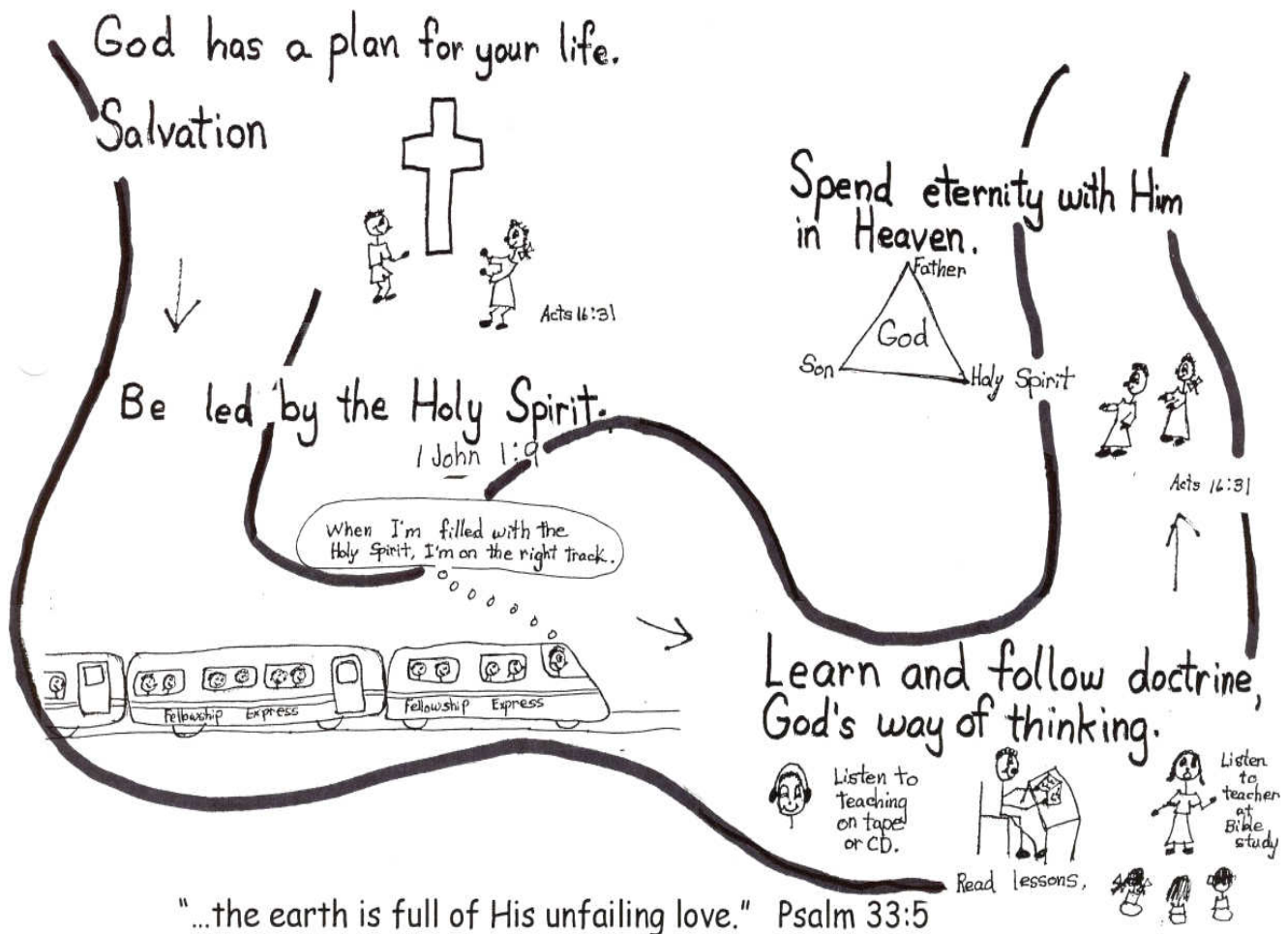


## Eighth Part of the Fruit of the Spirit

# Gentleness

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit [or production] of the Spirit is love [a reference to virtue-love], joy [inner happiness], peace [inner peace and overt prosperity], patience [which refers to patience as well as longsuffering], kindness, [or graciousness], goodness, [the production of divine good], faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. [We can't get these by works.]

**Gentleness.** Another word for gentleness is humility. When we have gentleness, or humility, we have the right attitude and we can be taught. As believers, we learn the thinking of Jesus Christ through Bible doctrine. With this thinking we learn to correctly judge ourselves. We admit our mistakes and make changes where needed. We depend on God and Bible doctrine to guide us in the plan of God.



When we have gentleness, we are free from arrogance. This means that we don't pretend to be more than we really are. We are happy to be just the way God made us! We know that everything we have comes from God. We are dependent on God!



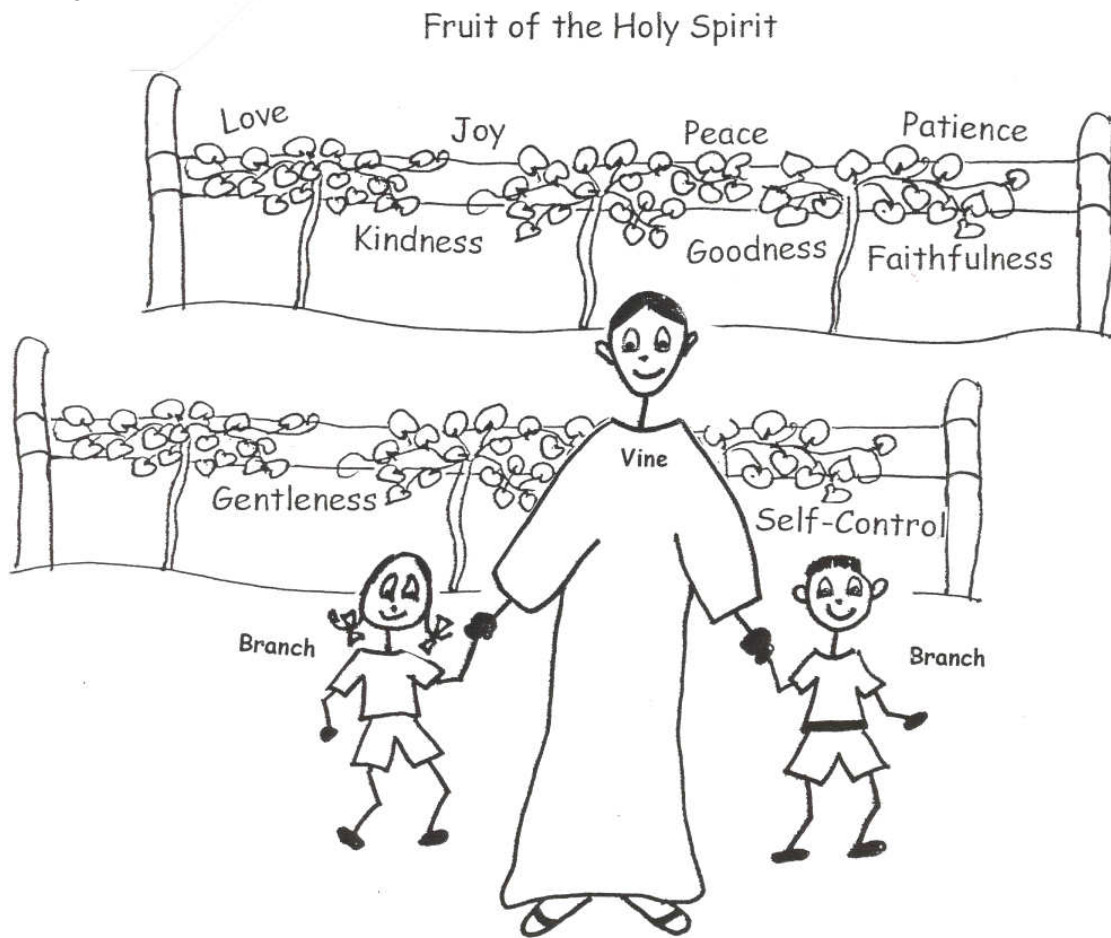
1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect [meaning results].

When we recognize, respect, and obey legitimate authority, we are humble. Legitimate authority is God's authority and the authority He gives to the people in charge of us. We follow their directions. We take responsibility for our actions! This is humility!



Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey you parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise - "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

When we have **gentleness**, we are able to forgive others. To really forgive someone, we have to excuse him or her from the wrong he or she did to us. We can't even bring it up again. We have to forget it, just like God has forgotten our wrongs. We have to leave it in the hands of the Lord. **We can only do this through the power of the Holy Spirit and doctrine in our souls. We have to know God and depend on Him! We have to abide in the Vine!**



Luke 17:4 If someone sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, "I repent," forgive him.

To be willing to forgive takes concentrating on Bible doctrine. What really counts in our life is how much doctrine we have in our souls. If we learn, believe, and use Bible doctrine, the thinking of Jesus Christ, we will not be arrogant. When we are arrogant, we aren't able to forgive others. So, we have to concentrate on the Lord Jesus Christ's thoughts.



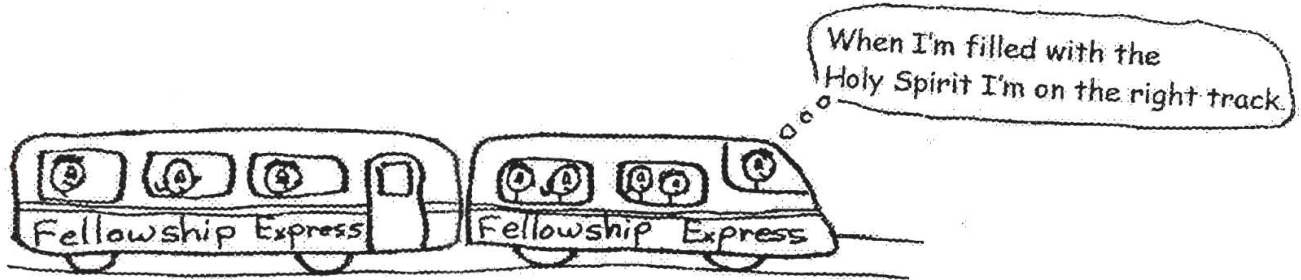
Listen to teaching on tape or CD.



Read lessons.

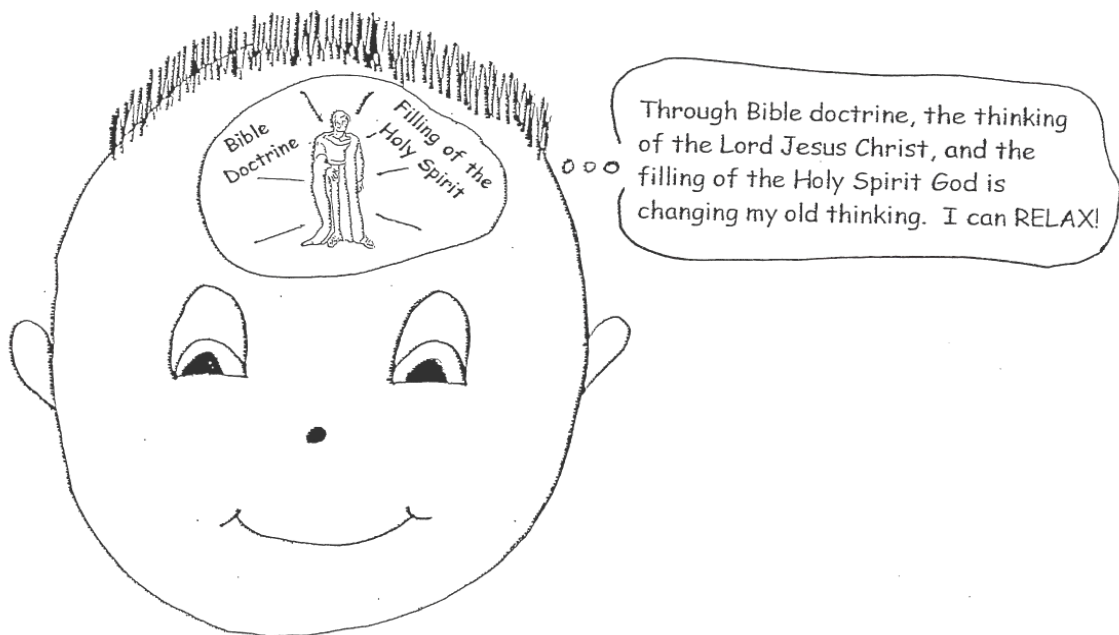


Listen to teacher at Bible study.



Luke 6:37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

We can look to Jesus as the One Who is responsible for our forgiveness. He paid the price for our sins. He was treated unjustly, but through the grace of God, He was able to forgive those who treated Him badly. Jesus had the greatest humility and was the most gentle person. He was able to be this way through the power of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine in His soul. We have that same power and can use the same thinking! Let's focus on Jesus and Bible doctrine and depend on the Holy Spirit to make us gentle, humble, and forgiving.



Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

*The Eighth Part of the Fruit of the Spirit*  
***Gentleness***

References: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries  
gbible.org

Lessons: 8-17-05, 8-18-05, 8-19-05  
Tree of Life: 8-21-05