

Searching the Scriptures / 35 / The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit / Part 5

Today let's briefly examine the marvelous gifts of the Holy Spirit that God lavishes upon each Christian. We see in Eph 2:10 that true believers are God's "workmanship", which means "the fruit (or product) of a workman's labor". We also see in Gal 5:22-26 that true believers are governed by the "fruit" (or product) of the Holy Spirit's work in their lives: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

Love

It is interesting how God starts off this list of "fruit" with "love". Of course, the greatest demonstration of love is found in the Lord Jesus Christ, as Rom 5:8 declares: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." There is no greater love than for God to become sin on behalf of His people, the elect, and to suffer the equivalent of eternity in Hell for them. As a result, God reveals that love is the chief hallmark of the Christian in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." God also goes to great lengths to define love in many verses, such as 1 John 5:3, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

Joy

In Hab 3:18 we discover this beautiful statement, "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation." Each believer has been given "joy" as a fruit of the Spirit, which is a direct result of the incomprehensible salvation that God has granted. Neh 8:10 is a very comforting verse which declares, "... for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Peace

The Lord Jesus came to this earth on a mission of "peace" – but not in the physical sense that most people imagine. Because mankind by nature abhors God and holds Him in the highest contempt, Eph 2:14-15 describes the spiritual, eternal peace between God and man that Christ secured for many: "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace." Isa 26:3 speaks of the wonderful peace that God has gifted to each of His children: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Longsuffering

The "longsuffering", or patience, of God can be readily seen throughout the Bible. Actually, it is astounding that God is so patient with rebellious man. Indeed, with the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives Col 1:11 admonishes us to be, "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness."

Gentleness

Following the pattern of their Master, those who are part of the eternal church are equipped with the fruit of “gentleness”, or kindness, as Eph 2:7 describes, *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

Goodness

Eph 5:9 gives us an excellent description of “goodness” as one of three main categories of the fruit of the Spirit: *“For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.”* We also read in 2 Chr. 6:41, *“Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness.”* Remember that “priests” and “saints” are both synonyms for the children of God.

Faith

Every believer receives “faith” as a result of salvation and are commanded to *“walk by faith, not by sight”* in 2 Cor 5:7. In other words, everyone who has experienced the new birth will understand the meaning of Heb 11:6 that says, *“without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

Meekness

The Bible gives us some wonderful pictures of the “meek”, or those who have inherited the quality of “meekness”. Mat 21:5 portrays the Lord Jesus in such a fashion: *“Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.”* Moses, as a great type of Christ, is described in Num 12:3 in these words, *“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.”*

Temperance

“Temperance”, or “self-control”, is a remarkable fruit of the Spirit that motivates the true follower of Jesus Christ to forsake sin and follow the commands of Scripture. The Greek root word is translated as “power” in Eph 6:10, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”*

There is “no law” against these nine fruit of the Spirit because they reflect the righteous nature of God Himself. True believers can sincerely exclaim the words of Eph 1:3, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ!”*