

Church of the Promise

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Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend





#2 Walk in Love's Fruit

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

One verse that can help with loosening this very strong hold Pride has on a believer is, Isaiah 55 where God says

8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

So, The character of a person is not changed until they walk out some steps. The steps start with  **Revelation**, which brings  **Confrontation**, follows the Spirit, into  **Transformation** that results  **Manifestation**. Christ's Character shows up on the outside as the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23.

This is just another way to describe the first 5 steps of the Commands of Christ.

Repent

Follow Me

Rejoice

Let Your light Shine,

Honor God's Law.

It's the same Process

Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

I. The Fruit is LOVE described

Think of this as a list of Character Traits of Jesus. The first one is Love. The King James Version calls it "Charity". All the other eight "fruit" listed are an expression of the first one which is God's divine "love".

Joy is love's rejoicing,

Peace is love's designer of active rest,

Longsuffering is love's patience,

Gentleness is love's touch,

Goodness is love's character,

Faith is love's fidelity or faithfulness,

Meekness is love's humility,
Temperance is love's self-control.

The **Fruit of the Spirit** are both inner emotional heartfelt experiences & visible outward actions of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will cause them to come into the heart & become deliberate actions and postures of a believer. They are manifested as visible behaviors to others during life's circumstances. They are always begun within the heart and radiate outwardly in actions. They are like the positioning of an eagle's wings that causes it to rise above the storm. **It is the Attitude that causes it to gain Altitude**

The Bible has many examples of people manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit. Think about them as you read scripture. Are they in the flesh or in the Spirit? The Fruit of the Spirit can help you discern the source. It can become a diagnostic tool for yourself also. Galatians 5:19 begins with this thought: "19The acts of the flesh are obvious:"

Love - David & Jonathan
Joy - David
Meekness - Moses, Esther
Peace - Daniel & Joseph
Goodness -, Dorcus,
Stephen
Longsuffering - Job, Abigail
Faithfulness - Abraham
Gentleness - Isaac, Ruth
Temperance - Daniel

So, let's take a close look at each of the Fruit of the Spirit. But keep in your heart that, "He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it"

1. LOVE

– **Charity** There are several New Testament Greek words that are translated "love". "Agapeo' is the one used here. It is God's divine, sacrificial love. It gives without expecting anything in return. It heals nurtures & restores. The Holy Spirit will inspire love in your heart that is compassionate and yields to the needs of others.

Psychologist, Abraham Maslow, Redefined the human need for love as being composed of four primary needs. All of the following are available in the Promises of God's word. These needs make us FEEL loved. And they make us FEEL the affection for others.

Security Significance Acceptance Approval

"When we seek the kingdom of God FIRST, Then, all these 'Things' will be added to us." God causes us to Look to Him to be loved. Then He Lets us be hands and feet to show LOVE to others. As we TRUST HIS Love, We will become more and more emotionally stable & independent of the NEED to receive Love from People. As we yield our emotions to the Lord's control He will place Godly desires or passions that are like Christ's in our hearts.

When we yield to the way He leads us, we "Walk in the Sprit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh." Determine to have God's will control your life and emotions, not your own depraved and self-serving passions known as YOUR WILL

So, let's look at the other ways Christ Love is described according to Galatians 5

Joy – Love's expression

In 2nd Samuel chapter 6, David danced before the Lord with such passion that he gave no thought to his own reputation. He was expressing overwhelming joy because the Ark of the Lord was being brought into the tabernacle. He was stripped down to a linen undergarment, considered to be like underwear and dancing and shouting openly before everyone in the street without shame or embarrassment. His wife, Mikah, was not pleased by his open display and felt his actions threatened her somehow. But David's heart was pure before the Lord and he was celebrating fully from his heart the expressions of love and gratitude to God. It was not somber & quiet but jubilant and **God responded to it**. David answered his wife's concerns and God rebuked her.

***2Sam 6...** "I will celebrate before the LORD. 22. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes."*

Joy that is produced by Love for God will always forsake & abandon our own self-preserving pride. It is pure and not connected to any self-gratifying pleasure. It resides continually in the heart of God. It is also experienced by a believer who chooses to be first occupied & immersed in God's purposes and presence.

Peace-Love's rest

Follow after God's Peace

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

'Take heart' means "have courage". Courage does not mean you are not afraid. Rather that, in the face of fear you act with integrity & you do the right thing. Some would say courage is to "Do it afraid!" God's peace enables you to do so. Make it your habit to not act upon decisions until you have peace in your spirit. Sometimes, fear tells you stop but the Peace of the Holy Spirit urges you on. Other times we act on our own impulses without seeking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and we find disaster and no PEACE! Peace is an inner rest even in the midst of intense action.

Psalm 37:4-7 *4. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: 6. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. 7. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.*

Philippians 4:6-7 *6. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7. And the peace of God, which transcends all*

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

There is a supernatural peace that is given through the Holy Spirit. It is the nearly tangible way that we know His presence. It is a deep abiding sense of peace we sense when we are aware of His Presence we know in our "inner most being". It is the same peace that permeates the Godhead. It's not the same as the quiet contentment you might have when everything is well in your life. Christ has enabled us to perceive it so that we may obey His leadings. We are trained by it, so that we may follow it in all of our decisions and all our actions & will towards all men. That training is how He will grow the fruit of peace in us.

Patience – *Love's designer of active rest*

Patience is the deliberate wait of the saints of God upon his timing and divine intentions. It creates the ebb and flow of God's wondrous work. It is what sets the timing and rhythms for God's dance with humanity. It is not passive waiting at all, but very much a verb that actively holds on course for the leadership of the Holy Spirit to direct. Often employing tremendous strength to do so.

"If we could but lower our estimation of the importance of our time, our plans and our feelings, we would find ourselves almost automatically more patient." "It is not the same thing as resignation." "It is the ability to bear affliction, delay and interruption with calmness, perseverance and confidence in the goodness of God (Colossians 1:11-12). It is inward peace as well as outward control. It is the submission of our schedules, our view points, our dreams to the greater plan of God, with the conviction that he has a good reason for every delay He to come our way." - former First Lady Barbara Bush

Another word for patience in some translations is **longsuffering** (*also Forbearance, Endurance*) It is what creates the radiant beauty that displays in one who freely flows with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Love never fails! This is the one that makes room for peace. You will find yourself maturing in the area as your tolerance of the failings of others increases and being able to endure hardships with grace. Make Room for it by setting your ambitions to line up with His DESIRES. Let His passions be transmitted so they become your own precious FEELINGS.

John 6:27 *"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."*

Gentleness - Love's touch,

It is the manner in which we approach things with others. Recognizing the fragile nature of others, we approach in a way that will not bruise and bring unnecessary harm.

2 Kings 18:21 *Now, behold, thou trusteth upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.*

This passage tells us of the problem with relying on each other in our bruised condition. To lean on a bruised reed will cause it to break and could injure you. Yet, Christ's attitude was not to cut off that bent or injured reed. This shows us Christ's touch. It is gentle, not leaning upon something that cannot hold the weight. Until! He leads justice to victory! There will be a time of judgment.

Isaiah 42:3 & Matthew 12:20 *A bruised reeds he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.*

Goodness – Love’s Character

This describes the good and desirable habits of Godliness. The standards of conduct that God defines in his word manifested in our daily life to the point of it being integrated into who we are. Goodness is the flavor of God’s ways. Goodness God’s character applied in every aspect of day to day life. It’s seen in orderly cleanliness, financial stewardship, faithfulness, work ethic, truthfulness, keeping your word, courage in doing what is right. A basic beginner understanding of goodness is revealed in the 10 Commandments.

Faithfulness – *Love’s* fidelity

When someone is true to their word and can be trusted to continue with integrity. They are true to God and themselves 24/7. A person who takes seriously the spoken word. “Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ be ‘no’”. Say what you mean and mean what you say. This is credibility. In actions it is integrity. God is faithful. Then faithfulness to God’s ways & will is created in the heart of a person who truly worships Him in Spirit and in truth. A person unfaithful to God is unfaithful in every other matter. And likewise, a person faithful to God is in word and deed, credible and possesses integrity.

Meekness – Love’s humility, Strength under control.

The fruit of meekness is produced in a person as they allow the Lord to teach them. He will teach them spiritual things but He will also teach them skills and talents that will make them strong and effective. As these new abilities and strength become apparent, the fruit of meekness works to keep you from getting prideful and arrogant. He will lead you to overcome the fear that has held you back from accomplishing your destiny. But you will need to keep your strengths under the control of the Holy Spirit so that you do not overpower others or become overpowered yourself in self vanity.

Meekness is submission that keeps you teachable to both God and those He places in your life. Meekness is defense against foolish pride that manifest in self-seeking ambitions.

Temperance - Love's Self Control

Self-control begins with controlling our thought life as discussed in the chapter named Renew Your Mind. When our thought life begins to be renewed we will also find one fruit produced by that renewal will be emotional control.

Your emotions are part of your physical being. If you're not sure about that just spend some time with a woman who is experiencing hormone fluctuations of menopause, P.M.S. or pregnancy. Some stroke patients have experienced a complete personality change. Emotions are part of our body's alarm system and can be misleading if completely trusted. Feelings are the products of our thoughts & hormones. The hormones can become imbalanced, just as any organ in our bodies may dysfunction. And we know that before the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit begins its renewing work on our depraved mind. So to rule over your emotions you must learn to renew your mind by mixing your faith with the Word. Control your thoughts and emotions are controlled as a side effect.

Self-control is at the last of the 9 fruit, perhaps because it is the one that can most communicate Gods self-sacrificing love, His Agape or Charity. While all the others communicate well to an unnatural affection this one seals all the others as being motivated from something greater than any created being.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit enables us to be pro-active instead of reactive.

Peace, love, joy, contentment are all states of mind that produce pleasant emotions. This state of mind leads us to be

compassionate toward others and proactive toward life. We will search out God's purpose for us and begin to embrace a new destiny.

Anger, fear, rejection, hatred, bitterness are also strongholds of the mind and the effects are felt by the emotions. They can tempt us to react in a way that works against others and our faith. However, a person led by the Spirit with a renewed mind will be pro-active and not simply reactive. They will measure out appropriate responses as directed by the Holy Spirit. This is self-control. Anger and Vengeance are two destructive responses a person may be tempted to lash out with. Such responses always have repercussions. Only God is capable of handling the backlash of vengeance and that is why He tells us to allow Him to answer our enemies.

Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

That is why God enables us through the fruit of the Holy Spirit to exercise self-control.

When we seek the kingdom of God we will become more and more emotionally stable. As we yield our emotions to the Lord's control He will place Godly desires in our hearts that please Him and are enjoyable to us.

Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. Determine to have God's will control your passions instead of your passions controlling your will.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Let God's love have its way in you

II. Fruit of the Spirit, Kingdom Attitudes

The Fruit of the Spirit generates Kingdom Attitudes that beautify the soul and qualifies you for service. They are blessed! These characteristics catch God's attention.

They Qualify & Beautify:

The fruit of the spirit are the foundation of Kingdom character. Matthew 5:1-11 commonly known as the BE-Attitudes, set "qualifications" and rewards for those in the Kingdom of Heaven. How important are they? This portion of scripture is the **beginning** of Jesus' the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5

1. *Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2. and he began to teach them, saying:*
3. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
4. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
5. *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*
6. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*
7. *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
8. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

9. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*
10. *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
11. *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*

He Blesses

with the reward of

Vs. 3 _____

Kingdom of Heaven

Vs. 4 Mourn

Vs. 5 Meek

_____ the Earth

Vs. 6 Hunger & thirst for righteousness

Filled with _____

Vs. 7 Merciful

Vs. 8 Pure in heart

Vs. 9 _____

Called sons of God

Vs. 10 Persecuted for righteousness

Vs. 11 _____

Great _____ in heaven

Keep meditating on the Attitudes that set your own altitude as The Holy Spirit progresses you through them step by step to greater days ahead, from THIS DAY FORWARD!

Answer Key:

Attitude

Altitude

Poor in spirit

Comfort

Inherit the earth

righteousness

Mercy

See God

Peacemakers

Kingdom of heaven

False insults & evil against you

reward

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Romans 1-8

Use the Epistles Study tool and a Daily Journal as you read. The next session will come from a portion of this book. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment.