HOW DO YOU PLAN TO IMPROVE?

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, selfcontrol. Against such things there is no law.

Today we are going to take a look at the last three "Fruits of the Spirit".

FAITHFULNESS

"that which evokes trust and faith"

"the state of being someone in whom confidence can be placed"

Reliability

Confidence

All of the New Testament examples of this word involve faithfulness toward God.

It is a man or woman living out their trust in God over the long haul.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 A person should consider us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's mysteries. In this regard, it is expected of managers that each one of them be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

The question comes up of whether or not this is also talking about faithfulness towards others?

The answer is no.

That idea of faithfulness is encompassed in the first fruit, Love.

GENTLENESS

-meekness -humility -couteous -considerate

It's a word we see to describe the character of Jesus.

The word has an idea of humility.

Matthew 11:29 All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves.

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you also won't be tempted.

Paul goes on to teach this very thing.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

SELF-CONTROL

"temperance"

"control of ones emotions, desires, and impulses"

Self-control is unlike any other fruit, in that it is something not done in community.

It is individual.

The fruit of self-control helps you and I to curb the excesses off the works of the flesh.

Paul gives a couple different examples of need for self-control.

Sexual desire

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 | say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am. But if they do not have selfcontrol, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with desire.

Self-discipline of an athlete

1 Corinthians 9:25 Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away, but we a crown that will never fade away.

Character of an over-seer

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, selfcontrolled,

Where I do think we have to be careful is comparing self-control or temperance with abstinence.

Eliminating everything is not self-control, it is lagalism.

So I ask the same question again...

How are you doing?