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The Fruit Of The Spirit #1
LOVE - JOY - PEACE
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

The teaching of the fruit of the spirit is the type of teaching that will help to produce the fruit and keep us growing. Many times the emphasis is on the gifts of the spirit but we must learn to walk in love, this being the fruit of the spirit. There is a balance between the gifts of the spirit and the fruit of the spirit, there are nine gifts in each spirit. Earlier in chapter 5 of Galatians we learn about the works of the flesh of which there are 17.

Ephesians chapter 5 and 1 Peter chapter 1 lists several things which are also listed in Galatians regarding the fruit of the spirit.

Gal 5:22-25 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." KJV

Gal 5:22-25 "But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, 23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites *and* desires. 25 If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, *our conduct controlled by the Spirit.*]" AMP

We are to develop and begin to bear fruit in our lives. This is the way that we know that we are walking in the spirit and after the spirit by bearing fruit, not by the gifts of the spirit. The gifts of the spirit are for empowerment of God and the fruit is in relationship with our conduct in walking in holiness and righteousness in an outward way.

The fruit of the spirit are as supernatural as the gifts of the spirit. It is supernatural for a person to walk in love or all the other fruits of the spirit, if being treated wrongly and being faithful in the things of God. In the Amplified version of the bible, the fruits of the spirit are explained much better than in the King James Version.

Our conduct or behavior being controlled by the Holy Spirit is talking about our life style. We cannot allow our flesh to dominate and control our conduct. It takes time to learn control, how to control our tongues and sometimes the challenges we go through help us to learn how to walk in love. Learning to control our tongues not saying the first thing that comes into our minds. But to grow up in Him, the fruit helps us to take on the character of Jesus; we begin to act like Him.

Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit are all the fruits of the spirit. We are the branches and Jesus is the vine bearing the branches.

John 15:4-5 "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. 5 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." KJV

We cannot produce the fruit of the spirit on our own, the fruit is supernatural and will bring believers to maturity and because God loves us and wants the church edified, God has given us the power and desire for His good pleasure. The world knows us by our fruit, our life style controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Phil 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." KJV

Phil 2:13 "[Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure *and* satisfaction *and* delight." AMP

Phil 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" KJV

Psa 138:2 "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." KJV

What are we going to do with the power and desire that has been given to us? Faith will get involved when we take a step to begin to develop the fruit of the spirit.

The attributes or picture of Jesus and who He is are in the following scriptures;

1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." KJV

Psa 16:11 "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." KJV

Rom 2:4 "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" KJV

2 Cor 10:1 "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:" KJV

2 Tim 2:13 "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." KJV

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." KJV

Jesus is self-controlled, if He had reacted towards us like we deserve, then we would be in trouble. He is all of these things to us, He is love. Looking at the word love in the dictionary, it always means emotions and feelings. Love is a decision, when the emotions and feelings get stretched in a relationship, there will be trouble if not founded on the God kind of love. The first fruit mentioned is love, the agape or God kind of love, within the agape kind of love all the other kinds of love stem from it.

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away." KJV

If we allow the agape kind of love to flow through us, it will manifest in the fruit of the spirit. Many times we only want certain parts of the fruit of the spirit, but Jesus has all the benefits of the fruit of the spirit.

When the children of Israel came out of Egypt, the night before they were to partake of the Passover lamb, a type of Jesus, they were to eat it all. Not one feeble person was among them, some Egyptians came with them, knowing that the hand of God was upon them, they came out with much silver and gold, because they partook of all the benefits of the lamb. Those same benefits are for us today.

By partaking of the benefits of love, it will defuse through our lives in the fruit of the spirit and many times people will mellow out with age.

James 2:8 "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:" KJV

There isn't a higher law in the scripture than love.

Rom 13:10 "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." KJV

Jesus tells his disciples that all men would know that they were his followers because of walking in love. Prior to this time, His followers knew little about walking in love, but He gave them a new commandment that they love one another as He had loved them.

Unless we know that God loves us, it is hard to believe of His love, because of the former things that have happened, all the calamities of life, it is sometimes hard to accept that love, we might still believe that we are not worthy of His love, letting life dictate to us the lies from the enemy. God gave his only son for us, he was judged for us, paid the price for us, because of all the things that were laid on him. Regardless of what we are going through or have gone through, it does not make God view us differently, He views us as someone who is special and has worth and value. He wants to gather us up and hold us close, he is not done blessings us yet. If we do not understand how God loves us, how can we love someone else without judging them and making them feel unworthy? God doesn't love like that; He looks beyond the mistakes and sees them with value.

Religion thinks that people after getting born again, should be perfect very shortly, but it doesn't work that way. It takes time to grow up and reach maturity in the fruit of the spirit. We love like God loves; we can't do that unless we understand how God loves.

When the children of Israel were sent to check out the land, there was a woman named Rahab, a harlot, who hid some of the them, because she had turned her life around and had become a woman of faith, her and her family was saved and she became part of the genealogy of Jesus. God saw her for what she had become, not what she had been. When we learn to accept and love like that, what a difference it will make in our lives.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." KJV

John 13:34-35 "I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another. 35 By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves]." AMP

There are only two things that will keep the fruit of the spirit from producing in our lives; selfishness and ignorance.

1 Cor 13:1-2 "If I [can] speak in the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), and understand all the secret truths *and* mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody)." AMP

1 Cor 13:1-2 "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling 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, and have not charity, I am nothing." KJV

1 Cor 13:4 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." KJV

1 Cor 13:4 "**Love** endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily." AMP

We can't be these things listed to another person in the body of Christ unless we understand love.

Love is developed as all the fruits are developed and is an outflow of Gods life that is in us. Refer back to John 13:34-35 that we love one another, we are indebted to each other, loving as God would love. Disciples are disciplined followers, if you love one another or have love in order to follow Jesus it does take a measure of discipline.

John 15:4-5 "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. 5 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." KJV

1 Cor 13:4-8 "Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* fretful *or* resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail. 7 Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. 8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled *and* pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed *and* cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth]." AMP

God's love in us is not self-seeking; it is seeking the good of another. God gave love and it is hard to give away what we do not have, being able to love and bringing no attention to a suffered wrong, we must bestow forgiveness to those who have hurt us. God's love in us can stabilize us, where we are not beat down, causing us to become stronger. Walking in God's love

we can't fail, God pours in the healing oil, faith, love and hope which will all be in heaven, those left standing will be those walking in love.

Paul is praying this for the believers regarding their walking in love, all of these things being for us in our walk today. God gives us the power and the desire to receive all that we ask or think, faith is being released.

Phil 1:9-10 "And this I pray: that your *love* may abound yet more and more *and* extend to its fullest development in knowledge and all keen insight [that your love may display itself in greater depth of acquaintance and more comprehensive discernment], 10 So that you may surely learn to sense what is vital, *and* approve *and* prize what is excellent *and* of real value [recognizing the highest and the best, and distinguishing the moral differences], and that you may be untainted *and* pure and unerring *and* blameless [so that with hearts sincere and certain and unsullied, you may approach] the day of Christ [not stumbling *nor* causing others to stumble]." AMP

Eph 3:14-20 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in **love**, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," KJV

Gal 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." KJV

We have a choice to make as we grow older, our choice is to be bitter or better, don't become bitter when things happen to us, forgive and love. Love is a verb and has action. Let love develop in us that we may be able to help others. Jesus has made us worthy.

