

Righteousness

Class 5: Fruit of the Spirit

Nugget of truth

Mark 4:9 KJV

“And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

- This phrase is used 15 times in the New Testament. This verse is not referring to physical ears, but the ears of the heart. The heart is the center of our beliefs, if Gods word does not enter it than Gods word will be of no profit to you. The heart is the soil that Gods word is planted within. If you are open and receptive you will receive the word and it will produce in your life 30, 60, and 100 fold. It takes a simple adjustment on the inside to become a hearer. Check your heart tonight, do you have ears to hear!

Galatians 5:22-25 NKJV

“But the fruit of the Spirit

- Notice these fruit like the Gifts of the spirit are of the Spirit. These are spiritual fruit, and not produced from our own effort to replicate them. These fruit are a natural result of receiving a new nature on the inside. God’s nature!

is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- No law forbids these fruit. They’re perfect and mirror God’s perfect nature.

24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (Let the outward line up with the inward)

- These are the automatic result of the Spirit’s life flowing through us

Galatians 5:16 NKJV

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

- this lines up with Galatians 5:25. Walking in the Spirit is letting what is within have its way with us.

Galatians 5:17 NKJV

“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

- there is nothing redeemable about the flesh. It will do its best to dominate our lives, feed its own selfish needs, while avoiding the higher things we've been called too.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 TPT

“Isn't it obvious that all runners on the racetrack keep on running to win, but only one receives the victor's prize? Yet each one of you must run the race to be victorious. 25 A true athlete will be disciplined in every respect, practicing constant self-control in order to win a laurel wreath that quickly withers. But we run our race to win a victor's crown that will last forever. 26 For that reason, I don't run just for exercise or box like one throwing aimless punches, 27 but I train like a champion athlete. I subdue my body and get it under my control (the flesh must be controlled), so that after preaching the good news to others I myself won't be disqualified.”

- You can be disqualified from God's calling on your life by letting your flesh have free rein. You can also lose out on your Kingdom inheritance. Reining in life by one Jesus Christ. All believers are saved. Not all believers reign and walk in what's been promised to them.

Love

I John 4:8 NKJV

“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

Romans 5:5 NKJV

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

- Notice, it's God's love. Not man's love.

I Corinthians 13:1-8 NKJV

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- There are 9 fruit for Character, and 9 gifts of power. Power without the fruit is of no profit. You must have fruit if you want To walk in power.
- One thing to point out about the fruit of the Spirit is that they work together as one. You can differentiate them but as you will see in these verses there is a lot of correlation.

4 Love suffers long

Long Suffering

Long suffering is the 4th fruit of the Spirit. It is used 13 times to describe God being Long Suffering towards man. It is used 5 times in God asking us to be long suffering toward our fellow man. The word describes slowness to anger, patience, enduring an offense without retaliation, and shows the highest levels of restraint.

2 Peter 3:9 NKJV

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Colossians 1:9-11 NKJV

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;”

Joy

Notice now that Joy is being referenced in regard to Long Suffering. Many of us may endure ill treatment for a little while but how many of us will do it with Joy. We can do it with Joy because these fruit are not based on outward impulses, but rather the inward nature of God fighting to dominate our flesh.

Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, there are about 9 verses in the bible where Joy is referenced as attributed to God/Christ. There are 15 clear verses in the bible that instruct us to have Joy. We can release Joy in laughter, worship, and through our own internal delight of the Lord. This Joy is not based on present circumstances but rather in the confidence of God’s strength, his power, and his faithfulness. Often times in reading Gods word I’ve spontaneously laughed as his truth entered my heart. Many times in prayer Joy has filled my heart, because where the comforter is, Joy is.

- Psalms 126:2-3 NKJV “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad.”

and is kind;

Kindness

Kindness is the fifth fruit of the Spirit. In the bible Kindness is attributed to God hundreds of times particularly in the Old testament. In the new testament we see the word used in connection to God 10-12 times. We have about 6-8 clear verses instructing believers to act in kindness.

Titus 3:4-5 NKJV “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there the are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.”

John 13:34-35 NKJV

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.””

Let’s look at the remaining fruit...

Peace

Peace is used 429 times in my NKJV Bible and It is referenced hundreds of times in regard to peace for the New Testament believer. There are 7 uses of the term “God of peace” in the New Testament.

Romans 15:33 NKJV

“Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.”

- God refers to himself as the God of Peace. It’s who he is.

John 14:27 NKJV

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

- We’ve been given the peace, it’s now within our power not to let our heart be troubled

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- We are taught how to walk in the peace. Stop looking at the problem, and start looking within.

Goodness

Goodness is love in the noblest behavior in society. It is holiness put into practice,

and not on dress parade. We cannot help being virtuous and doing right when the

good Spirit is manifesting Himself through us. The phrase “be good” does not appear in the Bible, “do good” appears 80-100 times. Goodness is evident through the words we speak and the works God has prepared for us.

Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Galatians 6:9-10 NKJV

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Faithfulness

Our English word “faith” is from a Greek word that means “faithfulness” and “loyalty.” This faith is not exercised by the human mind. Faith is the foundation of our salvation. Faith is one of the nine supernatural gifts. Faith is also a fruit of the Spirit. Because God is a God of faith, He has a right to expect faith in our spiritual lives. Faith is the key to all the fruit of the Spirit. Without it there is no answer for our Christian experience. Love operates by faith. Joy and peace do not exist without faith. Longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness are based on our having faith.

Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

II Corinthians 5:7 NKJV

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Galatians 5:25 NKJV

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

- The walk of faith runs parallel with the walk of the Spirit. You are looking to the word and the Spirit within to be the guide, not leaning on your own understanding.
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God

Gentleness

One way to look at gentleness is to look at the taming of a horse. It requires effort and commitment but the wild horse that is developed and trained can be ridden and directed by a small child. When looking at the nature of the flesh we are to tame it. It takes work and as Paul said “I put my flesh under”. We can walk in gentleness when we allow the Spirit to take the reins of our life and direct. We are not trying to buck him off, but respond quickly to his direction.

Matthew 11:29 NKJV

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

II Timothy 2:24 NKJV

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,”

Self Control

The last fruit of the Spirit is temperance. It points to the difficulties which the spiritual life is apt to meet within the nature of passions and desires. The power of self-control is one of the great qualities that differentiate the Christian from the sinners. Self Control is to a Christian as the rind is to an orange or grapefruit. It is as the skin or peeling is to an apple, peach, pear, or plum. It keeps the juice from leaking out. Self Control keeps us from losing the blessings of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, or gentleness.

Titus 2:1-7, 11-12 NKJV

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. 6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,”

