

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT : SELF-CONTROL

LESSON 9

I. SELF-CONTROL DEFINED:

- A. The Greek word , EGKRATEIA, is translated "TEMPERANCE" (KJV) and "SELF-CONTROL" (ASV, NAS, NIV, NKJ).**
- B. The word conveys strength as one "takes hold of" or has a "grip" on self.**
- C. In the LXX, the word is used to describe one who is in control of self, especially his emotions:**
 - 1. Joseph refraining from further tears (Gen. 43:30-31).
 - 2. Haman refraining from outward burst of anger (Esther 5:9-10).
- D. "Master of self" - Thayer describes this word as "the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites" (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon, pp. 166-167).**
 - 1. Lacking in the life of Felix (Acts 24:24-26)

II. SELF-CONTROL IS NECESSARY IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN

- A. A necessary element in pure and undefiled religion (James 1:26-27).**
- B. That which we "bring in beside" of God's redeeming and purifying work (Gal. 5:23, 2 Pet. 1:4-6).**
- C. In control of our body, not our desires in control of us (I Cor.9:25)**
 - 1. In control of even "natural" desires to the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31, cf. I Cor. 7:9).
- D. Must be seen in the lives of our spiritual leaders - elders (Titus 1:8).**

QUESTIONS:

- 1. The Greek word translated "TEMPERANCE" (KJV) in Galatians 5:23 means:
 - (a) Abstinence
 - (b) Moderation
 - (c) Mastering or in control of "self"
- 2. What did Paul preach to Felix about?
In what area of Felix's life do we know that he lacked this virtue?

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3. How does one being in control of self keep his religion pure and not vain?
Be specific.
4. Explain why the virtue of self-control is both a fruit of the Spirit and a personal responsibility.
5. What **two** characteristics must accompany self-control in the life of the Christian?
6. How should our life as a Christian resemble the life of an athlete?
7. Give God's parameters for controlling the natural desires for sex?
8. Is it a sin to **not be in control** of our emotions such as crying in public?
9. Why is it necessary to see self-control in the lives of men before they serve the local church as elders?
10. What must we do when we see our habits taking away our self-control?
11. Personal Inventory:
 - (a) Do I have myself under control in all facets of my life?

(b) I will work hard in controlling my_____ .

(c) I will add _____ to my self-control.