

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

What does “fruit of the Spirit” really mean?

- It relates to the Holy Spirit and what’s been revealed to us
- It’s qualities we can possess that will help us grow

Love

- Love for family, friends, partner in a relationship, and even enemies
 - Matthew 5:43-44 - “You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”
- Most importantly is our love for God and Jesus
 - Matthew 10:37 - “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

Love

- We must love those around us too
 - Romans 13:9 - “For the commandments, ‘*You shall not commit adultery,*’ ‘*You shall not murder,*’ ‘*You shall not steal,*’ ‘*You shall not bear false witness,*’ ‘*You shall not covet,*’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’”
- Paul is essentially saying if there’s any commandment to follow, it’s this one

Love

- We see a great act of love shown by the mother of Moses
 - Exodus 2:2-3 - “So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him 3 months. 3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river’s bank.”
- She was willing to risk her life because of her love for her child
- God must be the focus of our love, but we have to love those around us too

Joy

- Joy usually makes us think of being blessed and having good times

- What about when we have hardships?
 - James 1:2 - “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,”

Joy

- Philippians 1:3-5 - “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you with all joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,”
- How did Paul have joy from prison?
 - He had God on his side
- We can have joy no matter what if we’re faithful to God and keep his commandments

Peace

- John 16:32-33 - “Indeed the hour has come, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- Jesus tells us that even with tribulations in the world, we can have peace through him
- Knowing he has overcome the world should give all of us peace

Peace

- Job shows us how to have peace during the worst of times
 - Job 2:9-10 - “Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!’ 10 But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips”
- Despite losing all he did, Job found peace in God and didn’t sin
- This should be a perfect example to us that shows if we serve God as we should, we can have peace in anything

Patience

- 1 Peter 2:20 - “For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”
- Despite talking about servants and masters, this passage applies in general
- Knowing God is pleased by patience should make it much easier for us if we don't think of it for ourselves

Patience

- Noah would have had a lot of patience during his time
 - Genesis 6:15 - “And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.”
- He would have needed patience with the people around him, not just the project of building
- Patience is hard to have, but it’s very important

Kindness

- Ephesians 4:31-32 - “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

- Paul relates being kind to forgiving others and how we were forgiven
- God was kind to us and if we aren't kind to others, we can't hope to receive kindness ourselves

Kindness

- Luke 15:21-24 - “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.”

- The father’s love caused him to be kind and merciful
- The principle of kindness isn’t hard to have; it can be something small

Goodness

- Romans 11:22 - “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in his goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”
- God is the standard for goodness; if something isn't good in his sight, then it's simply not good

Goodness

- Genesis 45:4-7 - “And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come near to me.’ So they came near. Then he said, ‘I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.’”

- Joseph owed his brothers nothing, but was good to them and helped
- Goodness is fairly similar to kindness; it doesn't have to be big

Faithfulness

- Genesis 12:1-4 - “Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ 4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.”

- Abraham had faith he would be taken care of and trusted in God

Faithfulness

- Hebrews 11:8-10 - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”

- Abraham had enough faith in God to go even when he didn't know where he was going

Faithfulness

- Genesis 22:9-12 - “Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham build an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ So he said, “Here I am.” 12 And He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’”

- Abraham had faith God would keep his promise one way or another

Faithfulness

- Hebrews 11:17-19 - “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, ‘In Isaac your seed shall be called,’ 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.”

- Abraham shows us multiple times what having faith can do for us

Faithfulness

- Romans 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- Studying the word of God will only help us grow our own faith
- We have to show others the word of God that they may develop their own faith

Gentleness

- Acts 18:24-28 - “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. 27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.”

- Aquila and Priscilla took a gentle yet instructive approach to the issue

Self-control

- 1 John 2:15-17 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

- We need self-control to resist the lusts and temptations of the world
- A home with God is our reward if we control ourselves and resist evil

Self-control

- Daniel 1:8 - “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”
- Daniel could have given in, but he stuck to his belief in God and restrained himself

Fruit of the Spirit

- All the traits connect
- If one is removed, the others become incomplete