

The Fruit of the Spirit (Part 1)

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Introduction: Let us not ignore the wisdom of God.

- A. Over the years my views of the dangers that Christians face has changed.
 - 1. I had greatly underestimated the works of the flesh.
 - 2. I had failed to see the power of the outward actions we take combined with the thoughts and emotions that go along with it.
 - 3. As I further studied my Bible I learned how pride, jealousy and anger destroyed men in the bible like king Saul. **(1 Sam 18:7-8; 22:8)**
 - 4. As time passed I saw how the heart once contaminated with these thoughts would close the mind to reason! **(Eph 4:26-27)**
- B. How do we overcome the works of the flesh? How do we find a sound mind that can survive the assaults of Satan?
 - 1. Once again, God's word tells us what to put in our hearts! **(Gal 5:22-23)**
 - 2. This passage says "fruit" and not "fruits!"
 - 3. These nine attributes are the fruit and without these nine you do not have the completed fruit of the Spirit

I. The fruit of the Spirit – Love

- A. This is not just any love. This is the committed love of God. **(Matt 22:37-40)**
 - 1. What makes men change? How do we find motivation to live the Christian life?
 - 2. When men fail to have the love of God in their lives they can develop a religion like the Pharisees. **(Lk 11:42; Jn 5:42)**
 - 3. When our love grows cold we will be cold! **(Mt 24:12; Rev 2:4; 3:15-16)**
 - 4. When you know what God has done for you it will be seen in your life! **(1 Pt 2:1-3)**
- B. Why does the love of God have the power to changes men's hearts?
 - 1. Consider the components of His love. **(1 Cor 13:4-7)**
 - 2. The worldly person will find this love "unreasonable".
- C. God's love gives us that which we need but do not deserve. **(Rom 12:17-21)**
- D. God's love expresses confidence in us that we will change. **(Rom 5:6-8, Jn 3:16)**
 - 1. His love tells us we are valuable even when we think we are worthless!
 - 2. When I think of quitting, I need to see that God has not quit on me.
- E. What do men substitute for love?
 - 1. Some view love as conditional, that is a "balanced transaction." **(Mt 5:46-48)**
 - 2. We play games with words and say: "I will love you but I do not have to like you!" Often this is a veil for hatred.
 - 3. What many people call love is in fact slavery. You must submit to the control of a man or it is claimed that you do not "love them." **(2 Pt 2:18-19)**
 - 4. They demand that you hate who they hate, that you agree with them on strongly held opinions, and that you praise those who join their clique. **(2 Cor 11:20)**
 - 5. Some view love as an outward set of external rules. **(Mt 23:27-28)**

II. The fruit of the Spirit – Joy

- A. This joy is based upon our relationship to God. **(Jn 15:9-14)**

1. Joy is a natural by-product of God's love for you! Did He die for you too?
2. Joyful people are obedient people.
- B. God's joy comes through pain and will never be taken away. **(Jn 16:19-24)**
 1. The apostles went through pain like childbirth until they finally understood the nature of their relationship with God. *Do you really understand it?*
 2. When they knew they served a living Lord that would never leave them they had a joy that men could never take away!
 3. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" **(Rom 8:35-39)**
 4. We have joy because we are not the victims of circumstance but always will have the victory over circumstances. **(Rom 8:28)**
 5. *Do you have this kind of confidence in God in your heart?*
- C. God's joy will give me great strength to serve God in all circumstances.
 1. How was Jesus able to overcome the cross? **(Heb 12:2)**
 2. God through Nehemiah wanted the people to understand this very important principle. **(Neh 8:10-11)**
 - a. Notice how this joy came from an understanding of God's word. *Is your Bible study this way?*
 - b. This joy is not produced by artificial circumstances that are manipulated by men. Many use carnal productions to create a temporary emotion.
- D. It will help my health like medicine. **(Prov 17:22)**
- E. It will allow me to glorify God.
 1. God will bring us to sorrow that leads to repentance and a restoration of our relationship with Him. **(Psa 30:5-8)**
 2. We always will have a heart overflowing with praise and a life that will glorify Him. **(Psa 30:11-12)**
 3. Jesus fulfilled this great prophecy about Him and His people. **(Isa 61:1-3)**
 4. *Did you worship Him today will a heart overflowing with joy?*

III. How God's love in my life will produce joy

- A. My present salvation. **(Lk 10:17, 20)**
 1. This is a joy shared by heavenly beings.
 2. This salvation should always be new within our hearts. What will happen if we forget? **(2 Pt 1:9)**
 3. Do you remember the joy that followed your baptism? **(Acts 8:39; Mk 16:16)**
- B. The daily work of God in my life. **(Psa 5:11-12; Heb 13:5-6)**
 1. When I start my day with prayer it bring me an awareness of the presence and love of God. *Have you been in the presence of God today?*
 2. We must learn how to see the unseen God. **(Heb 11:27)**
- C. Great sacrifice and pain in serving Him. **(Jas 1:2-4)**
 1. *Do you have a "religion" that cost you nothing?* Then you have no joy. **(2 Sam 24:24)**
 2. In worldly things we can understand this. Who was your favorite teacher in school? (Ex. What does a championship team experience to win?)
 3. Do you rejoice in persecution? **(Lk 6:22-23; Heb 10:34)**
 4. Joy in your life will be a major reason others will open their hearts to you!

Conclusion: How is your fruit inspection going? Learn more of God's love!
(1 Jn 4:6-12)