

Wellness Tool 12

Being a Godly Leader: The Fruits of the Spirit and Grace

❖ OPEN IN PRAYER

***Suggestion:** Yeshua/Jesus, thank you for helping me this week in the area of forgiveness. Please continue to move through me in those ways. Lord, grow my faith in the things that You say in the Word about the way I am when I am in You. Today through your Holy Spirit, teach me about being a leader in You and the kinds of things that come through Your Spirit. Amen.*

❖ DEFINING THE TOOL

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Definition	A group member chosen to manage group activities. A person who has commanding authority or influence.
Synonyms	captain, chief, commander, director, foreman, head, lord, ruler

❖ LEADING IN FAITH

As a person in Christ, you are more than a conqueror. The Bible does not say to sit back, but many times it says to stand. You are to hold tight to the things you know to be true. We don't sit around and say poor me anymore and complain. We overcome with Jesus/Yeshua. It is why we need to continue a close relationship with Him. When we have troubles we can speak to Him of the things we need. He

has given us His name of strength, and the peace and protection of His presence, and His love for us that never ends. The Lord is our strength.

He has also put a new spirit within us -His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit develops in us what is called the Fruit of the Spirit. When a tree is planted and the seed begins to grow, roots go deep into the soil, seeking water. This is like your faith. From the growing seed of your faith, roots will grow deeper and stronger and find the Living Water of Creator/Jesus no matter what the season is. The tree grows taller and stronger and begins to blossom. From those blossoms comes the fruit. The same can be said of your faith. The more you understand and grow, the more you will see the Fruit of the Spirit produced in your life.

❖ DIGGING IN

Read: Galatians 5:22-23

- **Share with the group any of the fruit listed in these verses that you see growing in your own life. How about in the life of those in your group? Share an example of how you have seen the fruit in that person.**

- **Now, take time to share a fruit you recognize in your Group Leader.**

❖ YOU LEAD, I'LL FOLLOW

The best leader is really the best follower. A Godly leader follows after God. Jesus/Yeshua showed us how to live on this earth being obedient to the Father and following after the Father's heart.

- **Take turns naming something that stands out to you about Jesus/Yeshua's life.**

Read aloud from your Bible:

Matthew 20:25-28

Luke 22:26

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Hebrews 13:17

Moses was a great leader in the Old Testament. He had flaws, but he still led the people out of the slavery of Egypt and through the wilderness. His imperfections did not disqualify him from Creator/Yahweh's call on his life.

God saved him as a baby when the Pharaoh was killing every male child. His sister hid him in a basket in the tall grasses of the Nile River where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him as her own child. His life was meant for something.

Moses grew into a man and learned of his Hebrew heritage. He murdered a slave driver who treated the Hebrews badly. So Moses was a murderer. God called him to be a leader anyway.

God wanted Moses to be His messenger to Pharaoh. Moses didn't think he could do it because he had a stutter. He couldn't talk well, but God sent him anyway.

Moses' success was that he listened to and obeyed God. He did what he was told even when things seemed impossible (for example the miracles God did through him for Pharaoh, and lifting his staff and having the Red Sea open up so the Hebrews could get out of Egypt). In the wilderness, Moses followed a cloud in the daytime and a pillar of fire at night that led him where to go. Yahweh was in the cloud, and in the fire. All Moses had to do was be the first who followed, and the people followed him.

The only time Moses got into a big problem was when he didn't follow Yahweh's instructions on getting water from a rock. Because of this disobedience, which stemmed from a place of unbelief in his heart, Moses was not allowed to step into the Promised Land, though God did allow him to see it from a distance.

Obedience to the Father/Creator is everything in being a Godly leader. It is also important for a leader to let go of unbelief. When the Father sets you on a task, you aren't left to do it on your own. God is the one to do it. Believe that He can do anything!

Read aloud from your Bible: John 5:17-21

Our example of **perfect obedience** is in the life of our Savior. In this passage, Yeshua/Jesus is responding to Jewish leaders who accuse Him of breaking the religious rules (specifically, doing no work on the Sabbath).

- **What does Jesus say in response to these critics (verse 17)?**

- **How does He explain all of His actions (verses 19-20)?**

Remember the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit; three in One. Yeshua/Jesus is the Son. He knows and sees what the Father/Creator does. In His time as a human, the Father lead the Son in the loving work that He wanted done among the people. Jesus, in perfect obedience, did everything exactly the way that the Father showed Him.

❖ **LEADING THROUGH CONFLICT**

- **Talk about men and women in history who led people through times of pain or conflict. What was it about their personalities that attracted people to their leadership?**

Laying down anger towards Creator/God, or anger at a bad past and people from it, frees you to start seeing faster results of forward movement in your life.

Believing God is good is key to learning to grant forgiveness. The bad things of your past have been from the enemy of your soul - the spiritual darkness that caused or used others in your life through sin to hurt you or bring you down. The world is filled with opposition to Creator/Yahweh. It is easy to turn away from Him. There are so many things in this world that tempt us to do that.

A godly leader is aggressive in turning away from these temptations, turning **TO** Creator/Yahweh. It takes conscious choice, and practice (remember Philippians 4:8). A godly leader is aggressive in training her thoughts to patterns that are positive; developing habits for healthy response including going to God in prayer or to the Word or reaching out to other strong followers of Yeshua/Jesus to seek their advice.

YHVH is everything we need and that's why we need that close relationship with Him through Yeshua/Jesus: so we can keep in constant contact. So we can know that yes, He is a good God, a loving God and we are not left alone. This helps us keep moving ahead to the future because we have a future hope. Our hope in the God Who Saves will not disappoint. That is the moving forward, that is our hope.

Read: Jeremiah 29:11

Creator/Yahweh promised that there was a future and a hope coming. He had a plan. He was speaking to the Israelites who were captive in Babylon. His promise was not fulfilled for 70 years, but it did come. As they waited on their future hope, He used the time to develop their character so that when they were set free they moved strongly in remaining in the will of their Creator.

There are two ways that people tend to reject or turn away from God. There is self-pity, in which you to look at yourself instead of looking out to see how God will show Himself. Then there is rebellion, where people choose to turn away

from God. Whatever the complaint we have in our lives, we are meant to be overcomers with Jesus/Yeshua against the things that are against Him and against us. He did not make us to sit back in fear or self-pity, or to turn away from His will when we find opposition. The Word in the Bible always says to stand. It also says to hold fast or hold tight to what you know to be true. Leaders are willing to stand and to hold on.

There are histories of battles in the Word where God told the warriors not to fight, but to stand because the battle belongs to the LORD/Yahweh.

Read aloud from your Bible:

2 Chronicles 20:15

Ephesians 6:13-17

❖ EQUIPPED BY YHWH

After His resurrection, Jesus said to His apostles:

“And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But remain in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:29

The Holy Spirit was sent to equip us to go out and to lead people to know the gospel, the good news that Creator sent His Son to forgive us and to set us free to have a life abundant in Him. He didn't want them to even try until they were filled with the power from on high. We can't do it on our own. We need the fullness of the Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit not only guides our ways and words; He also gives each of us gifts to equip us specifically for the tasks the Father sets for us.

Read in your Bible:

Romans 12:6-8

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

These things given to us are from Yahweh/Creator's grace for us; the free gift of His mercy and love. We can't earn or be good enough for any of it, but Yeshua/Jesus, the gift of the Son, is perfect and He made us to receive the same kinds of things that He has. All that we are is through the loving grace of our Creator and Savior and the power and blessing of His Holy Spirit.

Recognizing our individual spiritual gifts helps us to be more effective when we are called to lead.

Group Leader: *Offer a time of prayer for each member to ask and be filled and receive the Holy Spirit according to Yahweh/Yeshua. Hold palms open in a way of receiving. If you and they are comfortable, place your hands on their shoulder as you pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit for them together. Explain that the Holy Spirit comes as He determines. Certain gifts are given to different people. Sometimes the gifts will come later. Explain the gifts if there are people who do not understand them and want to know more before praying and asking for them.*

❖ CLOSE IN PRAYER

Suggestion: *Father, we humbly thank you for the fullness of You in the ways of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We thank you for the power of Your Holy Spirit in us, who grows our faith and trains us to serve you as leaders, obeying and following You by your grace and strength and the gifts that You give us. Grow us in this new life. Use us to do the things that You ask us to do: to tell others about You and to live a life in Christ by Your grace and love. We pray these things in the Name of our risen Savior Yeshua. Amen.*