.*

2 Contrasting Behaviors. Benevolence vs. Stingyness.  
*Typically used to refer to behaviors of handling money.*

There is so much more to Benevolence than just Money.

For God's work to be done through men, He needs us to demonstrate Goodness with our Money, Time,

Energies/Efforts, Gifts, and Talents, and in our actions with and responses to the mistakes of others.

(Matt 6:19-21; 24-33)

In a Nut Shell, Jesus is saying that we should not focus on the acquisition of temporary things that will be of no value to us when we die.

*Treasure* - The great quantity of any thing that is collected for future use.

### **Seek the Kingdom of God**

**Seek His Righteousness:** *Doing GOOD under the influence of the Holy Spirit is seeking His Righteousness.*

The Devil tries to suppress the fruit of Goodness by frustrating us into focusing on meeting our own needs.

*Some of the toughest ministries to get started in a church is an addictions recovery ministry?*

*Some of the easiest is Battered Women and abused Children.*

*Why do you suppose that is?*

People can seem to justify in their hearts giving to Victims.

But ministering to grown adults with self inflicted problems is tough because we have a tendency to to justify our Meanness.

(ie. Avoiding personal expense by supplanting Charity with Judgement)

We judge the needy to be unworthy of our merciful benevolence.

This is a sinful reaction.

***We are Hiding the Gospel!***

When we focus on stuff, God allows it to rust and be moth eaten, or stolen by thieves.

But distributing benevolence with a heart of mercy to the underserved, I know I will receive that same mercy back from God, both here and in the kingdom to come.

**Conforming Fruits of the Spirit:**  
**Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness,**  
**These Lead Others to Jesus!**