



Closing Thoughts



Some Closing Thoughts

Slightly random thoughts....

1. Our prayer is that our eBook on “The Fruit of the Spirit” has inspired you, made you think, furthered your understanding and brought a bit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control to you—to your life.

2. The most important thing you can do to have the “fruit” of the Spirit in your life is to—it seems too obvious, but I’ll say it—you must have the Holy Spirit in your life! Those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, those who choose by faith to turn from sin and follow Him, they are the ones to whom the gift of the Holy Spirit was promised. If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation. The old has passed away and everything is new! (my paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 5:17)

3. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach us all things. (John 17:26) Let Him take what you’ve read as a starting place to teach you even more.

4. 1 Corinthians 13 is about love, but the principles found there apply to all of the gifts from God. They are to be used to build up the church, to be a witness to the world, and to make us more like Christ Jesus.

5. You should read Romans 8:1-30 and see Paul’s description of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

6. Go back to pages 5 and 6 (and the pages before and after) and re-read the verses about the Holy Spirit. Let those verses be a starting place to help you see and know the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

7. The “Parable of the Mannings” (page 166) doesn’t contradict the Holy Spirit’s work in producing fruit in us. It’s more like the parable of the servants who either used their “talents” or buried them. (Matthew 25:14-30) This is thought out more in the two pages that follow, “Partners in the Work.”

Partners in the Work

Many things in scripture, at first glance, may seem to be contradictions. Grace vs. works is one of those. I would argue—well, I wouldn't argue as much as offer my opinion, (but that's not the saying...) I would argue that things that seem to be opposites are often complementary rather than contradictory. (Grace vs. works has been written about by many scholars much smarter than me, so I'll leave that to them. It was just an example.)

“Self-control” as a fruit of the Spirit is one of those seeming contradictions. Is it “self” or is it “Spirit?”

Peter sheds some light on this in his first letter. He explains very practically the role of self versus the role of the Spirit, not only in regard to “self-control,” but in every area of life.

For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:3-8

Do you see it? “His divine power” - the work of the Holy Spirit - has given us *everything* required for life and godliness. But that's not the end of it. We have work to do too—*make every effort!* The Holy Spirit leads and guides and has already given us everything we need... but we have to do our part. This isn't contradictory, it's complementary.

Study and learn, practice, choose, fight, practice some more, do it even when you don't feel like it. The Apostle Paul begs us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. (Romans 12) In Ezekiel the Lord says, “follow My statutes, keep My ordinances, and *practice* them.” (Ezekiel 11:20—Emphasis

mine)

Do you find yourself lacking in self-control? Do you find yourself lacking in _____ (any other fruit of the Spirit)? Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and then “make every effort” to see that fruit in your life.

- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to work in your life.
- Remember that God is greater. (Years ago a comedian became very famous with a skit where he said, “The devil made me do it!” Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.)
- Memorize scriptures that encourage and strengthen you to have that particular fruit.
- See how the various fruits of the Spirit actually work together and figure out how to make them work in your life.
- Invite a friend to encourage you and keep you accountable.
- Find a mature Christian who models the fruit you are lacking in and ask for—and listen to, and follow—advice from him/her.
- Be a partner in the work of the Holy Spirit so that His fruit abounds in your life!

Practice these things;

be committed to them,

so that your progress may be evident to all.

1 Timothy 4:15

~ R. Lyndel Littleton

The Parable of the Mannings

Once, while studying for a sermon using 2 Peter 1:3-8 as the text, “The Parable of the Mannings” came to mind. This is not one of Jesus’ parables. (And keep in mind it is written by someone who knows little about sports or famous players.)

I knew about Peyton Manning. How could you live in Tennessee and not know, right? And I had heard of his brother, Eli. He also plays football. However, I was surprised to find out that there is an older brother named Cooper! Who knew? He played football too! And.... Get this.... Their dad, Archie Manning, played college and professional football too! Wow! What would we do without Google to tell us these things?

Four great football players all from the same family! Super bowls, the hall of fame, and championships fit with the Manning name!

But what if there was another brother? Let’s call him Mark. Mark Manning. If you just heard of Mark you would probably ask questions like:

- Which college did he play for?
- What position did he play?
- How many Super Bowls has he played in?

These are all very logical questions to ask knowing the family that Mark comes from. Oh! But Mark doesn’t play football. Mark just sits in his dad’s basement and plays video games! We’re certain that he would be an excellent player. He has the family genes. He has a dad who has played and coached who will help him succeed. He has brothers to practice with and to learn from. He has access to the winning playbook his brothers used in their super bowls. He has everything needed to be a great football player. But... he’s not.

Having all of those great things in his life is not enough. He actually

has to DO something.

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ then you have a great family name. You are now running the race with a great cloud of witnesses! Peter encourages us in our race with these words.

2 Peter 1:3-8

For His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. By these He has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with goodness, goodness with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with godliness, godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they will keep you from being useless or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In our Christian lives we have been given EVERYTHING required for life and godliness: good genes (new creation, born of the Spirit), a great coach and Helper (the Holy Spirit), brothers and sisters to encourage us and to be examples, the perfect playbook (God's Word), and more! It's now up to each one of us to "make every effort." This will keep us from "being useless or unfruitful."

We can be a Super Bowl Manning or we can be a Mark Manning. What will you choose?

~ R. Lyndel Littleton



Authors ~ Artists ~ Photographers

Ramona Ambrose

Ramona works with special needs students in the Clarksville Montgomery County School System. She is very active in many ministries at Hilldale including VBS, Worship Ministry, Women's Ministry and more. Outside of her work at school and church she is a wedding coordinator and decorator.

Robert Boyles

Pastor Boyles is a former Navy Chief of the Boat/Command Master Chief. He entered the ministry in 1999. In March of 2001, he was ordained as the English Service Pastor of Songtan Central Baptist Church, located outside Osan Air Force Base in the Republic of Korea. Shortly thereafter he began Climb Ministries to encourage youth on how to overcome obstacles to grace in their life. Since that time he has expanded the ministry to youth and adults using his special gift of Music and the Word to present the message, "I no longer live, Christ Lives in Me." Galatians 2.20.

Website <https://climbrev.wixsite.com/climb-ministries>

Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx6fsoluExoV1G3h9Lzcitw>

Lulu <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/climbministries>

Stephani Cook

In a giant leap of faith, Stephani resigned from a 26-year career in school psychology to develop *On Purpose Coaching* through which she helps others improve personal and professional relationships, live more purposefully and discover the abundant life promised to believers in John 10:10. She writes a weekly blog, co-hosts the "What's Your Story?" Podcast and loves to teach the Enneagram, and speaks to groups large or small.

Website <http://www.stephanicook.org>

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/stephaniscook>

Instagram http://www.instagram.com/stephani_cook

Christy Davis

Christy earned her Bachelor's Degree in teaching English as a Second Language from Union University. She currently is a full-time mom and homeschool teacher for her

three children. She and her husband Daniel are foster parents and currently have five foster-children. In her "spare" time she sometimes writes devotional thoughts for her blog.

Website <http://danielandchristy.blogspot.com/>

Seth Devine

At the time of publication, Seth was a Sophomore in college. He is studying to enter vocational ministry. He is active in teaching and preaching in the Student Ministry of Hilldale.

Irene Gudgeon

Irene is involved in many ministries at Hilldale. She shared a poem from her youth in our anthology. We think she needs to write more!

Judy Harrison

Judy is mom to 2 and grandmother to 4. She is active in many of the ministries at Hilldale.

Steve Hawk

Steve is a deacon, choir member and LIFEgroup leader at Hilldale. His many degrees equipped him to be a pharmacist with Kaiser Permanente before he retired. In addition to writing, he has interests in music, art, biblical history and more.

Rebecca Robertson Holloway

Rebecca began working with, and developed a passion for, special needs adults during summer camps while she was a High School student. She continued her work through her college years and earned a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Union University and a Master's Degree in Special Needs Ministry from Dallas Baptist University.

Jesse Huang

Jesse Huang is an RN in San Antonio, TX, currently working on her Master's Degree. Bits of free time are usually dedicated to crafting in various mediums. She also enjoys photographing God's creation--especially birds.

Kristi Huang

Kristi is an artist/educator who has lived in Clarksville TN since 2005. Prior to that, she and her family lived in many locations in the states and abroad courtesy of the Air Force. She studied Fine Arts at Yale University and has been doing and teaching art ever since. Kristi owns *Wondrous Works Art Studio* where she has been teaching children's art classes for the past 20 years. Currently she is the Creative Arts Director at Hilldale Baptist Church and the Art Teacher at Chapel Hill Christian Academy. Her primary focus in creating and teaching art is to point people to God through appreciation of His creation. She also has a passion for helping people awaken their creativity and gain confidence in expressing themselves artistically. Painting is her preferred medium but she loves photography and trying out new mediums whenever the opportunity presents itself. She is currently enjoying eco-printing.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wondrousworksart/>

Cinde Jones

Cinde is an avid wildlife photographer who does most of her photography while hiking through State Parks in and around Tennessee. She has taken her photography skills on mission to Portugal and Brazil. Cinde also makes beautiful quilts. She is the Hilldale Baptist Church coordinator for Quilts of Valor which recognizes the men and women of our armed forces for their service to our nation by presenting them with a quilt made in their honor.

Michelle King

Michelle is the chaplain for our Hilldale Disaster Relief Team. Her work with DR has taken her to many cities in many states helping people recover from fires, tornados and hurricanes!

Chris Lewis

Dr. Chris calls himself “the red-necked vet.” If your cow or horse needs a check-up he’s the one to call. He is also a deacon, LIFEgroup leader and philosopher. A lot of his Facebook posts are about turkey hunting, but when he talks about religion or politics he inspires others to live like followers of Christ.

R. Lyndel Littleton

Bro. Lyndel is the Worship Pastor at Hilldale Baptist Church in Clarksville, TN. In addition to his work in worship, he leads Hilldale in mission partnerships in Portugal and Brazil. He enjoys writing songs for worship and has many handbell, choral and instrumental pieces published with Jeffers, LifeWay, Beckenhorst and other publishers. In addition to music and worship, his interests include painting (oils, acrylics, wax, watercolor), working with stained-glass, growing roses and raising chickens and Great Pyrenees.

Instagram https://www.instagram.com/lyndel_littleton/

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Lyndels.Art/>

Don McElroy

Don works as CFO for R. Lafferty & Son General Contractors here in Clarksville. He moved to Clarksville about 14 years ago. Before that he lived in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Most of his career has been in accounting and software development (with a short, 1 year, stint teaching high school).

Over the years Don has been a pianist at several churches. He has written a number of Gospel songs and enjoys playing piano and singing in the choir here at Hilldale.

Andy and Michelle Milam

Andy and Michelle are from Tennessee but currently serve as missionaries of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Northern Portugal. Part of their work is facilitating partnerships between churches in the United States with churches in Northern Portugal. Hilldale Baptist Church is one of those partnering churches and has sent 7 mission teams to Porto, Portugal to work alongside the Milams.

Kelly O'Sullivan

Kelly has degrees in social work and British literature, but these days she's doing her most favorite work yet: being a full-time homeschool mom to two 6-year-olds, and being a helpmeet to her wonderful, active-duty husband, Sean.

Website <https://ontheupperroad.com/>

Becky Phelps

Becky is a prolific artist who is comfortable in many media. Her favorites are spray paint and Sharpie pens! Her works range from small canvases to murals on the sides of buildings. She has received many awards and commissions over the years for her work. Becky teaches High School Art in the Rutherford County school system.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tyedye_becky/

Website <https://www.beckyphelps.com/>

Brian Phelps

Brian is someone who loves to write and is a photographer. His favorite things to write are devotionals and devotional type poems which are meant to encourage and inspire others. Brian is a manager at 84 Lumber Company in Murfreesboro, TN. He and his wife, Becky reside in Murfreesboro.

James Sanders

Bro. James is the Membership Pastor at Hilldale Baptist Church. Before coming to Hilldale James pastored churches in Texas, Tennessee and Illinois. You can watch his weekly Bible study on Hilldale's website and listen to his Phone Call Bible class at <https://www.hilldale.org/PC%20Recorded%20Lessons>

Calli Smith

Calli has a thriving photography business in the Memphis area. She specializes in family, engagement and (as you've seen here) baby photography. We know her and husband, Andrew from their time at Hilldale while Andrew was earning his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting at APSU. They both currently work at Bellevue Baptist Church in the Memphis area.

Website www.callismithphotography.com

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/callismithphotography/>

Email info@callismithphotography.com

Phillip and Heather Sugg

Phillip, in his off time, is a Master Gardener, owner of Yellow Creek Creations, and fly fisherman. His natural and educated talent of gardening and flowers provides beautiful subject matter for Heather to photograph. Phillip's love of nature is also captured in

woodworking pieces. He creates works of art highlighting the details of the wood grain. He from time to time cuts pieces for Heather to paint for fun holiday pieces for display. Heather is a Kitchen and Bath Designer but spends most of her time teaching art at First Learners Preschool at First Baptist Church, Clarksville. For several years she has taught children ages 1 to 5 years old. Her focus in teaching is that no matter the age or ability, each child is an artist. Heather's favorite media are pencil, painting, photography, and well... anything that makes art. Heather is currently painting a mural at First Baptist Church.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YellowCreekCreations/>

Grace Sutt

Grace is a High School Junior interested in pursuing art as a career. She loves working in all sorts of 2D media, but her favorites are oil and gouache paints.

Instagram http://www.instagram.com/sutt_grace

Adrienne Terrebonne

When Adrienne isn't exhausted (or maybe through the exhaustion) she writes. ;-) She shares her writings through Facebook and her website. Her pages are places for moms to find encouragement, laughter, and hope. It is her desire that her readers will see God's hand in the details of their motherhood journey. On Sundays you can hear her sing with our Family Life Center Worship Team.

Website <https://www.blessedbeyondexhaustion.com>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/blessedbeyondexhaustion/>

Fred Turner (Heather Sugg's Father)

Fred earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from UT Knoxville. He worked for Eastman Chemical Company (as in Eastman-Kodak) for over thirty years. Since retiring, he has turned his love for map making and photography, and his newfound love of fly fishing, into works of art.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/thecreekbank>

Etsy <https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheCreekbank>

For more information about Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee, please visit our website <https://www.hilldale.org/> or our info hub <https://yourhbc.info/>