

DAY ONE

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH?

Every day is a teacher who begins each class with the same one-question pop quiz: "What will your actions today prove that you value most?"

- Karen Swallow Prior⁸

What do you value most? Maybe you said loving God, or loving people or living a good life, or _____. But, what does it actually look like to live out our faith? Here's one place we see a picture of the outward expression of our faith:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; the law is not against such things.

- Galatians 5:22-23

Is this fruit what characterizes your life? Maybe you're like me and in the easy times, or when I'm around certain people, it sure looks like I'm loving, patient, kind, and gentle. But how about when life is stressful, when my child disobeys for the millionth time, when I'm tired of the daily routine? Do I live out the message of the gospel then? Is what flows out of my heart, through my mouth and actions, good and faithful, full of joy and love?

To be clear, the fruit of the Spirit isn't a checklist we fill out, but rather it's a result of a changed heart that has encountered the love of Jesus. The more we know and love God, the more His fruit will be evident in all areas of our lives; we will be transformed. This transformation is the evidence of God's grace and power in our lives; it's the result of our choice to live fully dependent, in complete submission to Him each day.

A PRAYER:

Lord, our souls have told you: you are our God.

Other lords have had dominion over us, but we affirm the Lord this day to be our God.

We will walk in your ways, keep your commandments, honor your judgements. We will listen to your voice and give ourselves to you as your people - for your praise and for your glory.

We are yours. Save us, for we seek your ways. We give you what is yours, that which comes from your hand. Amen.

- Matthew Henry, Piercing Heaven⁹

GALATIANS 5:22-26

Grab your Bible and open to today's reading. Use the PRAY and HEAR tools as you spend time in the Word.

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Take a moment and use the PRAY tool to respond in prayer.