

## The Fruit Of The Spirit #2

*John Isaac Edwards*

7) **Faith.** Faith is among the precious things of the Lord’s word (2 Pet. 1:1). Faith is so vital that without it we cannot please God (Heb. 11:6).

*Use of the word “faith.”*

(1) Of the gospel. Galatians 1:23 and 2:2 use the words “faith” and “gospel” interchangeably. There is “one faith” (Eph. 4:5). It can be preached (Gal. 1:23), heard (Acts 24:24), obeyed (Acts 6:7), lived by (Rom. 1:16-17), continued in (Acts 14:21-22), departed from (1 Tim. 4:1), denied (1 Tim. 5:8), kept (2 Tim. 4:7), and contended for (Jude 3). It is the gospel of Christ.

(2) Of one’s personal faith. It is used in the sense of conviction of the truth of anything (belief) and of the character of one who can be relied on (fidelity, faithfulness). This is the use of the word “faith” in our study.

*People of faith.* Stephen was “a man full of faith” (Acts 6:5, 8). Barnabas was “full of the Holy Ghost and of faith” (Acts 11:22-24). Paul exhibited great faith (2 Tim. 3:10; Acts 27:25; 2 Tim. 1:12). Hebrews 11 records Old Testament people of faith.

*The faith scale.* There are different levels of faith: No faith (2 Th. 3:2), little faith (Mt. 6:30), great faith (Mt. 8:10).

Perhaps, we could stand to have a faith increase (Lk. 17:5). Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

*What can happen to our faith:* can be spoken of (Rom. 1:8), can increase (2 Cor. 10:15), can be heard of (Eph. 1:15), can be known (1 Th. 3:5), can be tried (1 Pet. 1:7), can be followed (Heb. 13:7), can be cast off (1 Tim. 5:12), can be overthrown (2 Tim. 2:18), can be made shipwreck (1 Tim. 1:19), can grow exceedingly (2 Th. 1:3). What is happening to our faith?

“...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Lk. 18:8).

8) **Meekness.** Meekness is not weakness, but is a characteristic of the spiritually strong. The Christian is to “put on” (Col. 3:12) and “follow after” (1 Tim. 6:11) meekness. He is to show “all meekness unto all men” (Titus 3:2).

*What meekness is.* It is mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit. The opposite of meekness is to be arrogant, vehement, bitter, wild, violent, domineering and blustering.

*Examples of meekness.* Abraham displayed meekness when he gave his nephew, Lot, first choice of herd land (Gen.

13:8). *Moses* is called the meekest man on earth (Num. 12:3). *Paul* was meek with those with whom he worked (1 Th. 2:7; 2 Cor. 10:1). *Jesus* was characteristically meek as well (Ps. 45:4; Is. 53:7; Mt. 21:5; 11:29).

*Blessings of meekness.* Shall eat and be satisfied (Ps. 22:26), will be guided in judgment and taught in the Lord’s ways (Ps. 25:9), shall inherit the earth and delight in abundance of peace (Ps. 37:11; Mt. 5:5), lifted up by the Lord (Ps. 147:6), beautified with salvation (Ps. 149:4).

*Areas meekness is needed.* In restoring those overtaken in a fault (Gal. 6:1), endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:2-3), instructing those who oppose themselves (2 Tim. 2:25), receiving the word of God (Jas. 1:21), giving a reason for the hope that is in us (1 Pet. 3:15).

May each of us “shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom” (Jas. 3:13).

9) **Temperance.** Temperance is self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions).

*Contrasted with the works of the flesh.* The works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) display a lack of self-control. Adultery,

fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (sins of sensuality); hatred variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying (violations of brotherly love); drunkenness, revelings (sins of intemperance). Many accepted practices of our day manifest lack of self-control!

*Areas temperance is needed.*  
In using the tongue (Job 6:24;

Prov. 21:23; Jas. 1:26; 1 Pet. 3:10), satisfying the physical appetite, expressing emotions and feelings, opposing error and standing for truth (some get out of balance, become hobby-riders, get inflamed); dealing with authorized liberties (so that one does not use his liberty to destroy his brother, 1 Cor. 8-10, or become enslaved to his liberty, 1 Cor. 6:12).

Temperance, or self-control, broadly describes the dominion one has over his thoughts, words, and deeds.

AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW! The law finds nothing to condemn in the one possessing and practicing these virtues.

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## Water In A Desert

*John Isaac Edwards*

It has been argued that the Ethiopian could not have been immersed in water for he was in a “desert” (Acts 8:26), and there’s no water in a desert!

The argument contradicts the context. Philip and the eunuch came unto water. The eunuch said, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” There was sufficient water for two grown men to both go down into, and for one to baptize the other! (Acts 8:36-39).

Sometimes the word “desert” simply means an uninhabited or desolate place. If “desert” means waterless, what was a ship doing in a desert in Matthew 14:13?

While hiking in the Mojave Desert with my youngest son, Jared, we came unto a certain water. There was enough water for folks to be baptized. Who says there’s no water in a desert?



*(Mojave Desert, June 15, 2017, John Isaac Edwards)*

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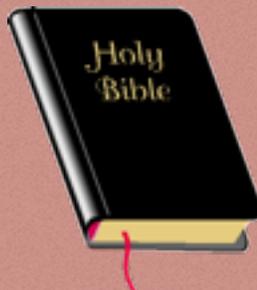
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