

Today, as we continue in the book of Ephesians, we see that Paul turns a corner and goes from laying a biblical foundation about our journey as Jesus Followers to talking about the practical aspects of what it means to actually follow Jesus.

He opens up with a HUGE Therefore (based on everything we just covered in the first three chapters):

**Ephesians 4:1-3** *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

Through Paul, the Father is imploring us to walk in a manner that is worthy of the calling we've received from Him. He gives a snapshot of what this worthy manner looks like: Humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance, and love – Basically the fruit of the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22,23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

These verses provide a beautiful picture of the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man.

He calls us – literally invites us – into a relationship with Himself and we have the kuleana (responsibility) to walk in a manner worthy of that calling/invitation.

We see Jesus verbalize like this in **Matthew 11:28-30** *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. (The calling/invitation)<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, (Our kuleana) for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

The truth that many people don't understand is the invitation of Jesus (the calling) is connected with the yoke of Jesus, a life of living according to the direction and teachings of Jesus.

We see this very clearly in how Jesus describes why He chose us in **John 15:16** *“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain...”*

The God who can do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think is the one who calls us to embrace the High Calling of bearing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

To walk in a manner worthy of His calling, to yoke up with Jesus, and to bear the fruit that will last, the Fruit of the Spirit are not an optional phase two, three, or four in the Christian Journey – they are the very foundation of the Christian Journey.

To embrace this calling and responsibility is not only the foundation of our life, it is the mission/purpose of our life, and the framework for stability and protection in our life.

**2 Peter 1:2-11** *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.<sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. <sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; <sup>11</sup> for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*

Paul prayed a prayer for the Colossian Jesus Followers that I believe is the Father's heart for us:

**Colossians 1:9-12** *For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*

**Hale Pule Question:**

**If you have responded to the Father's invitation/calling of new life in Christ and have become Born-Again, how can you more effectively walk out your kuleana to bear the fruit of your calling – the Fruit of the Spirit:**

*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control?*

**If you haven't responded to the Father's invitation to relinquish control of your life to Jesus and become born-again, what is stopping you from going all in with Him?**

Some Greek words for background and context:

Implore = Parakaleo – one of the meanings is to call to one's side, call for, summon

Walk = Paripateo - to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities  
In the Hebrew culture it was used to describe the act of living: to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self

Calling = Klesis – a call, an invitation