

The Fruit of the Spirit (Part 2)

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: God teaches us where to place our priorities in the molding of our hearts!

- A. There is a way of thinking that will put us in a blessed and abundant life.
 - 1. How many people today are guilt-filled, angry or in despair because of the kind of heart they have built! **(Mt 15:18-20)**
 - 2. Only God has the way to give our hearts His fruit of purpose and direction.
 - 3. To grow God's fruit the field (mind) first has to be cleared. There is no negotiation, only a complete clearing and starting over (repentance).
(Gal 5:16-17, 22)
- B. Consider the blessedness of this fruit in our lives. **(Gal 5:22-23)**
 - 1. This passage says "fruit" and not "fruits!" We must have all nine.
 - 2. We have examined love and joy. Both of these come from knowing Jesus and letting that love be tested by standing for Him. **(1 Pt 1:7-8)**
 - 3. Going against the world and paying a price produces joy! **(Ps 5:11)**

I. The fruit of the Spirit – Peace

- A. What is peace?
 - 1. εἰρήνη eirene □ AV - peace 89, one 1, rest 1, quietness 1; 92 - 1) a state of national tranquillity 1a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous).
 - 2. Jesus is described as "the Lord of peace." What does He want for us?
(2 Thess 3:16)
- B. We must diligently pursue peace with God. **(Rom 5:1)**
 - 1. Do you remember the price Jesus paid for your sins?
 - 2. When God speaks of "justification" do you understand what an enormous gift this is? **(Col 1:20)**
 - 3. Every day we should remember what life was like before we found our new life in Christ. **(Eph 2:1-3)**
 - 4. When I have peace with God then I can deal with men.
- C. When we choose peace with God we will find ourselves at war with the world!
 - 1. We must always ask ourselves the question: "Whose peace do we want?"
(James 4:4-6)
 - 2. We will even find the war coming within the church against those who wish to please men. **(Gal 1:10)**
 - 3. Some who cry for peace the loudest want peace with the world! **(Jer 6:14-15)**
- D. Finding peace with other Christians is not easy. **(Heb 12:14)**
 - 1. We must seek and pursue it. A casual profession is not enough. **(1 Pt 3:10-11)**
 - 2. As we flee sin we must pursue peace. **(2 Tim 2:22)**
- E. Why is peace with our brethren difficult?
 - 1. Because we tend to look out for our interests and not our brethren. **(Rom 15:1)**
 - 2. I have a sermon called "Some Lessons that do not Stay Learned." This is especially true of our relationship with each other.

2. Our relationship with God depends on our seeking peace. **(2 Cor 13:11)**
3. One of the worst things that could happen to a church is for the membership to become overconfident and lazy. Satan will take advantage of this.

II. The fruit of the Spirit – longsuffering

A. What is longsuffering?

1. μακροθυμία, ας, ἡ as a state of emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances *patience, long-suffering*; (1) as patience under trial *endurance, steadfastness* (HE 6.12); (2) as constraint exercised toward others *forbearance, patience* (2C 6.6); (3) as God's constraint of his wrath *long-suffering, forbearance* (RO 2.4)

B. Our God wants us to know this about Him. (Num 14:17-19)

1. Before you begin to complain about why the world continues as it is without the day of judgement coming, you need to think about God waiting for you. **(2 Pt 3:9)**
2. During the ministry of Christ consider His longsuffering with the apostles!
 - a. Notice the reaction of "...how long shall I be with you?" **(Lk 9:40-41)**
 - b. They were unwilling to hear **(Lk 9:44-45)**
 - c. They competed with one another. **(Lk 9:46-48)**
 - d. They showed competitiveness with the disciples of John. **(Lk 9:49-50)**
 - e. Some even wanted to call down fire from heaven! **(Lk 9:54-56)**

C. Longsuffering is a choice....we put it on! (Col 3:8-12)

1. This will eliminate the "short fuse," hasty accusations and gossip.
2. Longsuffering is not ignoring the person or harboring hate in silence!

D. Longsuffering is essential for the growth of Christians and the church.

1. How can true unity be possible? **(Eph 4:1-2)**
2. The atmosphere of a church can be that of optimistic growth and encouragement or that of distrust, suspicion and revenge. Which will it be?

E. Longsuffering must abound in those who teach! (2 Tim 4:1-2)

1. Will I let God's word do its work?
2. Many refuse to give the seed time to work. (Ex. Lima bean in jar.)

III. Let us renew our knowledge of God and what He has done for us.

A. Peace with God makes what man does to me seem small. (Mt 6:14-15)

1. This is why I will contend for the faith. Men cannot be allowed to take away God's conditional promises for salvation. **(Acts 2:21; 22:16; Rom 10:13)**
2. I must never put the peace of men above peace with God. **(Jn 12:42-43)**

B. My remembrance of God's longsuffering with me helps keeps pride out of my heart. (1 Tim 1:15-16)

1. Please understand that there are spiritual people in this church that you can talk to! Our God has been longsuffering with our weaknesses to.

Conclusion: How is your fruit testing going? Our God will help if we let Him!