

Faithfulness and the fruit of the Spirit

8 July 2007

Wisdom

- I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness.
Mother Teresa
- Your faithfulness makes you trustworthy to God.
Edwin Louis Cole





Galatians 5:22-24

- But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.
- Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.



1973 the world

- Nixon
- Mao Zedong
- Mandela
- Brezhnev
- Vietnam
- Watergate
- Bill Gates



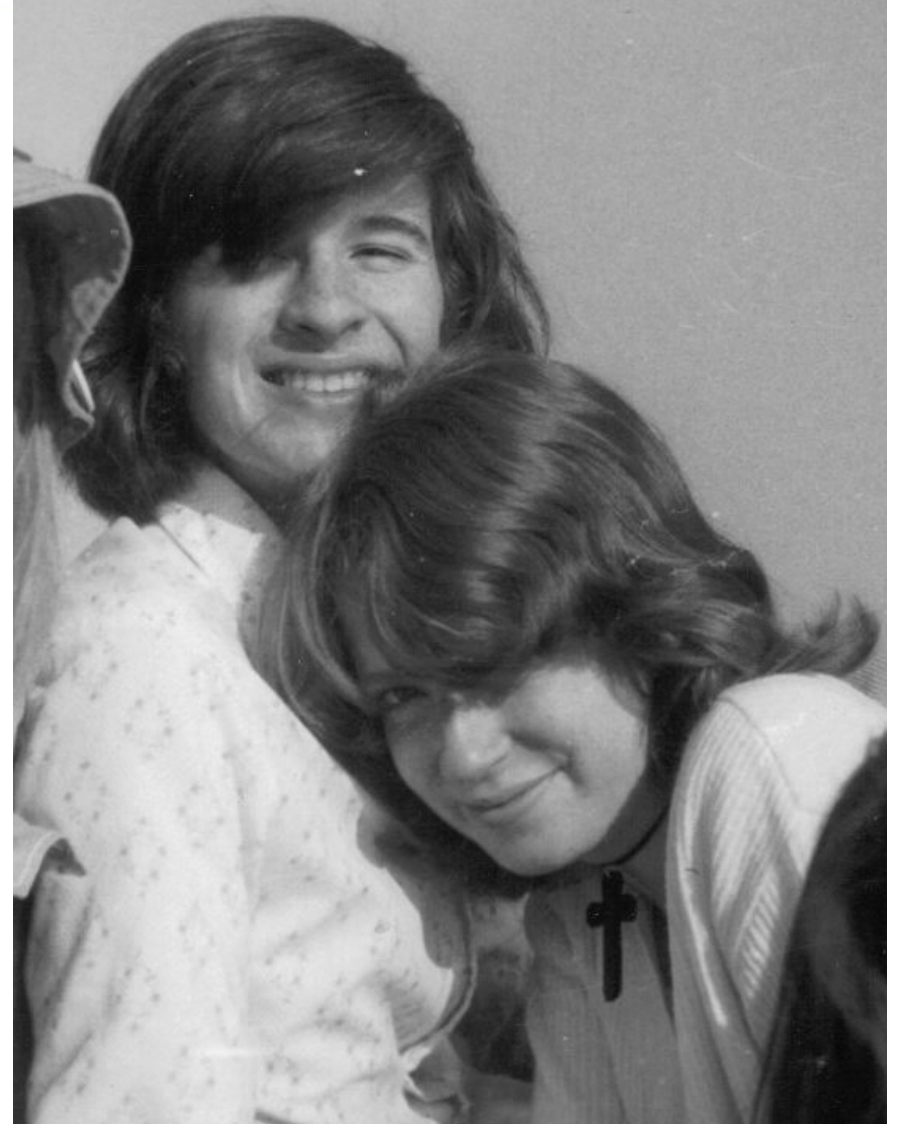
1973 the UK

- UK joins the EEC (European Union)
- VAT
- Inflation 9% to 25% in next 24 months
- Industrial unrest and mass strikes
- High income tax
- A growing sense the country had lost its way



1973 Geoff

● 17



The Fruit of the Spirit

- One fruit
- many flavours



Fruit

- Fruit is grown not made



Psalm 1 vs 1-3

- 1 Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
- 2 but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper



Our Choice

- To seek the source of our growth or ...
- John 15 1-5 Jesus words
 - I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.



Our Choice

- A reminder of our commitment to God
- Romans 12 v 1
 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.
- Covenant prayer



Covenant Prayer

- A commitment together to make this Church a fruitful place to be
- Recognise that God is our Father and that we can be that living sacrifice to him
- To choose to begin or continue to serve him
- To honour God in the way we live our life
- To commit our life and will to him
- And to do this together with our friends



Communion

- Wine from the fruit and a symbol of his love for us
- I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness.
Mother Teresa

