

## Fruit of Faith

1Pet.1:3-9

3-14-2010

For the 6<sup>th</sup> attribute or fruit of the Spirit to be visited we come to “Faith.” What a difficult study this one is. Unlike the study on kindness where the root word only shows up four times this root word in its three primary forms shows up over three hundred times. It is used in multiple ways, some of which shall be identified to help narrow the perspective down to the focus desired for this study.

Faith is an elusive thing. It is understood that “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen”, but what does that mean? (Heb.11:1) Faith is required to get faith or like Paul says: “...a righteousness that is by faith from first to last..” (Rom.1:17)

Some uses of the word faith are: It is a collected body of knowledge. (Phil.1:27; Col.1:23; 1Tim.3:9) It is a demonstrated dependability. (2Thes.3:3; Eph.6:21) It is a knowing of the reality of something. (Jam.2:19 (14-16)) It is one of the gifts of the Spirit. (1 Cor.12:9) Faith also is an attribute of the Spirit which dwells in a believer. (Gal.5:22-23) (*There are likely other nuances of “Faith”*)

Some things that Faith is: It is show-able. (James 2:18) It is grow-able. (2Cor.10:15; 2Thes.1:3) It’s nourish-able. (1Tim.4:6) It provides or brings salvation. (2Tim.3:15) It provides or brings the Spirit. (Jn.7:38-39; Gal.3:2, 5) As seen in the context of the previous verses, Faith comes from believing what is heard. (Also in Rom.10:17) Faith is found in those who are redeemed. (Act.6:5; 11:24 *see also 26:18*)

Well do you see just how convoluted this Faith Thing is? We have learned a lot about Faith but not yet have we satisfied the Faith which is a part of the Fruit of the Spirit.

So what is it? There is an intrigue here to be sure. Faith comes from hearing yet faith must have some pre-existence for the words to be found believable. Jesus says something that might help a little. In John 6:44, 65 Jesus indicates that God the Father must enable a person to believe. I am not wise enough nor do I know enough to understand what it is that God looks for in a person for Him to say in His mind: “this one is fit to believe and that one is not.” John in his beginning words to his Gospel seems to capture some of this idea. (John 1:7, 10-13)

What can be learned we dig for as if for precious treasure. Paul reveals that each person that receives this enabling from God and becomes one of His Children receives their own unique quantity of this substance called Faith. (Rom.12:3-6) This faith is hard to separate from what is the gift of Faith. (1Cor.12:9) (Here it is more of a tool like the other gifts.) This fruit of Faith is shadowy, elusive and at best hard to get a good handle on.

The best fitting example comes from a study of Chromosomes. What does a person’s chromosome say about that person? Isn’t it true that they define the person and only that person? Here is the tough question; does the chromosome pre-exist the person? Yes! Faith, like the chromosome it also pre-exists and defines the person. If a person is genetically predisposed towards a particular skill or attribute and that person co-operates with that disposition, what happens? Success is highly likely. (the superstar)

When a person lives their life in similar co-operation with the favorable dispositions of their faith attributes what might they become or do? When a person lives by faith which is a deep trust of who they are in Christ; mountains get moved, rivers get stopped, seas part, lives change.

(1Cor.16:13; 2Cor.13:5)