

## HOW TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

### THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In this message, we want to talk about the leading of the Spirit through the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We are going to show a connection between the leading of the Spirit and walking in the Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Ghost. Before we do that, let's look at the book of Acts and see the leading that Paul had in his life. We have talked about how God can lead us through the inward witness and how God could lead us in all the various realms of His Spirit.

Lets look at Acts 13:2-3 *As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work in which I have called them."* Then, *having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.* Here is the first missionary journey beginning and Paul the apostle received together with Barnabas a spectacular leading. All the leadings of the Holy Spirit may not be spectacular. But all of them definitely are supernatural but some of them are more spectacular than others. We cannot tell God how to speak to us. God will speak to us and it's up to us to hear Him when He speaks in a spectacular manner or an unspectacular manner and just be obedient to Him. Here in Paul's life in Acts 13 in the beginning of his first missionary journey and there was a spectacular leading. The Holy Spirit spoke but the bible didn't tell us whether they heard it only among themselves or whether there was an audible voice and all of them heard. The whole group was praying and heard that supernatural voice of the Holy Spirit and they just obeyed it and flowed along. It would be wonderful for God to lead that way but God does not lead that way all the time.

After the Jerusalem council, the second missionary journey took place in Acts 15 when Paul and Barnabas came back from Jerusalem to Antioch. They stayed there for some time. Acts 15:36 *Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Lets us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the Word of the Lord, and see how they are doing."* Now it doesn't say anything about the voice of the Holy Spirit. But what Paul was saying here is, "I feel good about it. I feel good about

visiting these people.” And there is an impression laid on his heart. Perhaps the idea came to his mind. And the Lord Holy Spirit was working. We realize that this was the leading of the Holy Spirit. Yet, it was not as spectacular as the first time. Now all he feels is something good on the inside.

Now we have talked about the five sensations of the inward witness. This is connected to that but yet different. This nature of ours, which is renewed by the Holy Spirit, flows with the mind of God. You sort of know the mind of God. And you know this is the right thing to do at the right time. Here Paul is sensing it that it's good to visit them. Then began the wonderful journey called the second missionary journey. The spectacular leading came much later. That is in Acts 16 they had a little dispute before they parted and two missionary journeys were born out of that dispute.

Now look at Acts 19 the time of Paul's third missionary journey. We want to see the beginning of the missionary journey. Acts 19 it tells us that Apollos was in Corinth that Paul having passed the upper regions and came to Ephesus. That was Paul's third missionary journey. But before that third missionary journey began, the two earlier missionary journeys had already accomplished many great and mighty exploits for God. And the third was possibly in a greater measure because there he set up a preaching ministry in Ephesus. The background of the third missionary actually started in Acts 18. As Paul was ending his second missionary journey in Acts 18 it tells us in verse 18 so *Paul remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Chenchrea for he had taken a vow. And he came to Ephesus and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent.* He was in Ephesus preaching the Word. This was the end of his second missionary journey and they asked Paul to stay longer. It came from the desire in their heart as they heard the Word of God being preached. Paul says he can't but this is the statement he made in verse 21 *but took leave of them saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing."* He did not say yes, but he felt good about it. And he said, "I would return again to you, God willing."

Now here is the difference if he were receiving one of the inward witnesses of the Holy Spirit he would be able to say, "Yes I will return." Because the inward witness of the Holy Spirit is a green light or red light.

Remember there are five sensations of the inward witness. The first is *stenazo*, a grieving that we sense in our spirit that tells us it is red light for the time being and the thing that we are involved with is in the permissive will of God. Secondly, there is *embrimaomai*, a complete red light that says no, no. Thirdly, there is *tarasso*, an orange light danger signal that tells you to be extra careful and watchful. Fourthly, there is *paroxunomai*, which is a green light and a stirring to do something. Finally, there is *sunecho*, a bright green light where there is unction and anointing of the Spirit to do something. We outlined them as two red lights, two green lights and one orange light.

Now if you have an inward witness in your spirit you would know yes or no. You sensed it. Paul felt good about it. Here was an open door and a request to Paul to stay on. Paul said, "No, I have to keep that feast in Jerusalem, but I will return if God wills." Some time later, we read in the book of Acts 19 that the apostle Paul went back to Ephesus and he established a teaching center there. All together, he stayed there for three years in Acts 19. Two of those years were in the school of Tyrannus and one of those years was ministering from place to place. Later on in the book of Acts 20 when he called on the Ephesians elders, he told them that for three years he had ministered with them. The leadings that he received were important. It resulted in tremendous souls saved. Many times, we think that we have to have lightning flashing, thunder roaring and a supernatural spectacular voice from heaven saying, "Thus says the Lord, go to Africa and minister the Word." But it may not necessarily happen that way. Some of the most powerful leadings of God that led to thousands upon thousands of souls being saved came from the impression of God's Holy Spirit placing it in the spirits of human vessels obedient to God. In fact, the work in Ephesus was one of the most powerful works that Paul established. Because of the work in Ephesus, all the known areas around Ephesus called Asia Minor heard the Word. And there in Acts 19 some of the most powerful miracles took place when the handkerchiefs and aprons that were touched by Paul's hands were taken to the sick or demon possessed and the sick were healed and demons ran out. All started with a good impression in him saying, "I will return, God willing." He just felt good about it.

As we study this series on how to be led by the Spirit let us say that of all these methods that God could use, the most important thing is to be aware of them so that we could flow with them. The leadings of the Spirit through the fruit of the Spirit developed in our life are not necessarily strong enough to be classified under the inward witness yet. Yet, they are a working of the spirit man and within the spirit man. There is the reborn spirit within us. But it's the spirit man sensing all the

various shades of the fruit of the Spirit, goodness, and love etc but not to the extent of the five inward witnesses of the human spirit.

For that how do we establish this truth? Lets look at the bible in the book of Gal. 5 and see Paul as he describes the fruit of the Holy Spirit. You notice in verse 22 the first word "but" the fruit of the Spirit is such and such. When you see a "but" in the bible you have to read the previous verses. The "but" in the bible tell us this is the conclusion of the reasoning of the former part of the sentence. That is what he says here is relevant to what he is presenting in earlier statements. In the book of Gal. 5 in the earlier verses, it says in verse 16 it says, *Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.* He is talking about walking in the Spirit. The subject he was introducing is how to be led by the Holy Spirit. He was not just telling them about Christian character although it is important. The Christian character has a characteristic tied to the leading of the Spirit. Here his main subject is walking in the Spirit.

He repeats that again in verse 18 *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* In other words, the bondage of the law is not pressing upon you. In other words, you are living on a higher law. You are free from the bondage of the old law if you are led by the Spirit. I want you to notice the conclusion in verse 23 *Against such there is no law.* He says if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. And here he says *but the fruit of the Spirit is* and he named all the nine fruits of the Spirit and says *against such there is no law.* The meaning is still the same that you are not under the law but you are living under a higher law called the fruit of the Spirit, which is in line with the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

In verse 25 he says, *if you live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit.* He is again emphasizing a third time. After he talks about the works of the flesh he says if you are being led by the Spirit, if you are walking in the Spirit these are the results. These are the fruit of being led by the Spirit. He is pointing a contrast here. He says if you are not led by the Spirit then it must be in the flesh and he named all the works of the flesh. But if you are led by the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, these are the fruit and he named all of it. Therefore, the fruit of the Spirit is connected to the leading of the Spirit. If you are saying you are led by the Holy Ghost you are led by the Spirit and God has spoken to you whether through dream or inward witness or inward voice or the voice of the Holy Spirit or whatever manner the end result must produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control - it must produce that. Even if you saw an angel or saw a vision of the

Lord Jesus and if it does not produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, based on the scripture we have a right to question your leading. You see the point there. See all things produce after its kind. What is born of the Spirit will produce the fruit of the Spirit. What is born of the flesh will produce works of the flesh.

If the result of all that we have studied on how to be led by the Spirit and all the various ways must produce and is supposed to produce the fruit of the Spirit, then the fruit of the Spirit is one of the finer confirmations. That is not the only confirmation of judging the truth. Besides the fruit of the Spirit, there is the inward witness, you shall judge them by their fruit and you can judge by the Word of God whether it is in line with the Word. Sometimes outwardly, it looks like the fruit of the Spirit but if you examine it closely, you will find that it is not, it's the fruit of the human soul. The human emotion and soul has a certain measure of temperance, of peace, of human love, which is not divine agape love. He is not talking about human soul here. He is talking about the fruit of the Holy Spirit working within the human spirit. It is a higher and greater measure. The bible says the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will garrison and guard your heart and your mind. So there is a certain peace that could work in your mind and a certain peace that could work in the heart. But if it's the peace of God, it will quicken both heart and the mind. He is not talking about just the mental peace. He is talking about the peace that rises from within the depth of your spirit that garrisons or takes over your whole soul. There is a quietness and rest that your soul received. That's where we move into the leading of the Spirit.

If the results are the fruit of the Spirit then the beginning of it has to be the product of the Spirit. When God's Spirit speaks to you, the fruit of the Spirit grows within your spirit and will resonate in line with what you heard, whether you heard a voice or saw an angel, the Lord Jesus, a vision or a dream. We call that resonance where if you hit one of the two tuning forks that are exactly tuned to the same level of frequency, the vibration of this tuning fork here will cause the other tuning fork to vibrate. That is what I call resonance. Now when God speaks through whatever means or methods there will begin the resonance within our human spirit where we know it's the right thing. And when we act on it, it will still be flowing in the flow of the Spirit. So, we need to learn how to sense the fruit of the Spirit in our life.

Gal. 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.* Now the nine fruit of the Spirit are all working in

our spirits. But you notice that for example the last fruit, self-control, it definitely refers to the control of your bodily fashion and activity. If you study that very carefully although it's the nine fruit of the Spirit which rises within your spirit it speaks about the various control in your spirit, in your soul and in your body realm, all from the human spirit from the Holy Spirit. He is moving forth and it's controlling your spirit, controlling your soul and controlling your body. Love, joy and peace are always the basic control of our spirit man. If your spirit man is right with God, it will always sense love, joy and peace.

The next three in that grouping that are called longsuffering, kindness and goodness talk about the fruit of the Spirit growing forth and controlling your soul. Then the last three faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, talk about the spiritual control that rises from the human spirit through the Holy Spirit upon your body. So, when the fruit of the Spirit is working in your life you would have your spirit, your soul and your body subject to the spiritual influences of the Holy Spirit. All the fruit of the Spirit we have mentioned is tied to love. That's why its singular, the *fruit* of the Holy Spirit. In I Cor. 13, all the fruit of the Spirit is actually listed under love. For example it says *love suffers long*. What is that? Longsuffering. *And is kind*. What is that? Kindness. *Love does not envy, love does not parade itself its not puffed up*. What is that? Peace. *Love does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked* - what is that? - gentleness. *Think no evil* - that is goodness, *does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth*. What is that? Joy. *Bears all things, believes all things, hope all things* - what is that? - faithfulness.

So we see all the various realms of the fruit of the Spirit. *Thinks no evil* ties up to goodness. But goodness in your life has to affect your soul. You not only have a good walk with God and good deeds you have to have good thoughts. So what we want to show here is all the fruit of the Spirit is tied to love. It is the working aspect of the love of God in our life. For God is love. Why don't you say God is peace? He is. Why don't you say God is joy? He is. Why do we just say God is love? Love brings all the other attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. All the other attributes of the fruit of the Spirit are in God and they are called love. As love comes forth that's where you began to have all the fruit of the Spirit. How do all the different fruit of the Spirit operate and work in our life? The basic element is love agape love in our heart that God has shed in our hearts the love of God in our life. We are to know that blessedness of the love of Jesus in Rom. 5 how the love of God has been poured in our heart and the love of God is filling our lives.

As you began to be led by the Spirit, the next element as you sense as you flow along will be joy. See Paul puts all the nine fruit systematically one after another because they are connected. Supposing you have the leading of the Spirit and if you saw a vision of God, what's your first response? Joy. You feel the joy of the Lord in your spirit. The joy of the Lord will rise within you. You know and you sense that joy that comes to you. The leading could come through the inward witness. Together with the inward witness, you sense joy. The joy of the Lord bubbling forth that comes to you, you know that you are in the will of God. The joy of the Lord gives you strength to operate and do the will of God.

Now to understand the fruit we need to see its opposite. Most of the time in the English language, we say that the opposite of love is hate. But the opposite of love in the bible is self in the New Testament. You see love means dying to self and loving as God love. In the English language, the opposite of love is hate. Of course, there is hate involved in the lack of love. But the bible classifies all selfishness as non-love. You cannot love without dying to self. Jn. 3:16 says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. 1 Jn. 3:16 tells us that greater love had no man that He could lay down His life for His brethren. The bible talks about love and it is selflessness. The opposite of joy in the bible is discouragement. You cannot have joy and be discouraged at the same time. When the bible use the word, "Be of good cheer," the original language actually is saying, "Be filled with the joy of the Lord. Be encouraged in the Lord."

When the Lord told Moses and Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage," an element involved in that is joy and that's when courage of the Lord that comes. Joy is tied to courage in the bible. The joy of the Lord is your strength. If you have joy, you have courage. You lose your joy you lose your courage. Paul says rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice. There is what I call the nine steps leading of the Spirit. In whatever method God spoke to you as you take the first step joy accompanies it. Joy bubbles in you, courage bubbles in you. Strength bubbles in you. When God appears to you, you have courage. You dare to do things that others do not dare. You dare to do new things because you have heard from God. There is courage and boldness. Most important there is joy. The world may be full of fear and anxiety but you have joy. The first step is joy.

Then as you take the second step in the right direction peace comes over your life and slowly its being translated upon your soul. That is why the book of Philippians 4 it says the peace of God which passes all understanding shall guard or garrison

your heart and your mind. See the fruit of the Spirit is flowing out through your spirit to your soul and to your body. It's beginning to flow into your mind right now. It is now all over your heart and all over your mind as you walk in the Spirit. If you are being led by the Spirit and you received a leading in whatever form or method and you start moving and if there is no joy you better stop for a while and seek God. Perhaps you have missed God in His timing. You may be doing the right thing but at the wrong time. You know that if you do the right thing at the wrong time its also wrong. Or you could be doing the right thing with the wrong motives also its wrong. And of course, if you are doing the wrong thing then it's wrong.

And as you move, you should sense that joy. If you are perfect in motives, in time and in action joy will fill your life. You are moving in the kingdom of God and not in the kingdom of darkness. For the kingdom of God is love, joy and peace. If you are moving out of the kingdom of God, you are stepping across the boundary into the works of darkness and the works of the flesh and you begin to move out of love and joy. So, the first step is joy. The second step peace. And it's not an ordinary peace. Sometimes our heart is peaceful but our mind is confused and at other times, your mind feels a type of peace and calmness but your heart is troubled. That is not a perfect state. Always obey your heart. The world around us can be filled with confusion but if you know and sense the peace of God in your heart and mind you know you are doing the right thing in the right time. The most important thing on this planet earth is just to do God's perfect will in our life. Whether you are privately doing or publicly doing it the most important thing is to do God's will.

The first step love, second step joy, the third step peace. Let us look at the gospel of Luke for a moment. Lk. 1:79 *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. To guide our feet into the way of peace.* See how the leading of the Spirit is tied to peace. Peace is not just a state of being. In Lk. 1:79 peace is a path, which you walk. Guide our feet into the highway or the way of peace. The peace of God will guard your heart and your mind. We need that because the leading of the Spirit in your life could be against the works of the enemy and you need the peace of God to undergird your heart and your mind.

As you begin to walk the third step into peace, then you take the fourth step into the leading of the Spirit. The bible says in Gal. 5:22 the next fruit of the Spirit is longsuffering. Why is that so? If you are led by the Spirit the enemy will challenge you. The enemy does not like you to be led by the Spirit. And as you walk in the Spirit love then joy then peace and you continue moving the next fruit that starts

coming on your life is longsuffering. If you are led by the Spirit you may not see the result immediately. You need to suffer long. Now longsuffering is not just patience. Longsuffering involves an actual suffering. You could be patient without suffering. But long suffering is as you stand you are being challenged darts are thrown at you and it costs you intense suffering. I am not talking of suffering of disease we are talking about the sufferings of Christ that you are sensing. God is long suffering. He puts up with things that grieve Him. As you take the fourth step in the Spirit, you begin to confront the realm, of the mind and the enemy. That's where if you are truly led by the Spirit if you know that God has spoken something to you, you will be able to endure.

There are a lot of people who says God told me this, God told me that but when they start moving in the Spirit and they confront difficulty they give up. And people in the world say, .How come he says, 'God told him this,' and it doesn't work." And the name of Christ is blasphemed because of that. If God really spoke something to you, it will always come to pass. But if man says it, it may not come to pass. So we have to be sure of God's leading. Let me tell you, you would be challenged. The enemy will come into your life and challenge you whether God really told that to you. He will come to you and say, "Did God really say that to you?" If you were in the Spirit, you would say to the enemy, "Yes, He did, so get out of my way." But Eve started doubting. We are talking about the realm of the mind now. The fruit of the Spirit now had to control your mind. We realize that unless the leading of the Spirit captures our spirit, our mind and our soul we will never be able to bring it forth. It has to capture all of our being. You have to love God with your heart, your mind, your soul, your strength and all of your being. So by the time of the longsuffering the leading of the Spirit began to capture our full soul began to work now.

Gal. 5:22 kindness. Kindness is your response to the challenge if you are led by the Spirit. Now you have taken the fifth step. The fourth step you are being challenged. The fifth step if you are led by the Spirit you will not respond an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a leg for a leg. If you respond by taking revenge, you just show people that you are not led by the Spirit. See how important the fruit of the Spirit is. If you respond in any other way, it becomes the work of the flesh. Notice that violence is mentioned there in verse 19 and 20 *The works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries and the like.* If you are led by the Spirit you will show kindness in responding to any challenges. You repay evil with good. That may cut off a lot of people's so called leading. You notice when people say, "I am led by God to do

this." When they are challenged, they lose their temper and the works of the flesh come out. How can that be the leading of the Spirit? Outburst of wrath is included in non-leading. Kindness bubbles through you. Kindness is your response to evil.

Then the sixth step is goodness. Goodness talks about how it has been established in your life as a character. We could be so renewed and changed in God that you literally know that this is the right thing to do. See the leadings of the Spirit has been so ingrained into your character that you know this is right. At first, you may be like Paul. You may have heard the voice of the Holy Spirit audibly speaking to you. But as you begin to move in God and you have grown in the Lord now you are experience all you sense is, "Its good for us to visit them again." See that you feel good about it. He sensed this was a good thing. Not all the leadings of the Spirit have to be a definite leading and a definite voice, a definite vision, a definite dream, no. Some of the leadings could be just the response of your human spirit as the door is opened and you sensed you feel good about it. I am not talking about natural goodness I am talking about spiritual goodness. You feel good about it. It's in line with the Word, in line with the fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is goodness. You notice it's a good thing then go for it. It's now a part of your character. Paul sensed that it was good.

Now there was another time when Paul was in Tarsus in Acts 11. Barnabas came and told Paul and took him to Antioch to minister together with him. He never mentioned anything about the leading. It was a leading. Paul has to pack his bags and make his home in Antioch. Literally none of us will ever do it unless we have a definite leading. Yet there was a leading involved. I am sure when Barnabas came to Paul in Acts 11 and said, "There is work in Antioch. We need your help." Paul could say, "Let me pray first. I am led by visions. No vision no going." God may lead by vision but we cannot compel God to talk to us that way. God has many methods. Or you cannot say, "I didn't hear the audible voice of God."

Now let me point out to you the senses of the inward witness - *stenazo*, *tarasso*, *embrimaomai*, *paroxunomai*, and *sunecho* are all the five sensations of the Spirit. Now it may not be that strong yet. Perhaps the *sunecho* or *paroxunomai* the fourth and fifth sensations that we have touched on may come when he reached Antioch. Now all he has is Barnabas is calling. What he possibly could sense is, "I feel good about that." Then he starts taking his step and joy fills his life; he then starts taking another step and there is peace. It may be inconvenient to pack his bag and travel. I mean Tarsus is his hometown. He may sense the emotional strain of parting with

his loved ones. I mean he suffers but he sensed all these things. By the time, he reached there, God could signal to him the green light in his spirit. Now there are a lot of things in life that God is leading us in that manner. Sometimes we missed it because we are waiting for a vision or a dream. We should learn to flow with that fruit of the Spirit in our spirit man.

In Gal. 5 the next fruit is faithfulness. It's from the Spirit and it begins to operate into the realm of the body. Faithfulness is not faith. See faith is a substance in Heb. 11:1 the substance of things hoped for the evidence not seen. But faithfulness is a character of having faith. And it means that your physical being and your whole body is now geared to obeying God continually. When we say someone is faithful, we are also saying that person in times of difficulty has kept doing his job. When we say someone is faithful, we are saying in season or out of season, that person keeps on doing that job. In cold and in heat, in popularity and in persecution that person keeps doing the job - that is faithfulness. It talks about the deeds of the body and discipline. That is the seventh step he began to take faithfulness in God. He kept at it. Sometimes God's Spirit leads you and you have to just keep at it and keep at it although you don't see the results yet. You keep faithfully sowing, faithfully obeying the principles of God, knowing that the principles of God and the leading of the Spirit in your life will in the end will bear fruit.

When Jesus selected the twelve apostles, one of them failed. But there were these eleven apostles who up to the last night when He was betrayed still showed attributes of flaws in the character. But Jesus faithfully keeps ministering to them, keep on encouraging them, keep on pouring His life into them. And the whole key to evangelism lies on these guys. He left no book; He left nothing to these eleven apostles whom He would depend on to evangelize the whole world. Jesus was faithful to God's call. In season and out of season sometimes they don't show the attributes of faith at all. They were showing unbelief at times and Jesus rebuked them. They had strife among themselves and Jesus corrected them. I mean in the flesh some of us may give them up but Jesus did not. It's God who brought them to Him and He faithfully poured His life.

Sometimes when God gives you a vision or dream or spectacular leading and you obey God and you just jump into it, halfway through you face all kinds of difficulties and challenges and you don't have longsuffering and faithfulness you may give up. Some people, I suppose, would give up even though it's the leading of the Spirit in their life because they have no stamina. Basically, they have no

faithfulness. God did not say that the reward would be immediate. He did say you would be rewarded in this life and in the life to come. But He did not say that the rewards are immediate. That's what we always thought.

Like Moses when he first obeyed God, he thought that immediately Pharaoh would set them free. He had a surprise of his life when Pharaoh did not set them free. In fact, he came back to God and complained. Look at Exodus for a while. See Moses was not patient, kind and longsuffering. In Exodus 5 the first time Moses encountered Pharaoh he faced difficulty. Now here is where he needs longsuffering. Here is where he needs to learn to be faithful. In verse 22 *Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me?"* Look at this Moses he is complaining. Thank God, he stopped when the Lord starts speaking to him and starts sending him back at least another nine more times. Ten is the number of trial, a completion of trial, the number of being tested. So we need faithfulness to come forth.

Gal. 5: 23, gentleness. That is a different word from the word kindness. The word gentleness means mild mannered or meek. That is the eighth step. Now meekness has come upon your life. Now when God's Spirit leads you, you know you are right. You don't have to justify yourself. To be meek is to let God justify you. You don't even have to prove that you are right. If you are right you are right – there is no need to prove it and God will back you up. The book of Numbers tells us how when Moses was challenged by Aaron and Miriam, he was described as the meekest man in the world. By the time you reach the eighth step, meekness has become a part of your life. Jesus said the meek shall inherit the earth. Meekness means that even though that something could be done in the flesh you refused to go in the flesh but you rather let God's Spirit bring it forth. Meekness is a quality that David had when two times he had the opportunity to kill Saul. At first he almost did. He cut off a piece of Saul's garment and his heart smote him. The bible did not say the Lord smote him but it says his heart smote him. Something in him the goodness in him stopped him. The character of goodness that he has developed began to convict him and he realized that it was not a good thing to do, so he spared Saul. Later on, he had another opportunity and he refused again to kill Saul. Although David was supposed to be the king and the Spirit of God has left Saul, yet David said that Saul is the anointed one and he will not lay his hands on him. He prefers that God enthrone him than he enthroned himself.

That's the quality of meekness where you will not pursue the right end by the

wrong means. The end doesn't justify the means he uses. The quality of meekness means that you had the opportunity to use the wrong means to the right end and you refused to do it. Because you know it's wrong. There are a lot of people who justify the ends by their means. Some say, "If the motive is right then whatever I do will be right," - that's not right. The quality of meekness is that you will receive it by the right method. You would not have it in the wrong method. You want it to come the right way. God has promised a lot of businessmen prosperity. And out there in the world, the first thing you have is a trial. The devil comes and says, "Do some illegal transactions to earn some quick easy bucks." Perhaps the devil's kid comes and tells you, "I want you to do this and this and I will pay you a hundred thousand dollars under the counter." Some undiscerning Christian businessmen would say, "Bless God for the overflowing blessings." Hold it a moment - the "blessings" have come in illegally. You are presented with a choice. Meekness says, "This is the wrong method, so I will reject it straightaway. I want to receive it the right way." Sometimes people buy a lottery ticket, put it in their bible and say, "God I thank you Jesus was made poor that I may be rich." Yes but He is not going to make you rich through gambling. It's going to be by your hard work and God's principles. It won't be illegal. If God supply your needs illegally then it means unlawful. Meekness says, "I will be patient and faithful," and you keep on doing the right things by the right ways. Let God be the one to bring the fruit. Let God send the harvest. What you get by compromise you will never be able to keep nor will you be satisfied with but when you received by faithfulness and meekness you will be able to keep it and you will really enjoy it.

The ninth step it tells is in Gal. 5:23 self-control. By the time you reached the ninth step, you have perfect control of your flesh. If you have temperance and self-control all those works of the flesh will never come up at all. Your flesh is perfectly subject to the Spirit. And it becomes a perfect instrument of the Spirit. It will bring you into a tremendous realm of God's blessings.