

# PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT  
STUDY GUIDE



# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit: so shall ye be my disciples.

Romans 7:4

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Galatians 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.

## THEME

The fruit of the Spirit is often ignored because so much emphasis is placed upon the gifts of the Spirit. Fruit bearing should and must be top priority in the believer's life. The fruit of the Spirit exemplifies the very character of Jesus Christ. We have been called, by the Lord Jesus Christ, to be fruit-bearing Christians; therefore, we must produce fruit, and our fruit must remain.

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. One who has been united with Christ will demonstrate a heart change by the fruit produced in his/her life.

- B. Our lives are to illustrate the character of Jesus Christ. The fruit produced by the recreated spirit of the believer reveals the character of Jesus. This fruit will please God and minister to others.
- C. One who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior must **demonstrate** that Jesus is indeed Lord and Savior. (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21)
- D. How does Christ minister today?
  - 1. Jesus ministers through His Body, the Church.
    - a. We, who are members of His Body, should portray the very character of Jesus Himself.
    - b. The character of Jesus is revealed in Galatians 5:22-23 as fruit of the Spirit.
    - c. If Jesus is truly living in us, the fruits of righteousness will be produced in our lives. (Mark 16:17-18)
    - d. We must not confuse fruit of the Spirit with fruits of our labor.
  - 2. Fruit of the Spirit reveals the person of Jesus.
  - 3. Fruits of our labor reveal the ministry of Jesus.
  - 4. We must do the works of Jesus. (John 14:12)
  - 5. Works must be ministered through fruit. (This is the "more excellent way" spoken of by Paul in I Corinthians 12:31.)
- E. A tree that does not produce fruit will be cut down. (Luke 13:6-9)
  - 1. In this parable, the owner of the vineyard came looking for fruit that would provide nourishment.
  - 2. This parable teaches intercession, yet it reveals the importance of fruit bearing.
  - 3. We must produce fruit! If we call ourselves Christians, we should live like Christ.

4. We must portray and present Christ to others by producing the fruit of the Spirit.
  5. One who does not produce fruit is in danger of being cut down.
  6. In this world of spiritual hunger, fruit is desperately needed.
- F. "For me, to live is Christ" is truly a fruit-bearing life. (Philippians 1:21)

## II. JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE (John 15:1)

- A. Jesus said, "I am the **true** vine." There is only one true vine. (There are many doctrines and religions, but only one is the absolute truth.)
- B. The vine does not bear fruit; the branches must bear the fruit.
- C. The vine is the life-source for the branches.
- D. The branches make the vine look good or bad, by the fruit produced.

## III. WE ARE THE BRANCHES (John 15:5)

- A. The branches bear fruit as they draw their life-source from Jesus.
- B. The spirit-man produces the fruit.
  1. The fruit produced by the spirit-man is found in Galatians 5:22-23.
  2. We cannot produce fruit unless we walk in the spirit.
  3. If we are not bearing fruit, we are bringing a reproach against Christ, and we are also in danger of being severed from the vine, Jesus.
- C. Fruit bearing is not an option; it is a command.
  1. Those not bearing fruit will be severed from the vine by the Father.

2. Dead branches are not only unproductive, they also hinder the production of the vine.
- D. The fruit produced by the branches is to remain. (John 15:16)
- E. The branch must abide in the vine in order to produce fruit.
1. We cannot live our lives separate from Jesus.
  2. The vine supplies the life-source that makes the branches productive. (Psalms 1:1-3)
  3. Any branch that is severed from the vine will die.
    - a. Dead branches cannot produce fruit.
    - b. Dead branches are destined to burn. (John 15:6)
  4. The fruitful branch is purged with the Word so that it may bring forth more fruit. (John 15:3)
  5. The union of the branch and vine illustrates the oneness that we have with Jesus.
- F. We are chosen to bear fruit. (John 15:16; Romans 7:4)
1. Face-to-face relationships produce fruit.
    - a. The face-to-face relationship of the husband and wife produces children.
    - b. The face-to-face relationship of Jesus and the believer will produce spiritual fruit in our lives.
  2. Romans 7:1-4 and John 15:4 reveal the purpose of union with Christ.

#### IV. SUMMARY

- A. We are Christ's ministers here on earth; therefore, we must imitate Christ, both in character and action.
- B. Jesus is the vine that provides the life-source for the branches to produce the fruit expected of the born-again believer.

- C. We, the believers, are the branches that produce the fruit that benefits others.
- D. The production of fruit requires a face-to-face relationship with Jesus.

#### V. CONCLUSION

- A. In order to please God, we must bear fruit.
- B. In order to bear fruit, we must remain united with the vine.
- C. Fruit is produced for others to partake of and to enjoy. (Fruit must be mature to be pleasant.)
- D. If we are not producing fruit, we should examine ourselves and make the adjustments necessary to become productive.
- E. We are known by our fruit, not by our gifts. (Matthew 7:16-22; I Corinthians 13:1-3.)
- F. Are we producing fruit? Is our fruit remaining?

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## LOVE

### SCRIPTURE READING

I Corinthians 13:4-8a

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil: Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth.

### THEME

Jesus gave a new commandment to us; "love one another, as I have loved you." We must walk in love! The production of love is a mark of maturity in the believer's life.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. What is love?

1. The Greek word for love in I Corinthians 13 is *agape* (ag-ah'-pay), which means affection or benevolence; dear; charity.
2. *Webster's Dictionary* defines love as a strong affection or strong liking.
3. According to the Word of God, "God is love." (I John 4:8)

##### B. Love is more than flattery, or compliments, or even affection. Love **ministers to others** in various ways.

#### II. RECOGNIZING LOVE

##### A. Love has 16 distinct qualities. (I Corinthians 13:4-8a)

1. Love suffereth long; it is patient.
2. Love is kind; it is gentle or benevolent.

3. Love envieth not; it is not jealous.
4. Love vaunteth not itself; it does not boast or brag.
5. Love is not puffed up; it is not proud.
6. Love does not behave itself unseemly; it does not discredit or bring shame.
7. Love seeks not its own; love is not selfish or conceited.
8. Love is not easily provoked; it is not irritated, nor does it become angry easily.
9. Love thinketh no evil; it injures no one and has nothing harmful in it.
10. Love rejoiceth not in iniquity; it does not rejoice in injustice, nor in unrighteousness. Love does not rejoice in sin.
11. Love rejoices in the truth.
12. Love beareth all things; love silently endures.
13. Love believeth all things; love trusts and believes.
14. Love hopeth all things; love has confident expectation.
15. Love endureth all things; love is able to undergo difficulties and persecution, and is able to persevere in spite of opposition.
16. Love never fails; love does not fall short, nor is it ever weak or unsuccessful.

B. God's love and the world's love are entirely different; God's love is unconditional, while the world's love is always conditional.

### III. LOVE COMES FROM GOD

A. God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:5)

B. God has given unto us the spirit of love. (II Timothy 1:7)

- C. We do not just fall into love, but we grow into it by development. We must mature in love.
- D. Love is not passion, yet it is passionate.
- E. Love is pure in both motive and act.
- F. Love is powerful, but not abusive. (I John 4:18; Song of Solomon 8:6)
- G. Love covers sin; it chooses to forgive and to disregard sin. (I Peter 4:8 Amplified)
- H. Love manifests itself in various ways.
  - 1. Love will discipline. (Proverbs 23:13-14; Hebrews 12:6-7)
  - 2. Love will rebuke. (Proverbs 9:8; Proverbs 27:5)
- I. Love is fruit produced by the spirit. It is not fabricated externally; it is produced internally. (Galatians 5:22)
- J. One should not tamper with love. (For example: "If you love me, you will...")

#### IV. LOVE IS MANDATORY FOR A CHRISTIAN

- A. Love is necessary in order to know God. (I John 4:7-8)
- B. Jesus commanded us to love. (John 13:14; I John 4:21)
- C. We are identified as disciples of Jesus because of the love we show to others. (John 13:35; John 15:8)
- D. We abide in love by keeping the commandments, which in reality, is living according to the Word.
- E. We must love everyone, not just our own kind. Jesus loved the unlovable. We are to do the same, thus demonstrating God's love by the way we live. (Matthew 5:44)
- F. Jesus demonstrated the love of God to the woman caught in the act of adultery. We must follow His example by forgiving the sinner, yet hating the sin. (John 8:3-11)

## V. SUMMARY

- A. We must learn to recognize love by the qualities listed in I Corinthians 13.
- B. The love in which the Christian is to walk comes from God.
- C. Walking in love is not an option; it is a command.

## VI. CONCLUSION

- A. We must demonstrate God's love by the way we live.
- B. We can either condemn and pass judgment, or we can forgive and restore. Which of the following is your attitude toward the guilty?
  - 1. Hang him! It will teach him a lesson.
  - 2. Forgive him! It will teach him a lesson.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## JOY

### SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

### THEME

Joy is not dependent upon the circumstances; consequently, very few people realize the true meaning of joy. Joy comes from the Lord. God has given His Word to us that we might be full of joy. Joy is dependent upon our union with the Vine, Jesus.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. What is joy?

1. The Greek definition of joy is cheerful; calm delight.
2. *Webster's Dictionary* defines joy as happiness; gaiety.

##### B. Joy is fruit of the spirit; therefore, it is dependent upon the Word rather than the circumstances.

#### II. JOY COMES FROM GOD

##### A. Joy is an attribute of God, which is produced as a result of the Holy Spirit indwelling our spirits.

##### B. The branch (believer) draws joy from the vine (Jesus).

##### C. Joy is part of the Kingdom of God. (Romans 14:17)

1. To find joy, we must seek the Kingdom of God. (Luke 17:21)
2. The Kingdom of God is within us. Therefore, we must seek joy from within rather than without.

##### D. Circumstances do not affect joy; joy affects the circumstances.

### III. WAYS TO OBTAIN JOY

- A. Joy can be obtained by getting into God's presence. (Psalm 1:2-3; Psalm 16:11; Acts 2:28)
- B. Joy can be obtained by obtaining God. (Psalm 43:4)
- C. Being a counselor of peace brings forth joy from within. (Proverbs 12:20)
- D. Speaking right words also produces joy from within. (Proverbs 15:23)
- E. Joy may also come as a result of giving just judgments. (Proverbs 21:15)
- F. Seeking the Kingdom of God brings joy. (Romans 14:17)
- G. Leading others to Christ brings joy. (Philippians 4:1; I Thessalonians 2:20; III John verse 4)
- H. We produce joy by walking in the spirit.
  - I. Everything mentioned in obtaining joy relates to God's presence and God's Word; consequently, joy is the result of union with the vine, Jesus.

### IV. THE AMOUNT OF JOY PRODUCED IS DETERMINED BY THE BELIEVER

- A. No one can take your joy. (John 16:22)
- B. Circumstances cannot take your joy. (Hebrews 10:34; James 1:2)
- C. Satan cannot take your joy unless you allow him to do so. (Luke 10:19)
- D. Joy comes from the inside rather than the outside.
- E. The amount of time we spend with the Lord affects our joy, either positively or negatively.

### V. SUMMARY

- A. Joy comes from a face-to-face relationship with Jesus.

- B. If we keep our joy, satanic attacks will not discourage us.
- C. Joy is rewarded by God.
- D. Joy is produced as an act of our will.
- E. If we abide in Jesus and allow His Word to abide in us, our joy will be full. (John 15:7-11)
- F. We produce joy; the amount of joy we produce is dependent upon the amount of time we spend with Jesus.

## VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Every believer has the responsibility of producing fruit.
- B. Each of us will give an account for the amount and quality of fruit produced in our lives.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## PEACE

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 26:3

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Philippians 4:6-7

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

### THEME

Peace is a very beneficial fruit that must be produced by the believer. Peace is not the product of circumstances; it is the product of the "spirit walk." The peace Jesus has given unto us is contingent upon abiding in the vine.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. What is peace?

1. The Greek definition of peace is prosperity; quietness; rest; to be set at one again.
2. *Webster's Dictionary* defines peace as a state of rest or calm.
3. Peace is absolute calm, regardless of the circumstances. (Jesus sleeping in the boat during the storm is an excellent example of peace. Mark 4:35-41)
4. Peace is fruit of the spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

B. Peace is the work or the result of righteousness. (Isaiah 32:17 Amplified)

1. One who is in right standing with God is in union with Jesus.
2. The union of Jesus and man produces fruit.

## II. PEACE COMES FROM GOD (I Corinthians 1:3)

A. Peace is to be permanent, not temporary.

B. Jesus is our peace. (Isaiah 53:5 Amplified; Ephesians 2:13-14; John 14:27 Amplified)

C. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

D. Peace is given to us, but we must bring it forth.

E. Peace is part of the Kingdom of God. (Romans 14:17)

1. The Kingdom of God is within us. (Luke 17:20-21)
2. The potential for peace is within us.

F. Peace is included in our covenant.

1. The covenant between God and the Levites included peace. (Malachi 2:5)
2. Our covenant meets and exceeds the benefits of the old covenant. (Hebrews 8:6)

## III. HOW TO OBTAIN PEACE

A. We must be spiritually minded. (Romans 8:6)

B. We must not worry; we must commit everything to God. (Philippians 4:6-7; I Peter 5:7 (Amplified); Colossians 3:15; Matthew 6:25-34)

C. We receive peace from God by receiving Jesus as Lord. (II Thesalonians 3:16)

D. Obeying God's Word produces peace. (Proverbs 3:1-2)

- E. We receive peace through the wisdom and understanding of God's Word. (Proverbs 3:13-18)
- F. Peace comes as a result of meditating upon God's Word. (Isaiah 26:3)
- G. We can't change the past, but we can ruin the present by worrying about the future.

#### IV. SUMMARY

- A. Peace is that state of calm or tranquility that comes from God.
- B. We obtain peace by studying and practicing the Word of God.
- C. Peace is the fruit we produce when we become one with Jesus.

#### V. CONCLUSION

- A. We must seek peace. (II Timothy 2:22; I Peter 3:10-11)
- B. We must let peace rule us. (Colossians 3:15; II Corinthians 13:11)
- C. Jesus is our peace with God. (Romans 5:1; Luke 2:14)
- D. Obedience brings peace. (Isaiah 48:17-18)
- E. There is no peace for the wicked. (Isaiah 48:22; Isaiah 57:20-21)

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## LONGSUFFERING

### SCRIPTURE READING

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 5:10-11

Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

### THEME

Longsuffering is a much-needed fruit in this modern society. Patience is a quality we all need, yet very few of us are producing this necessary fruit of the spirit. We must set our eyes on Jesus, for He is our only means of producing longsuffering.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. What is longsuffering?

1. We generally define longsuffering as patience.
2. The Greek definition of longsuffering is the ability to suffer without complaint.
3. *Webster's Dictionary* defines longsuffering as long and patient endurance of injuries, insults, troubles, etc.

##### B. The fruit of longsuffering is the ability to endure hardships and afflictions for a long period of time without complaining.

## II. LONGSUFFERING IS A PRODUCT OF THE SPIRIT

- A. Patience is not received as a result of prayer; it must be produced.
- B. Tribulation works patience. (Romans 5:3)
- C. The trying of your faith works patience. (James 1:2-4)
- D. The exercise of patience produces experience which gives hope for the future. (Romans 5:3-5)

## III. THE IMPORTANCE OF LONGSUFFERING

- A. Patience is the working partner of faith.
  - 1. Patience is often lost in the shadows of faith, yet faith depends upon patience.
  - 2. The promises of God are received through faith and patience. (Hebrews 6:12-15)
- B. We need patience after we have done the will of God; otherwise, we may find ourselves relinquishing our confidence in God. (Hebrews 10:35-36)

## IV. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF LONGSUFFERING

- A. Jesus waited 30 years to begin His ministry. (Luke 3:21-23)
- B. Jesus met spiritual, mental, and physical opposition without complaint. (Luke 4:28-30; John 8:59)
- C. Jesus endured verbal and physical abuse, both before and during His crucifixion. (Hebrews 12:2; Isaiah 53:7)
- D. Jesus endured sin, sickness, and poverty for us.
- E. Jesus is longsuffering to those who postpone salvation.
- F. Jesus is longsuffering in waiting for the Church to put the enemy under its feet. (Psalm 110:1; II Corinthians 15:25-26)
- G. Jesus is longsuffering in waiting for the Church to get in order.

H. Jesus is long-suffering to the wicked before executing judgment. (Revelation 2:20-21)

#### V. CHRISTIANS MUST BE LONG-SUFFERING

- A. The ability to produce long-suffering comes from the vine, Jesus.
- B. In order to endure hardships and afflictions without complaining, we must continually abide in the Word.
- C. Fruit must be borne both in the presence of sinners and Christians; therefore, we must not let our guard down and give place to the flesh.
- D. Christians must produce the fruit of long-suffering; the production of this fruit is not an option, but a command. We must remember that everything is not quick and now; therefore, patience must be produced.
- E. We have Job as an excellent example of one who served God with absolute integrity, yet he went through a terrible experience. His patience and love for God brought him through this experience, and the end result was favorable to Job. Not only did God bless him with twice what he had in the beginning, but He also revealed Himself to Job in such a profound way that Job said, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." (Job 42:5)

#### VI. FRUIT PRODUCES BENEFITS

- A. The rewards for fruit bearing are great; this truth is certainly apparent with Job.
- B. Fruit bearers live at peace with themselves and others.
- C. Fruit bearing depicts maturity.
- D. Fruit bearing glorifies God.

#### VII. SUMMARY

- A. Long-suffering is the silent endurance expected of the born-again believer.
- B. The demonstration of long-suffering by Jesus is an example well worth following.

- C. Patience produces tremendous benefits; therefore, we must put forth the necessary effort required to produce this much-needed fruit.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Fruit bearing is required of us; therefore, we must produce the fruit of longsuffering.
- B. Not only are we to produce this fruit, but it must also remain. (John 15:16 Amplified)
- C. As we produce fruit, we are pruned so that we can produce even more fruit.
- D. Longsuffering is produced when we walk in the spirit. (We do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh when we walk in the spirit.)
- E. Is this fruit manifested in your life?
  - 1. Do you endure or do you react?
  - 2. Do you supply those around you with proper nourishment? (Remember, others partake of our fruit.)
  - 3. If we are not producing the desired fruit, we must draw life from the vine.
- F. Also, we must remember that patience is a working partner of faith!
- G. The nine fruit of the spirit are interdependent upon one another; therefore, we must strive for maturity in each of the fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## GENTLENESS AND GOODNESS

### SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-15

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

### THEME

Gentleness and goodness are fruit of the spirit which are produced by the union of our spirit with God's Spirit. These two characteristics are very closely related; therefore, we will study them together. It is time for the Body of Christ to display uprightness, kindness, love, and integrity so that Jesus might be seen in us and manifested through us.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Gentleness and goodness are two fruit that are often overlooked by the average Christian.
- B. The Greek word translated as "gentleness" in Galatians 5:22 is *chrestotes* (khrase-tos'); it means usefulness; excellent in character, which relates to uprightness and integrity; it may also be understood as kindness.
- C. *Webster's Dictionary* defines gentleness as gentle; well born; showing good breeding; generous; courteous.
- D. Gentleness is being useful, upright, and displaying impeccable integrity.
- E. Galatians 5:22 is the only time the Greek word *chrestotes* (khrase-tos') is translated as "gentleness"; it has been translated in other places as good, goodness, and kindness.

1. The Greek word *chrestotes* (khrase-tos' - gentleness) is translated "goodness" in Romans 2:4 and Romans 11:22; it is translated "good" in Romans 3:12.
  2. *Chrestotes* (khrase-tos') is translated "kindness" in II Corinthians 6:6, Ephesians 2:7, Colossians 3:12, and Titus 3:4.
- F. Gentleness and goodness are so closely related that we have elected to study them together.
- G. Gentleness is another fruit of the spirit that depicts the character of Jesus.

## II. GOD'S GENTLENESS

- A. God's gentleness (*chrestotes* [khrase-tos']) is meant to lead to repentance; it neither overlooks nor condones wrong actions. (Romans 2:4)
1. If it were not for God's uprightness, kindness, and integrity, we would all be in "big trouble."
  2. God delights when people turn to Him and avoid His judgment; God gets no pleasure from the death of the wicked. (Ezekiel 33:11)
- B. It is the gentleness or kindness of God that grafts men into Jesus. (Romans 11:22)
1. Our union with Jesus is not the result of our merit; it is the result of God's kindness.
  2. We must abide in God's grace and favor; otherwise, we, too, will be cut off.
  3. Kindness and mercy, not wrath and judgment, lead people to Jesus.

## III. CHRISTIANS MUST PRODUCE GENTLENESS (Philippians 4:4-5)

- A. Christians must be kind and useful, displaying uprightness and integrity at all times.
- B. Christians must demonstrate the character of Jesus by the way they live.

- C. Fruit production is mandatory for Christians; therefore, we must give attention to perfecting our integrity and kindness.
- D. Integrity and uprightness seem to be missing in many Christians' lives; consequently, we must become productive in these areas.
- E. A true Christian can be identified by the fruit he is producing.

#### IV. WHAT IS GOODNESS

- A. The Greek word *agathosune* (ag-ath-o-soo'-nay) is defined as goodness, which is virtue or beneficence; it is also defined as charity and kindness.
- B. *Webster's Dictionary* defines goodness as the quality of being good or as benevolence.
- C. Goodness is the quality of meeting needs or showing kindness.

#### V. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE OF GOODNESS

- A. Jesus, while here on earth, demonstrated His kindness to us.
  - 1. Jesus gave His life for the undeserving.
  - 2. Jesus has given unto us the authority to operate in His place using His name, even though we were unworthy.
- B. Jesus illustrated kindness in His earthly ministry by ministering to the needs of others, while disregarding His own needs.
- C. Jesus dedicated His life to giving rather than receiving.

#### VI. THE FRUIT-BEARING CHRISTIAN

- A. The true Christian's life will be characterized by charity, kindness, uprightness, and integrity.
- B. We must produce these qualities of gentleness and goodness so that others may benefit from the fruit we produce.
- C. Union with Christ precedes fruit bearing; therefore, we must constantly abide in the vine, which is Jesus.

## VII. SUMMARY

- A. Gentleness and goodness are closely related, yet each is distinct from the other.
- B. Gentleness and goodness are fruit that must be demonstrated in the life of every believer.
- C. Kindness, uprightness, and integrity must be restored to the Church.
- D. When we produce fruit, we please God; when we minister to others, we minister to God. (Matthew 25:40)

## VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. One who bears fruit demonstrates the very character of Jesus.
- B. One who bears fruit will aid and assist others.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## FAITH

### SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

### THEME

Faith is often overlooked as fruit of the spirit. It seems that we have heard much about faith from the aspect of getting things, but very little from the aspect of fruit bearing. We must realize that faith is a very important fruit of the spirit that benefits others as well as ourselves. We must now look at faith from the perspective of giving rather than getting, realizing that faith demonstrates faithfulness to the Word of God.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. What is faith?

1. By knowing the definition of two Greek words, *pistis* (pis'-tis) and *pistos* (pis-tos'), we can get a broader and more accurate concept of faith.
  - a. *Pistis* (pis'-tis), which is translated "faith" in the KJV, means persuasion or credence; it is a conviction based upon hearing. It also has a secondary meaning of trust in God or faithfulness.

- b. *Webster's Dictionary* defines faith as fidelity; honesty; steadfast in allegiance; loyal; conscientious in performing duties; placing total dependence upon God.
  - c. *Pistos* (pis-tos'), which is translated "faithfulness" in the KJV, means trustworthy.
  - d. *Webster's Dictionary* defines faithful as full of faith; believing; firmly adhering to duty; of true fidelity; loyal; exact in conformity to the letter and spirit.
  - e. *The Theological Dictionary of The New Testament* refers to faith as an "oath of fidelity" and as a "pledge of faithfulness."
  - f. In this study, faithfulness will always relate to loyalty to the Word of God.
2. Faith is fruit of the spirit; therefore, faith is spiritual rather than natural or physical.
  3. Faith is something that places more confidence in God than in anything else; consequently, faith is faithful to God's Word, and it is not influenced by circumstances.
  4. Faith, as defined by the Word of God, is very simple, yet very profound. Faith is substance or material; faith is proof or evidence. (Hebrews 11:1)
    - a. There are two types of evidence, substantial and circumstantial.
    - b. Faith is substantial evidence; circumstances are circumstantial evidence.
      - (1) The substance of faith is God's Word, which is irrefutable and unchangeable.
      - (2) Circumstances are subject to change; therefore, they are unreliable.
- B. Faithfulness is a side of faith that is often overlooked; therefore, in this study, we will give some attention to faithfulness.
- C. Faith is the result of remaining faithful to God's Word.

## II. FAITHFULNESS TO GOD'S WORD

- A. Faith or faithfulness is a way of life. (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)
  - 1. One whose life is based upon the Word of God will not succumb to circumstances; he will overcome the circumstances by God's Word.
  - 2. Faith is not something we try to conjure up in adverse circumstances; faith is the result of constantly living our lives according to God's Word.
  - 3. One who lives his life by the principles of God's Word is faithful to God.
- B. Circumstances do not change the Word of God, but God's Word can and will change circumstances, if we will remain faithful to the Word.
- C. Faithfulness is a requirement in management or oversight. (I Corinthians 4:1-2)
  - 1. It is vital that leaders be faithful to God; otherwise, they will lead people away from God by their teaching and their lifestyle.
  - 2. Faithfulness to God is demonstrated by the amount of time spent with God and the application of God's Word in our everyday life.

## III. CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITH (Romans 4:17-21)

- A. Faith does not consider the circumstances.
  - 1. It is not wrong to look at and evaluate the circumstances in light of God's Word.
  - 2. It is wrong to set our hearts upon circumstances and doubt God's Word.
  - 3. We must do as Abraham did when he considered the circumstances, then refused to consider the circumstances because of his faith in God.
- B. Faith does not stagger at the promises of God.

1. God has promised the believer many things that are beyond reason; therefore, the natural man staggers at the magnitude of the promise.
  2. Faith is fruit of the spirit; therefore, we must walk in the spirit in order to accept God literally at His Word.
  3. Faithfulness to God's promise will make that promise a reality in our lives.
- C. Faith is fully persuaded that God will deliver what He has promised.
1. One who is fully persuaded is convinced of God's faithfulness and His ability to fulfill His Word.
  2. One who is faithful to God is fully persuaded of God's integrity and power; consequently, doubt has no place to operate.
  3. One who is fully persuaded is convinced that God controls the circumstances.

#### IV. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS (I Corinthians 1:9)

- A. God was faithful to Abraham.
1. The circumstances were contrary to the promises of God, but God changed the circumstances and made the promises reality, demonstrating His faithfulness to Abraham.
  2. God's faithfulness must never be limited to time.
- B. God was faithful to Moses.
1. God sent Moses on a mission that seemed to be impossible, but God's faithfulness made the impossible possible.
  2. Moses' disobedience did not change God's faithfulness. (Numbers 20:7-11)
- C. God was and is faithful to Israel.
1. God was faithful to bring the Israelites out of captivity, just as He promised Abraham. (Genesis 15:13-14)

2. When the Israelites refused to go into the "Promise Land," God did not abandon them, but proved Himself faithful by supernaturally providing for them.
  3. Israel is an independent nation today because of God's mercy and faithfulness.
- D. God is faithful to the believers. (Psalm 37:25-28; Matthew 28:20; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 13:5)
1. Although we have often failed God, God has never failed to keep His promises, nor has He failed us in any way.
  2. Because of God's faithfulness, we can look forward to an eternal home of joy and peace in the presence of the Lord forever.

## V. OUR FAITHFULNESS

- A. We must be totally committed to God and His Word.
1. Commitment is the product of faithfulness.
  2. One cannot be faithful to God without habitually reading God's Word and consistently talking with God.
- B. Our commitment to God can be compared to the husband and wife relationship.
1. One who is committed to his mate will be faithful to his mate.
  2. Circumstances will not affect true commitment.
    - a. "I'll love you as long as you act nice" is not commitment.
    - b. A committed party will fulfill his obligations, even when the circumstances are undesirable.
- C. We must be faithful to God, even when the circumstances seem to be against us.
- D. We are to be faithful to God because we love God.
- E. One who is faithful to God will certainly be faithful to his fellow man.

## VI. THE ESSENCE OF FAITH

- A. Faith is faithfulness.
- B. Faith is substance.
- C. Faith is proof.
- D. Faith is fruit.
- E. Faith is required.
- F. Faith is rewarded.
- G. Faith is eternal.
- H. Faith comes by hearing.
  - 1. Faith is a fruit that is produced when our spirit is in union with the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. Union with the Holy Spirit allows us to hear when the Holy Spirit speaks; hearing the Holy Spirit speak in the heart produces faith.
  - 3. Faith does not come just because we have heard; faith comes as a result of hearing. (Romans 10:17)
    - a. The things we have heard in the past will affect our hearing.
    - b. The Holy Spirit will bring things to our remembrance; therefore, it is extremely important to subject ourselves to the Word of God.
    - c. Faithfulness to God and His Word will put us in a position to consistently hear what God is saying.
    - d. Faith does not come aside from hearing; faith comes as a result of hearing; therefore, we always have faith in what we are hearing.
      - (1) If we are hearing what the circumstances are saying, then our faith is in the circumstances.

- (2) If we are hearing what the Spirit is saying, then our faith is in God, not the circumstances.

## VII. SUMMARY

- A. Faith is persuasion that is demonstrated by faithfulness to that persuasion.
- B. Faithfulness to God is directly related to the amount of time spent with God.
- C. God's faithfulness to us is the example of faithfulness we must follow in our relationships with both God and man.
- D. Faith has three distinct characteristics: it considers not; it staggers not; and it is fully persuaded.
- E. Faith comes by hearing; faithfulness to God's Word gives us the avenue to hear.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Jesus is our faithful High Priest; we must be faithful priests unto God. (Hebrews 2:17; Revelation 19:11)
- B. The Holy Spirit in us gives us the ability to be faithful; therefore, we are without excuse.
- C. Fruit must be produced; it does not appear automatically.
- D. Faithfulness is a fruit that benefits others as well as ourselves.
- E. We must be faithful to God and His Word.
- F. A tree that does not produce fruit is a hindrance to the ground and is in danger of being cut down; therefore, we must be diligent in our production of fruit. (Luke 13:7)
- G. We must be faithful in the small things; otherwise, we will not be chosen for the bigger things.
- H. Are we producing the fruit God requires of us?

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## MEEKNESS

### SCRIPTURE READING

I Timothy 6:11

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

### THEME

Meekness is probably the most misunderstood word in this study. Meekness is usually related to weakness rather than strength. We will find in this study that meekness is not associated with weakness, but it is manifested as a result of strength.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

##### A. What is meekness?

1. The Hebrew definition of meekness is gentle in mind and circumstances.
2. The Greek definition of meekness is mild or humble.
3. *Webster's Dictionary* defines meekness as gentle, mild of temper, easily imposed upon; unresenting; modest.
4. Meekness is keeping the mind under subjection (especially as the spirit excels). Self-abasement is another way to express meekness.
5. The clearest definition of meekness that we can give is absolute power under absolute control.

B. Meekness is not a doormat for people to wipe their feet upon, nor does it display itself as weak and cowardly.

#### II. EXAMPLES OF MEEKNESS

A. Moses was the meekest of all men, yet early in life he killed an Egyptian. (Numbers 12:1-16; Exodus 2:11-12)

1. Moses was a very strong and capable leader of the nation of Israel.
  2. Moses saw himself weak and God strong.
  3. Moses let God fight His battles.
    - a. Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses, but he made no attempt to vindicate himself. (Numbers 12:1-2)
    - b. Korah challenged the authority of Moses, but Moses let God answer the challenge and refused to take matters into his own hands. (Numbers 16:1-5)
  4. Moses took the position of an intercessor, demonstrating his love for the people, even in adverse circumstances. (Numbers 12:13; Exodus 32:7-14; Psalms 106:23)
- B. Jesus demonstrated the meekness of God, but we must remember that He took a whip and cleansed the temple. (John 2:13-17)
1. Jesus was as bold as a lion, but His boldness was for God, not for Himself.
  2. Jesus did not retaliate when men opposed and abused Him. (Isaiah 53:7)
  3. Jesus did not exalt Himself. (Philippians 2:5-8; John 13:3-5)

### III. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING MEEKNESS

- A. We are told to seek meekness. (Zephaniah 2:3)
- B. We are told to walk in meekness. (Ephesians 4:1-3)
- C. We are told to put on meekness. (Colossians 3:12)
- D. We are to adorn ourselves with meekness. (I Peter 3:4)
- E. We must follow after or pursue meekness. (I Timothy 6:11)
- F. We are to instruct one another in meekness. (II Timothy 2:24-25; I Peter 3:15)
- G. We are to show meekness to all men. (Titus 3:1-2)

- H. We should receive the Word with meekness. (James 1:21)
- I. We must restore our fellow man in the spirit of meekness. (Galatians 6:1)
- J. We must not think too highly of ourselves. (Romans 12:3)

#### IV. THE BENEFITS OF MEEKNESS

- A. The meek shall eat and be satisfied. (Psalm 22:26)
- B. God will guide and teach the meek. (Psalm 25:9)
- C. The meek shall inherit the earth. (Psalm 37:11; Matthew 5:5)
- D. God restores the meek. (Psalm 147:6)
- E. The Lord will beautify the meek. (Psalm 149:4)
- F. The gospel is preached to those who are not lifted up in pride. (Isaiah 61:1)

#### V. SUMMARY

- A. Meekness is fruit that must be produced by every believer.
- B. The Word of God has much to say about meekness; therefore, meekness must be important.
- C. Moses and Jesus are two excellent examples of meekness.
- D. We must follow the instructions of God's Word and adorn ourselves with the fruit of meekness.
- E. The benefits of meekness are certainly an incentive for bearing the fruit of meekness.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Meekness is produced when the spirit dominates the flesh.
- B. Meekness is not cowardice or weakness.
- C. Meekness makes us beautiful to others.
- D. Meekness, in reality, is absolute power under absolute control.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## TEMPERANCE

### SCRIPTURE READING

II Peter 1:5-10

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

### THEME

Temperance consists of much more than controlling one's temper. Controlling our temper obviously is very important, but there are other areas of self-control that are just as vital. We must learn to control the total man: spirit, soul, and body. The fruit of temperance is a spiritual force that issues forth from the heart of man, controlling the appetites and desires of the flesh.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The Greek definition of temperance is self-control.
- B. *Webster's Dictionary* defines temperance as self-restraint in conduct and expression, and control over the appetites.
- C. Temperance is bringing into subjection all passions, lusts, appetites, and desires.

#### II. TEMPERANCE IS SELF-DISCIPLINE

- A. Self-discipline is something that we must do ourselves; obviously, no one else can do it for us.
  - 1. Authorities make rules, but each individual has the option of abiding by or violating the rules.

2. Punishment for breaking rules is for the purpose of encouraging the development of self-control.
  - a. If we disregard the punishment for breaking rules, we will find ourselves living in an unrestrained society.
  - b. When society allows everyone to “do his own thing,” it ceases to be a safe place to live, and the society will soon be destroyed.
  - c. Society must encourage self-control and forbid unrestraint.
3. God’s Word has much to say about self-discipline; therefore, we must crucify the flesh or suffer the consequences of disobeying God’s Word.

B. We must discipline our bodies and minds so that we can obtain the eternal crown spoken of in God’s Word, and that we may also enjoy the benefits provided for us in this life.

C. Self-discipline is not very popular, but it is certainly necessary.

D. Paul compares self-discipline to an athlete training for an event, and also to one who obeys the rules of the game. (I Corinthians 9:24-27; II Timothy 2:5)

1. We must not break training! God has given unto us His Word and His Spirit to teach and to train us; therefore, we must give attention to their instructions.

2. Those who do not abide by God’s rules will be disqualified.

### III. KNOWLEDGE PRECEDES TEMPERANCE (II Peter 1:6)

A. We must first hear the facts before we can act on them.

B. Once we hear the facts, we **must** act on them.

C. Temperance is built on or added to the facts.

D. Many people have knowledge, but they don’t know how to use it. Knowledge without wisdom and self-control can be detrimental.

#### IV. TEMPERANCE MUST BE TAUGHT

- A. Paul taught temperance to Felix. (Acts 24:25 Amp.)
  - 1. Self-control doesn't seem to come naturally; consequently, we must learn and teach self-control.
  - 2. We must learn to control the passions and lusts of the natural man by submitting to the Word of God; otherwise, we will not be able to please God.
- B. We must first teach self-control to ourselves, then to others.
  - 1. We teach ourselves self-control by learning what God's Word has to say about daily living, then we must practice what we have learned.
  - 2. I Corinthians 6:12 is a word of caution to us. We must not be bound by "so called" liberty.
  - 3. We must teach temperance to others by demonstration and proclamation.
  - 4. Temperance will keep "self" under control and demonstrate consideration for others.
- C. The Word of God must be the textbook used when learning and teaching self-control.

#### V. TEMPERANCE IS A MARK OF MATURITY (TITUS 2:2)

- A. The ability to control oneself, especially in adverse circumstances, is temperance.
- B. Temperance is not to be mistaken for compromise. (Avoiding certain issues is sometimes wise.)
- C. A mature person is one who is controlled in spirit, soul, and body.
- D. One who demonstrates temperance may find it necessary to excuse himself from undesirable circumstances. (Genesis 39:7-12)

## VI. TEMPERANCE IS MANDATORY FOR A LEADER (TITUS 1:8)

- A. A leader must be strong, but he must also know how to control his strength.
- B. A leader must be able to control his passions and appetites at all times. (I Corinthians 9:25-27)
- C. A true leader is one who is not influenced by lusts and desires.
- D. A true leader will have a passion for God, not things.

## VII. SUMMARY

- A. Temperance is the ability to control oneself, regardless of the circumstances.
- B. Temperance is self-discipline.
- C. Temperance must be taught, since it does not come naturally.
- D. Temperance is a requirement for all spiritual leaders.
- E. Temperance is not an option; it is a command.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Temperance is a beautiful fruit that must be produced in the believer's life.
- B. Union with Christ will cause this fruit to be produced.
- C. We now have the knowledge. It is our responsibility to add temperance to our knowledge.
- D. Be a fruit-bearing Christian! Don't just say, "I'll try." Do it!!
- F. Allowing God's Spirit to rule and reign in us is the key to self-discipline.

# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## FRUIT VERSUS WORKS

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 7:13-23

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?" And then I will profess unto them, "I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

Luke 13:6-9

He spake also this parable; a certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, "Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?" And he answering said unto him, "Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: and if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

### THEME

Fruit and works are not the same. Fruit provides nourishment while identifying character; works expend energy in order to achieve something. Works are what we do; fruit is who we are. Fruit of the spirit depicts character; fruits of our labor depict works. Both fruit and works are to be brought forth by the believer.

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Fruit and works are often seen as the same thing; consequently, fruit is becoming scarce.
- B. The inward man produces fruit; the outward man produces works.
- C. Eternal life cannot be obtained through works; it must be obtained by faith. Faith is fruit of the spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- D. Works can be accomplished without fruit; fruit must be accompanied by works.

## II. WORKS

- A. Works can be done anytime; they are dependent upon skill, ability, and willingness.
- B. The amount of work that we do is our choice.
- C. Works often originate from an ulterior motive.
- D. Works make a person look good from a distance.
- E. Works can be compared to the leaves on a tree which look good, but they do not provide nourishment. (Mark 11:13-17)
- F. Works must never be substituted for fruit.
- G. Lack of fruit is often hidden by works.
- H. Works are very important, but they cannot take the place of fruit.
  - I. Works should be natural for a Christian.
  - J. Works generally minister to the physical man.

## III. FRUIT

- A. Fruit is produced in season and remains during the season.
- B. The fruit that we must produce is the fruit of the spirit.
- C. The fruit we produce is for others to enjoy.

- D. Fruit demonstrates maturity. (Young trees do not produce fruit.)
- E. Fruit is a requirement of God. (John 15:2)
- F. Fruit bearing is a key to answered prayer. (John 15:16)
- G. Whereas works should be natural for a believer, fruit is the supernatural demonstration of the character of Jesus operating through the believer.

#### IV. FRUIT PARALLELED WITH WORKS

- A. Works are not fruit.
- B. Works cannot be substituted for fruit.
- C. Works are beautiful when blended with fruit. (Faith is demonstrated by works, but works alone are not profitable. James 2:14-26)
- D. Fruit gives nourishment; works minister to physical needs.
- E. Both fruit and works have their place, and both are important.
- F. If the tree bears leaves and no fruit, it could be cursed. (Mark 11:12-14; John 15:2)

#### V. NECESSITIES FOR PRODUCING FRUIT (Psalm 1)

- A. We must avoid ungodly counsel.
- B. We must separate ourselves from the sinners' path.
- C. We must not place ourselves in a position that mocks or makes light of God's Word. (Religion often makes light of God's Word.)
- D. We must delight ourselves in the Word of God.
- E. We must meditate in God's Word day and night.

#### VI. THE FRUIT-BEARING CHRISTIAN (Psalm 1)

- A. The fruit-bearing man is compared to a tree planted by **rivers** of water.
- B. The fruit bearer brings forth his fruit in season.

- C. The leaves of the fruit bearer will not wither (works will not diminish).
- D. Whatever the fruit-bearing Christian does prospers.

## VII. SUMMARY

- A. Works are what we do. Works identify our skills and abilities.
- B. Fruit identifies who we are by revealing our character.
- C. Fruit and works must go together, but they are not to be substituted one for the other.
- D. Abiding in the vine provides the source of life that enables us to produce fruit.

## VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. Fruit bearing is not an option; it is a command.
- B. The marriage relationship produces fruit, both in the spiritual and natural realms. (Romans 7:4)
- C. One who is truly bearing the fruit of the spirit is surrounded by the character of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. When one is surrounded by Christ, "self" is not seen.
- E. One who is surrounded by the character of Jesus Christ has closed all doors to the devil.
- F. Jesus stated that His purpose for choosing us was to bear fruit, and that our fruit should remain. (John 15:16)
- G. Fruit contains within itself the seed that will produce more fruit; therefore, fruit bearers should constantly be producing more and more fruit.