

## **Level Up**

### **Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control**

#### **Galatians 5:16–18**

I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

**For opening illustration:**

**Create slide with these 3 villains on it: Yondu Udonta, Darth Vader and Ebenezer Scrooge (Jim Carey Version)**

## **FAITHFULNESS**

**If we don't grow in faithfulness, we miss the rewards of faithfulness.**

**Matthew 25:21**

**“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Share your master’s joy.’**

**Having faith means we trust in God. Being faithful means God can trust us.**

## **GENTLENESS**

**If we don’t grow in gentleness, we’ll constantly go overboard with others.**

**Titus 3:1–2**

**Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup>to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people.**

**“Sometimes the ends justify the mean.” —Michael Scott**

**Gentleness helps us do what’s right without compounding what’s wrong.**

**Proverbs 15:1**

**A gentle answer turns away anger,  
but a harsh word stirs up wrath.**

**James 3:13**

Who among you is wise and understanding? By his good conduct he should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom.

## **SELF-CONTROL**

**If we don't grow in self-control, God's best for us will be destroyed by the worst parts of us.**

**Galatians 5:16–17**

I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

**Matthew 26:40–41**

Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, “So, couldn't you stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**Self-control grows along with reliance on Jesus.**

**John 15:4**

Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

