



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 2:16-21)

STUDY 11: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART 1

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 1 Cor.12:31, 1Cor.13, Jn. 15:1-2,13, 13:35, Gal.5:19-23, 1Jn.3:11,14, 4:8,16, 5:3Rom. 5:5, Phil.2:3, Lk.6:12,35, 11:1, Ps.5:1-3, 73:28, 109:4, Mk.1:35, 6:46-47, Ps.119:105, 47,97,140, Jer.15:16, Ezek.3:3, Eph.5:1-2, 1Cor.11:1, Gal.4:19,

INTRODUCTION

While the gifts of the Spirit are valuable and necessary, Paul recommends the fruit of the Spirit as "a more excellent way" (1 Cor.12:31).

One of the primary purposes of the Holy Spirit coming into a Christian's life is to change that life. It is the Holy Spirit's job to conform us to the image of Christ, making us more like Him.

Christ's words in Jn. 15:1-2. Show that He wants us to bear more fruit and He wants our fruit to last. The more we abide in Christ the more the Holy Spirit takes possession of us and reigns over our hearts, making us bear more of this one, homogeneous fruit-The fruit of the Spirit.

The nine-fold fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:19-23)

The apostle Paul presents us with nine fruits, which he mentions as one "fruit". Using the singular depicts unity and homogeneity. Some Christian commentators have compared these nine qualities with nine grapes hanging in one cluster, or nine glimmering pearls threaded on one necklace.

In this passage, we can see that Paul is contrasting the works of the flesh with the works of the Spirit. That is the fruit of the recreated, born-again human spirit. Which comes about because of the life of Christ—the Holy Spirit— within us.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal.5:22,23).

These nine qualities are naturally divided into three trios:

Man's relationship with God: love, joy, peace.

Man's relationship with his fellowmen: longsuffering, kindness, goodness.

Man's relationship with himself: faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

If we let the Holy Spirit control our lives, our relationship with God will be filled with love, joy and peace. Our relationship with others will be an exemplary relationship controlled by longsuffering, kindness and goodness. Also, our relationship with ourselves will be brimming with the confidence of faith, gentleness and self-control.

This nine-fold fruit comes by the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer; it is not an outward beautification of the old man such as culture, civilization and personal efforts would do. It is not achieved by man's attempt to change himself gradually, working on a part of his corrupt soul at a time. It comes by committing the soul totally to the Holy Spirit, who then takes possession of it and changes it completely.

The First Fruit: Love

Love - the very nature of God (1Jn. 4:8,16) - is the first fruit that shows up in the recreated, born-again human spirit Rom. 5:5, 1Jn. 3:14, Jn. 13:35

The English word love has very broad meaning, but the Greek language was very precise. The love which the Holy Spirit manifests in believers is agape. "Agape" love is the deep, spiritual, giving, godly love that is far above the "eros" (physical love) or the "phileo" (brotherly, companionable love). It is supernatural love.

This love is not a feeling, but a choice. It is the choice to be kind, to sacrifice, to consider another's needs greater than one's own (Phil.2:3). Agape is used in all of the "hard" love verses in the New Testament: (Jn.15:13, 1 Jn.3:11, 5:3, Lk.6:35).

1 Corinthians 13 is a beautiful description of agape love

1. Paul begins his description of agape by giving it the supremacy over other spiritual gifts (v.1-2).
 2. Agape is also more important than sacrificing our possessions or our bodies (v. 3).
 3. Agape love receives abuse again and again and at the end it is still kind (v. 4).
 4. "does not seek its own" means that love does not insist on having its own way (v. 5).
 5. Love is not provoked (v.5).
- A. When agape love flows through us, we know that we have passed from death into life (1 John 3:14).
- B. We cannot generate agape love when we need it. When we find ourselves lacking in love, we need to ask God to fill our hearts with agape by His Holy Spirit.

Everyone possessed by the Holy Spirit bears the fruit of the love for God, which is manifest in:

A desire to talk with God: Anyone possessed and ruled by God will love, call upon and talk with God often, because he wants to have an intimate relationship with Him. (Ps.5:1-3, 109:4, Mk.1:35, 6:46-47, Lk.6:12, 11:1, Ps.73:28).

A desire to study His word: The more we love God, the more we will read His word, and the more we meditate on it. It will not do just to commit it to memory or only to repeat it with our lips, but we will make sure that it will be a daily nourishment to our spirits and a true reality that we experience everyday (Ps.119:105, 47,97,140, Jer.15:16, Ezek.3:3)

A desire to imitate Him: No doubt you imitated your parents, just as your child will imitate you. It is truly said in the proverb: Like father like son. The more a child loves his parent the more he will imitate him. The more you meditate on Jesus' teachings and consider His earthly life the more you will become like Him, because you will take Him as your example (Eph.5:1-2, 1Cor.11:1, Gal.4:19).

The fruit of the Spirit is love for people

The Holy Spirit produces in us a love for the brethren: To prove that we love God, whom we cannot see, we are to love people, whom we can see. Brotherly love was a characteristic of believers in Christ all through the ages, so much so that heathens said, "See how the Christians love each other." Christ declared that love is the proof of true discipleship when He said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn.13:35, 1 Jn.3:14,15)

The Holy Spirit produces in us a love for the poor: To confirm that we love the invisible God we must love the visible human beings, sympathize with them in their calamities, and lend them a hand whenever they are found in need of something. The best that we can do to help the needy is to teach them how to help themselves, so that they can earn their own living with the sweat of their brows (Matt.26:11, Acts 20:35, 2 Cor.9:7, Js. 2:15,16, Jn. 6:1-15, 1 Jn. 3:17,18; 4:7,8,12,13).

The Holy Spirit produces in us a love for the weak: Christ sets before us the example we should follow. He is the loving Master who feels the weakness and the needs of the weak and takes care of them; He feels their heartbeats! Once He was viewing the sick people lying at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9). Another time, He entered the synagogue on a Sabbath and saw a woman who was bent over and had not been able to stand straight at all for eighteen years (Lk.13:10-17).

The Holy Spirit produces a love of solidarity among mankind: Love always shares what it has with others. The apostle Paul exhorted the believers to join forces and supply the needs of each other so that when circumstances are adverse one would find help from those he had previously helped. (2 Cor.8:13,14, Rom.12:15,16, Eccl.11:1, Gal.6:7-10)

The Holy Spirit produces in us a love for our enemies: It is easy to treat good people gently, to love those who love you, or to do good to those who do you good. True love, however, still flows toward those who oppose us or do us evil. We will not be able to love our enemies until the Holy

Spirit fills us, invests us with power and controls our behavior, aiding us to obey the commandment in Matt.5:44. The Holy Spirit helps us overlook differences and live peaceably with one another Rom.12:18, Heb.12:14

The Holy Spirit produces in us a love for everyone who needs us: Christ presented to us in the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk.10:25-37) a wounded man, but there are people who are much more miserable than those physically wounded. They are the ones who are wounded by sin. These are in danger of eternal destruction. It is incumbent on us to offer them the message of Christ, explain to them their spiritual experiences. Perhaps they will repent and be saved. God commissioned those who love Him to love others and seek to save them from their sins, even if they treat them badly; for love suffers long, is kind, bears the evil treatment of others. Rom. 12:14,20,21.

The Holy Spirit produces in us a love for the family: When the Holy Spirit controls our life, He makes us love our family members; the husband loves the wife, the wife the husband, and love becomes the dominating atmosphere at home. (Eph.5:25,28,29, 1 Pet.3:7). How beautiful and happy is the home in which the Holy Spirit controls the behavior of its members (Ps.133:1-3).

NEXT: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT PART 2 - JOY & PEACE