

*Faith* is a grace that is essential to every man in the Christian character; for without faith, it is impossible to please God. While you manifest fidelity, honesty and integrity in your dealings and your arguments with your fellow men, and also for faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Let this grace be deeply impressed on your minds, that the only way in which we can be saved, is by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the only ground of acceptance with God, and the only way of salvation is held forth in the offers of the gospel, and it is a commanded duty to receive him by faith. And this is the commandment, first we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ. Faith, as a grace of the Spirit, is a strong confidence, dependence, or reliance of the soul on Christ for salvation, consequent upon our despairing of salvation from our own efforts, and a view of Christ as the only ground of hope, and resulting from the operation of the Spirit of God on the soul. It is not of our choice, it is the gift of God. The natural mind is so full of pride, that it will not rest entirely on Christ, until it is powerfully influenced by the influences of the Spirit. As it is of the utmost importance to you, as Christians, that this grace of the Spirit should be in lively exercise, let the prayer of the apostles be yours, "Lord, increase our faith." Pray that the Spirit may empty you of all self-righteous feelings, and enable you firmly to lay hold upon Christ as he is offered in the gospel, and give you the assurance of faith, by witnessing with your spirits that you are the children of God. Let the life which you now live in the flesh, be a life of faith on the Son of God, who hath given himself and died for you.

*Meekness* tends greatly to adorn our Christian profession, and to promote the happiness of those who enjoy it. It is humble and submissive to the will of God, and not easily provoked by injuries. It leads us to pray even for our enemies, and to endure wrongs from them without seeking revenge. If you receive with meekness the engrafted word of truth, which is able to save your soul, it will make you wise unto salvation. It will render every duty easy—every burden light. If you are assailed by gainsayers, give, notwithstanding, a reason of your hope with meekness. In your walk and conversation, show the work of the Spirit with meekness of wisdom. In the midst of injuries, put on meekness and long suffering. Are you called to reprove or bring back an offending member, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness.

*Temperance* is also a Christian grace. It requires moderation in the use of all our enjoyments, and in the discharge of all our duties. All our passions and all our desires, our whole conduct should be under the government of reason and religion. The government of the passions determines the degree of happiness or misery we are to have in this world. That we obtain the former, and avoid the latter, our Lord invites us to learn of him, who is meek and lowly in heart, that we may find rest to our souls. Temperance in eating, in drinking, in clothing—and especially in the management of our passions, distinguishes the civilized from the savage, but especially the Christian from the man of the world. Paul recommended temperance, among other virtues, to Felix as well as to the Galatians, in the passage we have been considering. Peter also admonishes to add to faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; as an essential means of producing happiness.

Such are the Christian graces, or, to use the language of inspiration, the fruits of the Spirit. And as they are graces in their origin, so