



What does a CHASTE pursuit of faith mean as a fruit of the Spirit – including in the context of work – and what can be done to make it actionable?

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are the signs and actions that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live by faith in our daily lives.

“What does a CHASTE pursuit of faith mean as fruit of the Spirit – including in the context of work – and what can be done to make it actionable?”

This was the focus of the 2nd session of the 2022 BELIEVES season held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, with Diane Moffett, Leader of the One Lamb Initiative; and Kasey McClure, Founder and Executive Director of 4Sarah.



Moffett, a member of Peachtree Road UMC who grew up Catholic, said she received a nudge from God that led to starting the One Lamb Initiative.

“Three years ago, I had a God nudge on mental health to help a teen,” Moffett told everyone. “At first I started to raise money, but then I heard God say, ‘Diane, you know this is more than just finances.’ This led to a focus on education and support.”

Moffett said that led to a two-year initiative which led to the One Lamb Initiative being launched to nurture and embrace mental wellness in a faithful community of connection and support.

McClure also heard from God leading her to start 4Sarah in 2004.

“I started 4Sarah, which is named after my daughter Sarah, in 2004,” McClure shared. “I had left the lifestyle in 2003 when God called me out of it. I entered into full-time ministry in 2012 after having been in a full-time job prior to that.”

McClure shared that 4Sarah serves women with children or who are pregnant, especially women and girls working in the sex industry as a stripper, prostitute, escort, porn star, or victim of sex trafficking.

McClure said the women stay for a few months when they come to 4Sarah.

“When they arrive with us, they’re pregnant, with no hope, and feeling lost and confused.”

So, what does chastity and a chaste pursuit of faith mean in the words of Moffett and McClure?

“For me it means remaining faithful,” Moffett answered. “Starting a ministry requires a lot of faith, often slower than maybe is expected. As you hear His nudge, it’s easy to say ‘no,’ but you have to listen and remain faithful.”

McClure followed Moffett by sharing that when starting in ministry you can be very naïve.

“As we continue, our vision doesn’t get smaller, but God puts things in the mix and it changes our perspective,” McClure stated. “I didn’t know what I was doing. I just needed to act on what God’s put in our hearts.”

She added, “Life isn’t always rosy – that’s OK. But you can finish what you start.”

McClure’s remarks brought a quote from a devotional to mind for Moffett that she then retold to everyone.

“A devotional I read shared that Howard Thurman once said the following in a 1980s commencement speech at Spelman College – ‘Ask God what makes you come alive and go do it, because the world needs people who are alive.’”

Monica Bosco, an attendee at BELIEVES, then mentioned that as she heard Moffett and McClure speak and thought about what the meaning of chastity was for her, what came up was ‘pure in Spirit – what I take in and what I speak about is important to this.’”

Then she added, “I once heard it said, ‘We will never exhaust God. Whenever we think there’s a bottom, God’s deeper.’”

When Moffett and McClure were asked to think about what chastity meant to them in the context of work – remaining faithful despite always facing the sobering realities of pain and hurt in the world by serving those they do – they had this to say.

“There’s a lot of steps in life, like the 12 steps,” said Moffett. “It’s important to be in community. In the context of work, it’s just to keep putting one foot in front of the other.”

McClure said, “With the girls we help, telling them to sit still hasn’t always worked well. It’s a struggle for them to separate from what they know.”

And what do Moffett and McClure hear from those they serve about the challenges of having a chaste pursuit of faith?

“With mental health, it’s a stigma,” Moffett stated. “I once had a church leader say, ‘People come here and want to look and act their best.’”

With those who are struggling with mental health in mind, Moffett also said, “There’s a healing when you’re sitting around those who have gone through the same walk. That’s what happens with ministries like Stephen Ministry and the Friend of Friend Ministry.”

McClure spoke next to share her thoughts from the perspective of the women she and her team help.

“Our girls need normal people in their lives. They relate to me because I walked the walk.”

This led McClure to also tell a bit about her own journey to quit the lifestyle.

“My grandmother’s passing was a significant moment,” she recalled. “I remember thinking, ‘I didn’t want to be known as just a stripper. I know what I was doing was wrong. It wasn’t people saying that that led to the change, it was the internal conviction about it.’”

In the end, McClure said things don’t happen on our timeline.

“We’ve got to trust the Holy Spirit.”

With mental health having come up in the latest remarks, McClure was asked to share a bit more on what she is seeing these days.

“It’s overwhelming,” she replied. “It’s hard but it’s happening. Through the years it has intensified. We have taken our focus off people and put it on living what others are doing. We just buried our pastor’s wife this Fall. She was just 35 years old and committed suicide. There is such a need for people to reach out to people.”

The conversation continued to go deeper acknowledging that those McClure and Moffett are called to help often have had their lives impacted by a lack of chastity from other people's sin.

What helps the most for those deep wounds to be overcome and healed?

McClure spoke first.

"When you spend time with them, and make them feel important," she answered. "Our ladies know how to take, but they don't know how to receive and not give something back."

She commented further that the women they help want to connect with you on a personal and friend level.

"They're in desperate need for that. They're looking for that safety."

Moffett spoke next about the youth she and her team help.

"There's so much pressure to get into the right school and things like that these days," she stated. "The pressure of teens today is like never before. Kids are wanting to be understood."

Ultimately, she said for mental health it's just "education, education, education."

"Between 1 in 3 and 1 in 5 people in a pew have mental health challenges," Moffett informed.

One thing Moffett mentioned has helped open up the conversation around mental health at her church is a women's session on depression centered around the book *The Hidden Life Awakened*.

She also added, "To spend deliberate time in small groups helps to reduce the stigma and feel heard. Additionally, spending quiet time in your Spirit can reduce stress and anxiety and there's opportunity to gain perspective and peace when intentional time is put as a priority."

As her team walked out serving with Moffett in the One Lamb Initiative, they insisted she share what the ministry is doing for her.

One of her takeaways from their encouragement – "Never be fearful to put yourself out there."

McClure could relate, and told everybody one thing she's learning how to say now is "No."

"In 2022, I'm having to restructure some things. I'm spending time alone, and I'm taking a step back and doing work, but being strategic about it."

How can a chaste pursuit of faith be more actionable?

Moffett and McClure shared their final thoughts.

"What started the chipping away of the stigma in our church was the pastor's decision to have a month-long series on mental health," Moffett remarked. "How wonderful is it to be in church and talk about the spiritual piece of mental health. When the pastor and his team decided to spend a month to talk about this it was huge."

So her challenge to everyone ...

"I challenge those at CTK to go to Monsignor and ask him to do a month-long homily series on mental health and consider on-going dialogue from there," Moffett said in closing.

Piggybacking on Moffett's challenge to emphasize the importance of it, McClure said, "When we were back at church the week after the pastor's wife committed suicide, this lady in the pew behind me that was always there said, 'I've thought about it.'"

McClure then closed by saying, "It's there. We need a safe environment to open up."