

SOLID ROCK #5 Christians Walk Funny

We are going through the basics of faith in Christ methodically. Remember first we talked about what Christ has done for us in making a way to God. Then we saw how the Bible is divinely inspired to be a manual for life, and tools for studying it. Have you started a daily time for reading your Bible and begun to memorize God's word? If not, ask yourself what is more important than knowing life's handbook. Make a plan and begin to implement it TODAY. Form godly habits! And last week we talked about the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the power to live as God would have us live.

This week we are going to study what that looks like. It looks like the life of Christ. Colossians 2:6&7 If you have received Jesus then you are to walk in Him, (or as NIV puts it, live in Him). 2 Corinthians 5:7 says we walk (or live) by faith and not by sight. That is a strange thing to do, but faith pleases God. Hebrews 11:6 Understand that the things of the Spirit are often contrary to our world. The Bible tells us the first shall be last and the last first. There is that maketh himself rich yet hath nothing, there is that maketh himself poor yet hath great riches. To our eyes it looks like Christians (which means little Christs) do walk funny. It is more blessed to give than receive! He that is great among you shall be your servant. Quite a contrast with the way our society looks at things. Our nature goes against this humble, selfless way, but if we have become new creatures in Christ with a new nature then we can receive the power of Jesus to live that life. Christ has not destroyed your old tendencies but rather given you a new motivating force that overpowers the old nature. You have a choice of which nature you choose to obey. Galatians 5:13-18 You and I were once in a destructive cycle of selfishness as described in verses 19 -21, but now we have a choice to be set free from those habits and follow the Spirit, vs 22&23.

Jesus said that every tree is known by its fruit. If the Spirit is the sap of your life it will bear Spirit fruits that are listed in 22&23. And as you grow more in love with your Savior you will want to bear more fruit. John 15:8 The things listed in 19 - 21 may still sound good to you because you haven't seen how destructive they are to your life and your life in God. The fruits of the Spirit are all healthy. You can enjoy as much of them as you want with no harmful side effects. What about the selfish acts in 19 -21?

The first and foremost of the fruits and gifts is LOVE. Can you see how real love would keep you from the actions of your old ways? For a definition of love read 1Corinthians 13. Heaven is a place where everyone is ruled by Love, for God is Love. Imagine what this world would be like if every heart was ruled by love. How would it make your home different? Your work place? You can let it rule in your heart. I think it is tested most in personal relationships. But if you really want to win, live in God's love, as love conquers all. 1Corinthians 13:8 If you ask for God's love for someone and are willing to receive it LOOK OUT. You'll find you do nice things for that person you couldn't stand to be around, and enjoying doing those things.

JOY (J)esus, (O)thers, (Y)ou 1Peter 1:8 We have joy in knowing who He is. What a wonderful God we serve. Could we imagine any better? Our joy isn't in what we are or what we have but in Whom we serve and what He has called us to. James 2:5

PEACE A fruit that is in great need today. The world offers no peace of heart but He is our Peace. John 16:33 A part of the meaning of peace is harmony. To be in harmony with what our Creator made us to be is to be at peace.

PATIENCE or ENDURENCE James 5:11 We need to keep our eye on the goal and the victory in our spirit and not on the present circumstances, as we know the "end of the Lord". "God always ignores the present perfection for the ultimate perfection." Oswald Chambers The Lord set us an example of enduring for the joy that was set before Him. John begins the Revelation of Jesus by saying he was in the patience of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:9

GENTLENESS The Spirit rarely works in anything other than a gentle way. Look at Christ dealing with the woman caught in adultery, the woman at the well, Peter's restoration, doubting Thomas, 2 Timothy 2:24&25, Titus 3:2, James 3:17, Psalms 18:35 His gentleness has made me great, and can do the same through us to others. 2 Corinthians 10:1 It's the gentleness of Christ.

GOODNESS Upright in heart and mind, kind. Exodus 33:19 It was the goodness of God that passed before Moses that was so great he couldn't see it fully.

Psalms 23:6 Without His goodness we wouldn't make it. Let His goodness flow through us to others. Psalms 33:5 "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness" is four times in Psalms 107. The Lord is my **GOODNESS**. Psalms 144:2

FAITH Hebrews 1:1,6 Romans 10:17, John 1:14 Our faith comes by Christ Jesus. 1John 5:4 "and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Faith believes that God is working in situations even when we cannot see the good.

MEEKNESS similar to gentleness but may be most easily described as the opposite of "pushy pride" James 3:13, 1Peter 3:15

TEMPERANCE or self control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites)

Galatians 5:26 & 27 When we talk about fruits of the Spirit and maturing in Christ we are not on a scale of bad to good. There is no grading system. We either yield to Christ or we choose not to. We either let the sap of the vine (Christ) flow through us and produce the fruits or we shut it off. 1Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit. It's not a description to strive for but one you will see happening as your relationship with Jesus grows deeper.