Faithfulness & Gentleness

September 14, 2020

Faithfulness:  Strict performance of promises, vows or covenants; constancy in affection;

Graham Cooke teaching: The faithfulness of God elevates and supports the other fruit. When we look at how His faithfulness is seen through the different characteristics of the fruit, we see just how relentless He is. Relentless is unrelenting, unrelenting, persistent, unremitting.

* God is faithful in love - How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of men take refuge and put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. Psalms 36:7 (We can rest in the fact that His love for us is steadfast!)
* God is faithful in joy - If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commandments and live on in His love. I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing. John 15:10-11(We can trust His faithfulness to make our joy complete.)
* God is faithful in peace - I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.] John 16:33 (His faithfulness is seen in His promise that He has overcome the world. That is where we find our peace.)
* God’s faithfulness in patience - The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in faithful love. Psalms 103:8 (We see His faithfulness towards us in His being slow to anger and rich in love!)
* God is faith in kindness - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7 (We see His kindness in that He did not leave us in our sin!)
* God’s faithfulness in goodness - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning James 1:17 (His goodness never changes!)
* God’s faithfulness in faithfulness - If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13 (His faithfulness never changes!)
* God’s faithfulness in gentleness - Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls Matthew 11:29 (He leads us in gentleness. His gentleness was evident on the Cross!)
* God’s faithfulness in self-control - For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7 (God has been faithful in not treating us as our sins deserve. He was faithful in how He treated the children of Israel. He then goes on to give us His self-control)

Gentleness: is mildness of manners and disposition. God speaks to us through gentleness. I used the passage in 1 Kings 19 as an example of how God spoke to Elijah.

Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 1 Kings 19:11-12

 How did God speak to Elijah? In a still small voice.

Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth! Psalms 46:10

How does God want us to know Him?

* He wants us to be still!

How do you hear God’s voice in the following commands?

* John 14;15
* Matthew 6:21
* John 15:5

How does it change if you are hearing God with a gentle voice?

What experiences have shaped your image of God’s gentleness?

Look at James 3:13 – Why do you think gentleness and wisdom are partnered together?

Have you seen God use the “gentleness of wisdom” in your life?:

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Faithfulness: is truth, veracity as in the faithfulness of God. A habitual observance of truth, habitual truth. Veracity only applies to man only.