

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:  
**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Devotional: Summer 2020

## INTRODUCTION

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This summer we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit: how God changes us through his Spirit to make us more like Jesus. Thank you for joining other Redeemer East Siders to grow in the fruit of the Spirit through devotionals, discussions and noonday prayer.

Use this devotional guide to deepen your understanding of the power of God's Spirit. Each day begin with the opening prayer, choose a Scripture passage and quotation to reflect on, and then pray the closing prayer. The worship songs can be listened to throughout the week. When a particular Scripture stands out to you, pause and meditate on it, considering what you learn about God, humanity, and why God is showing this to you today. Pray for the Spirit to work this fruit into your life.

## WEEK 8, AUGUST 23: FAITHFULNESS

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### ▶ LISTEN

- **I'll Find You** - Lecrae
- **Take My Life** - Chris Tomlin
- **Even Unto Death** - Audrey Assad

### ▶ OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, to whose service I long ago dedicated my soul and life, I grieve and lament before Thee that I am still so prone to sin and so little inclined to obedience:  
So much attached to the pleasures of sense, so negligent of things spiritual  
So prompt to gratify my body, so slow to nourish my soul  
So greedy for present delight, so indifferent to lasting blessedness  
So fond of idleness, so indisposed for labour  
So soon at play, so late at prayer  
So brisk in the service of self, so slack in the service of others  
So eager to get, so reluctant to give  
So lofty in my profession, so low in my practice  
So full of good intentions, so backward to fulfil them  
So severe with my neighbours, so indulgent with myself  
So eager to find fault, so resentful at being found fault with  
So little able for great tasks, so discontented with small ones  
So weak in adversity, so swollen and self-satisfied in prosperity  
So helpless apart from Thee, and yet so little willing to be bound to Thee.  
O merciful heart of God, grant me yet again Thy forgiveness.

## ▶ SCRIPTURE

- Psalm 90
- 2 Corinthians 11:22-30
- Proverbs 3:1-26
- Philippians 3:1-14
- Lamentations 3:22-25
- Hebrews 12:1-13
- Matthew 26:36-46

## ▶ FAITHFULNESS

- **Definition:** To be principle-driven, utterly reliable and true to one's word.
- **Opposite:** To say one thing and do another, wavering, wishy-washy, and a fair-weather friend.
- **Counterfeit:** Refusing to confront or challenge. Love without truth.

## ▶ REFLECTION QUOTES

"Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will....Who can really be faithful in great things if he has not learned to be faithful in the things of daily life?" —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Unless the outer world expresses the inner world, piety stagnates and intention decays. Man is constantly producing words and deeds, giving them over either to God or to the forces of evil. Every move, every detail, every act, every effort to act the spiritual and the material is serious. The world is not a derelict; life is not a neutral ground....Faith knows no boundaries between the will of God and all of life. Therefore, we have been taught to care for the meaning that is found in deeds, to sense the holy that is available in the everyday, to be devoted to the daily as much as to the extraordinary."  
—Abraham Joshua Heschel

"[Faithfulness] does not mean the loss of our identity as some suppose. Without our identity we could not even be subject to each other. Did Jesus lose his identity when he set his face toward Golgotha? Did Peter lose his identity when he responded to Jesus' cross-bearing command, 'Follow me' (John 21:19)? Did Paul lose his identity when he committed himself to the One who had said, 'I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name' (Acts 9:16)? Of course not. We know that the opposite was true. They found their identity in the act of self-denial...The freedom of [faithfulness] is we lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way." —Richard Foster

"The Christian, in relation to heaven, is in much the same position as this schoolboy. Those who have attained everlasting life in the vision of God doubtless know very well that it is no mere bribe, but the very consummation of their earthly discipleship; but we who have not yet attained it cannot know this in the same way, and cannot even begin to know it at all except by continuing to obey and finding the first reward of our obedience in our increasing power to desire the ultimate reward. Just in proportion as the desire grows, our fear lest it should be a mercenary desire will die away and finally be recognized as an absurdity. But probably this will not, for most of us, happen in a day; poetry replaces grammar, gospel replaces law, longing transforms obedience, as gradually as the tide lifts a grounded ship." —C.S. Lewis

“Right before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed that all believers, past, present, and future ‘may be one, as you, Father, are in me, and I am in you; that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me’ (John 17:21). This was Jesus’s prayer for us all, yet more often than not, I fear we have not lived up to it. Instead, we fight for our own way, for our selfish desires, for our right to be superior. We build churches centered on our own cultural ideas of God, rather than on seeking to bring us back to Him. And then we fight with other churches and religions about who is serving their personal culture god the best. Come dream with me. Dream of a fight for something bigger, something more important and worthwhile.” —John M. Perkins

“There is a moment between intending to pray and actually praying that is as dark and silent as any moment in our lives. It is the split second between thinking about praying and really praying. For some of us, this split second may last for decades. It seems, then, that the greatest obstacle to prayer is the simple matter of beginning, the simple exertion of will, the starting, the acting, the doing.” —Emilie Griffin

### ▶ CLOSING PRAYER

Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts, that we may grow closer to you through joy and through suffering. Be with us in the fullness of your power as new members are added to your household, as we grow in grace through the years, when we are joined in marriage, when we turn to you in sickness or special need, and, at the last, when we are committed into the Father’s hands.

▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Consider using the Redeemer Devotional daily email: [redeemer.com/devotional](mailto:redeemer.com/devotional) and Virtual Noonday prayer: [eastside.redeemer.com/prayer](http://eastside.redeemer.com/prayer)