

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is loyal reliability and trustworthiness grounded in God's unwavering faith.

- Trustworthy, loyal, constant, dependable.
- One who is a godly example, a person of integrity, and devoted to others and to Christ.

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. — James 1:12, NIV

Question: Is my life characterized by faith in Christ and faithfulness to him and those around me? When I go through difficult times in my life and in my walk with God do I continue to be faithful?

Gentleness

Gentleness is a humble attitude that approaches others with care and respect.

- Gentleness is about how you engage with others.
- The ability to use gentle words in tense moments. The ability to approach others with ease, helping them feel safe, cared for, heard, and comfortable.
- Meekness is not weakness. Gentleness is not without power, it just chooses to defer to others. It forgives others, corrects with kindness, and lives in tranquility.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
Proverbs 15:1, NIV

Question: Do I come across to others as brash and headstrong, or am I allowing the grace of God to flow through me to others?

Self-Control

Self-control is the discipline to manage impulses and desires to live wisely and responsibly.

- Self-control is literally releasing the grip of our fleshly desires, choosing instead to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- Everyone faces temptation, impulses or desires that we ought not have, therefore everyone needs self-control.
- Quick temper, overeating, pride, gossip _____
- Our testimonies, ministry, and families are far too important to allow some temporary pleasure to destroy them.
- We have the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to help us identify and overcome areas of weakness.

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. I Corinthians 10:13

Question: Are my fleshly desires controlling my life, or am I allowing the Spirit to direct me to the things that please God and serve others?

We can and will grow in all of the Fruit of the Spirit as we grow closer to Jesus Christ. So, grow closer to God by spending time with Him, learning from Him, and creating more space in your life and heart for Him, and watch as your life begins to produce fruit.