



SPIRIT-FILLED LIVING

THE FRUIT OF FAITHFULNESS

Galatians 3:1-9

I. Faithfulness is rooted in BELIEVING God's PROCLAMATION.

"However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness." (Romans 4:5, NIV84)

II. Faithfulness is revealed in LIVING by God's POWER.

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." (Galatians 5:6, NIV84)

III. Faithfulness is rewarded by RESTING in God's PROMISES.

"All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance." (Hebrews 11:13, NIV84)

SUMMARY: Faithfulness is a commitment to the truth that is manifested in continued obedience.

How might your life more abundantly bear the fruit of faithfulness?

*"We exist to glorify God
by enabling all people
to become fully-devoted followers of
the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Sermon -Based Study Guide

Getting Started (*Pick one of the following and share your answer with your group.*)

1. When you think back on your growing-up years, what person sticks out in your mind as a “pillar of faithfulness”? In what way?
2. Who among your present acquaintances would you describe as a “pillar of faithfulness”? Why do you think of him/her that way?

Digging Deeper

3. Read **Galatians 3:1-14**. It begins with a sharp rebuke: “You foolish Galatians!” Read **Gal. 1:6-9** to see why Paul is concerned.
 - a. How does Paul there describe what the Galatians are doing?
 - b. To what does he attribute their departure from his teaching?
 - c. What judgment does he make of the “different gospel”? Why?
 - d. What do you think was the attraction of a “different gospel”?
4. Why do you think Paul insists (**3:1**) that “Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified”?
5. What is the connection between “the curse of the law” and Christ “becoming a curse for us” (See **vs. 13-14**)? What is the benefit of his having done so?
6. What question does Paul ask in **Gal. 3:2** to clarify the issue of how we receive the Spirit? Why do you think that is important?

7. Paul's questions in vs. 3-5 are meant to cause the Galatians to reflect on their experience as believers. What answers do you think Paul expected them to make to his queries? How do you think that should help them to withstand the pressures they were facing to accept a "different gospel"?

Further Reflection

8. When you think about your experience as a believer, what things would you point to which validate the gospel you have believed?
9. While *faithfulness* is part of the *fruit* of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22-23, Paul's concern in today's passage is for us to exhibit faithfulness in the way we understand and live out the gospel. Which idea in today's sermon was most challenging, troubling, or helpful as you consider how you might do that?
- *Faithfulness is rooted in believing God's proclamation.*
 - *Faithfulness is revealed in living by God's power.*
 - *Faithfulness is rewarded by resting in God's promises.*
10. How do you reconcile the notion of *faithfulness* as a *fruit* of the Spirit and at the same time a *demand* of Christian discipleship?
11. How might your group help you develop *faithfulness* in the way you live out your faith in Christ? How might you help them?