

Testify.

Jeff Ball : Fiercely Independent : MANUP.co

***“Let the redeemed of
the Lord tell their Story.”***

Psalm 107:2

Jeff Ball: “Fiercely Independent”

John 15:5 (ESV)

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Catching My Bearings.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

- **Love**: Am I growing in my love for God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Am I growing in my love for my wife?
- **Joy & Peace**: Am I increasingly joyful and peaceful regardless of circumstance?
- **Patience**: How am I doing with patience?
- **Kindness**: Is my heart hard or soft with those in need?
- **Goodness**: Am I experiencing increasing freedom from sins that have bound me over the years?

- **Faithfulness**: Is my faith expanding or atrophying?
- **Gentleness**: Do I trust God enough to be gentle in my ways?
- **Self Control**: How well am I judging short-term verses long-term consequences and acting accordingly?

How did I lose ground previously taken?

- **Distractions**.
Misguided Adventure
Head Knowledge > Heart Knowledge
- **Disobedience**.
Both Big and Small
- **Misdirection**.
Misdirecting good things - spiritual disciplines

Retaking Ground.

Go Back to What Worked Before.

- **Refocus my spiritual disciplines.**
- **“Sublime Selfishness”**
(mind God’s business for me)
- **Meditate on God’s grace to push back the urge to judge.**
- **Lean In.**

- **Prayer.**

Before I read.

After I read.

For a soft heart.

For eyes and ears to see and hear
the world as God does.

For people in my life.

For our leaders.

Record and express my gratitudes.

Fierce Dependence.

- **Jesus' relationship with his Father.**
- **My relationship with Jesus.**
- **Jesus' command to Peter.**

"You follow me!" - John 21:22

*"Could anything be more exquisitely simple?
Could any instructions be more delightfully
explicit? When life becomes a direct relationship
between Himself and myself, it is wonderful how
plain the path appears."*

- F.W. Boreham, "Mind Your Own Business!"

from A Tuft of Comet's Hair