



DIALED IN

THE DIALED IN FRUIT

Miles McPherson / March 18, 2018

Romans 5:3-5, Galatians 5:16-23

Pastor Miles started out sharing what a metaphor means. His definition: A story or illustration that compares characteristics of one to another or to illustrate something that you don't understand using something that you do understand.

These three describe your Christian journey:

- Manufacturing: (Read 1 Cor. 3:12) Proving who you are. Using "fire" to refine you. Or refer to the "Tea Bag" analogy.
- Animal: (Read Prov. 26, 1 Peter 3 and Luke 10) Illustrating what you should not be like. Repeating same mistake over and over.
- Plant: (Read John 15) Describing what you should be like. Growing and bearing fruit, reproducing. We are living organisms born with spiritual seeds able to produce life in someone else.

ICE BREAKER:

Pastor Miles said that the way to know what your faith life is like is when you experience tough times or are "in hot water" like the tea bag, **how do you respond?** This is the true test of your faith. Share an experience you had this week of how your faith was tested.

Our series, "Dialed In", means that there are conversations happening in Heaven and activity in the spiritual world that we need to get Dialed In to when we pray. Before we ask, we need to ask, **"What is God already doing in your life?"**

Pastor Miles states, "There is nothing wrong with that as long as you're not praying for things to replace what God wants for you."

There is nothing wrong with praying for finances, as long as you don't think, "when I get money I will be happy, when Jesus is supposed to be the source of your happiness. Or praying to get a house to be fulfilled and look important, when Jesus is the One who gives you value. When you do pray for those things, pray for those things to be a blessing to people.

DISCUSSION:

Break into groups of two or four and share how your prayers would change when you align your request with what God is doing for and in you.

GROUP READ: Romans 5:3

1. I DECLARE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS POURING THE LOVE OF GOD INTO OUR HEARTS.

We want to join what God is doing in our lives and connect with that. Not to say, “God, join me in what I am doing.”

Group Read: Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. There is no law against these things.”

What does this mean?

- When you pray, be confident in saying, “Lord, I want to make sure that my bases are covered and what I am praying for is what you are doing in my life to advance the Kingdom.”
- Referring to the water Pastor Miles poured from the pitcher into the glass. According to Galatians 5:22, the fruit is the overflow of the poured water.
- When you pray, begin from the glass already being full of water. Or in your case, you already are of the Holy Spirit and the Fruit Of the Spirit!

2. I DECLARE THAT THE EVIDENCE OF GOD’S LOVE BEING POURED INWARDLY IS JOY BEING EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY.

Joy is happiness originating from within. You don’t want to rely on things to make you happy. You have no reason to be sad. God wants you to be joyful.

3. I DECLARE THAT THE EVIDENCE OF GOD’S LOVE BEING POURED INWARDLY IS PEACE BEING EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY.

Peace is not the absence of activity. If you go to Heaven, the ruling principle is PEACE. Peace is not sitting in silence. That is quiet. Heaven has thunder, lightning, Praise and worship and angels screaming, “Holy, Holy, Holy.” The Throne is shaking and there is thunder and lightning like rainbow.

Group Read: Philippians 4

God’s peace is stable. There is order and clarity and the Holy Spirit says, “I got you”, even though your mind might tell you to stress out. Your heart will say, “stop.” Remember that God speaks to you through your Spirit.

4. I DECLARE THAT THE EVIDENCE OF GOD’S LOVE BEING POURED INWARDLY IS PATIENCE BEING EXPRESSED OUTWARDLY.

Many Christians say, “I’m not going to pray for patience because I know that God will make me suffer and I don’t want that.” Another definition for PATIENCE is LONGSUFFERING. So, **guess what?**

Read the rest of the declarations filling in the remaining Fruits of The Spirit depending on time left in your rGroup study.

5. KINDNESS

Be Kind. Make a phone call to that person you may be having a hard time with right now and say, “I hope you have a good day today.”

6. GOODNESS

7. FAITHFULNESS

8. GENTLENESS

9. SELF CONTROL

God never intended for us to control each other. Only ourselves. Just think, when you get frustrated with someone, it's probably because you cannot control him or her or they are trying to control you.

Read Galatians 5:16-23

What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and Spiritual gifts?

(Hint: refer to Romans 12:3-8 for a description and list of Spiritual gifts)

Note that in Galatians 5:22, it says "fruit" and not fruits. **Why is that?**

(Hint: ask them to picture a basket of fruit. **Is it called fruit basket or a fruits basket?)**

- A fruit basket commonly contains a variety of fruit - each kind is available to everyone.
- Fruit of the Spirit indicates ALL qualities that are available to each and every one of us.
- Spiritual gifts on the other hand, are individually and uniquely provided in different amounts.
- Since all 9 fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5 are available to us, here is a method to better identify which we need more of in order to draw closer to the Lord.
 - Take a list of the 9 characteristics and list the OPPOSITE for each one.
 - Consider the list of opposites.
 - **Which sin area or characteristic do you fall short in?**
 - **Would others who know you well agree?**

Let's Pray.

Remember that as you pray and ask for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, that Satan will be testing your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. So call on the Holy Spirit to fight on your behalf.

Notes:
