



Teacher: Beth Seifert

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Lesson 72: 2 Samuel 2:1-7 Subtly Ascending to the Throne

Read Proverbs 15:1-4. Why is it important to speak with gentleness?

What examples can you give of how a gentle tongue would promote growth, while a perverse tongue would damage yourself and others?

Read Mark 9:33-35. As the disciples discussed who was the greatest, what qualities do you think they were looking for in themselves to be counted as greatest?

What did Jesus say the greatest would be?

Read Galatians 5:16-26. What are signs that we are still walking in the flesh?

What are signs that we are walking in the Spirit?

Can we walk in the Spirit and have those qualities by our own power? (Hint: they are called fruit of the Spirit, not fruit from YOU.)

Ask yourself: what do you consider to be qualities of those who are “great”? (Be honest, no one is grading this!) Do those qualities line up with those fruits of the Spirit?

Okay, here's the “long” homework for today, so brace yourselves. Make a list down the left side of a piece of paper, and write down all the works of the flesh. Now, down the right side of the piece of paper, write down all the fruits of the Spirit. As you look at this list, think back on the last week. Circle two works of the flesh that you can identify as still alive and well in your flesh. (For example, I circled “enmity” and “dissensions”. Now, look at the fruits of the Spirit and ask yourself: If I have the fruit of love (or joy or peace, etc) in my life, how should that be reflected when I am involved in _____(dissensions for me)_____?

Now, I don't want anyone to look at this and think "Oh, there's a checklist for me to work on!" What I want everyone to understand today is that we all sin...every day. Not in a generic sense, but in a specific sense. As we recognize where those sin issues have deep roots in our hearts, we need to address that sin. We need to repent—specifically, not just generically—and actually consider what fruit we are lacking. Where are we relying on ourselves, instead of on the Spirit? Where are we reacting from our flesh, instead of allowing Him to shine through us? This isn't a "self-help" section or a "get rid of that bad habit" section.

This is a time of introspection to see where your heart is *not* in line with God, and to come before Him and ask Him to draw your heart back in line with Him. Take the time and do that today. Don't let your flesh have hold of you; allow God to uproot that sin so, the next time you face that sin, you will consciously let God have His way in your life, and everyone who knows you will be amazed that you didn't react "as usual" (i.e. from your flesh) but they will be able to see Him in you, for His glory!! (Don't forget to give the credit where it is due: to HIM.)