

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

Dr. Samuel Chand has served as a pastor, a college president, chancellor, and president emeritus, and he's a very dear friend of mine. One day, we were talking about the relationship between character and the Christian life, and Sam said to me, “Crawford, for most of us, mastering content in the Christian life is not the challenge. The development of ministry skills or understanding how to get things done effectively isn't a big deal. For most of us, the biggest challenge we'll face is the development of our personal character.”

You know, he's right. God wants us to pay closer attention to who we are on the inside, our character. Galatians chapter 5, verses 22 and 23, list the fruit of the Spirit. Listen to these words; “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, against such things there is no law.”

I want to make a couple of observations. Number one, these nine things that are mentioned—this fruit of the Spirit—they're character qualities. They are things that the Spirit of God, when He controls our lives, produces in us and through us. That's the second observation I want to make. The Spirit of God produces these things. I don't care what your character has been like. I don't care if you have been known as a liar, an adulterer, a dishonest person, a gossip, whatever flaw you have. If you will repent of that sin, yield yourself to the power of the Spirit of God, He'll replace that with godly, favorable, attractive character.

Here's what I want you to remember and do today. Don't accept the notion that you can't change. God specializes in changing who we are. Examine your heart. Spot those areas of weakness in your character. Confess and repent of sin, and yield to the Spirit of God.