The Fruit of the Spirit & the Greatest Love:

August 31, 2020

We will start our study of the fruit of the Spirit. Here are some important things to remember:

* Once we have a relationship with Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and He brings His fruit with Him. Therefore, we have all the fruit the minute we come to Christ.
* We do not lack any fruit. We have it all and in equal measure the minute we give our lives to Christ.

What do these verses say about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer? What do they say?

* **1 Corinthians 3:16 Amplified**. Do you not discern and understand that you [the whole church at Corinth] are God’s temple, and that God’s Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you [to be at home in you, collectedly as a church and also individually]” (What does this say to us about what we become once we are in Christ?)
* **Ezekiel 36:27 Amplified**. And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall heed My ordinances and do them. (Who causes us to walk in His statues? How does He do this?)
* **Romans 8:26 Amplified**. So too the [Holy} Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer no how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groaning too deep for utterance. (What help does the Holy Spirit give us according to this passage? What specifics do you notice?)
* **2 Peter 1:3 Amplified**. For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, though the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue). (Do we have to work hard to make sure we are sanctified? Who causes us to live the life He has set out for us?)

What is the purpose of the fruit in the life of the believer?

* We are given the fruit of the Spirit so that we can become more like Jesus.
* To share with others.

How does the fruit develop or grow in us?

* I like what Sophia has said recently about how the fruit develops in our lives. Fruitfulness flows from intimacy with the Spirit. Intimacy with the Spirit is being willing to allow Him to look inside us. Allowing Him to strip away the things that do not line up with the Spirit. Allowing Him to plant His fruit in our lives and grow.
* I like what Mary Boyd said last week. That the Spirit plants the seed in our lives and that we prepare the soil, give it food, water it, and make sure it gets enough sun (SON). This comes as renew our minds.

Let’s look at the fruit we will be studying (Taken from Galatians for You by Tim Keller)

* Love: (agape) to serve a person for their good and intrinsic value. We love because He first loved us. What is the opposite of love? Fear! What does a counterfeit love look like? Selfish affection: we love someone because of how they make us feel about ourselves.
* Joy: (chara) a delight in the Lord for the beauty of who He is. Delight because of who He is. What is the opposite? Hopelessness! What does counterfeit joy look like? Elation based on experiencing the blessings and not the giver of the blessings. Causing mood swings based on circumstances.
* Peace: (Irene) a confidence and rest in the wisdom and control of God, rather than in your own. What is the opposite? Anxiety and worry! What is the counterfeit? It is indifference, apathy, not caring about something.
* Patience: (makrothumia) the ability to face trouble without blowing up or hitting out. What is the opposite? Resentment towards God and others. What is the counterfeit? It is cynicism or lack of care.
* Kindness (chrestotes) the ability to serve others practically in a way that makes me feel vulnerable, which comes from a deep inn security in the Spirit. What is the opposite? Manipulative good deeds, doing good for others so I can congratulate myself and to feel that I am good enough for God and others.
* Goodness: (agathosune) being the same person in every situation, rather than a phone or hypocrite. This comes from reflecting God’s goodness. The opposite is meanness or wickedness. What is the counterfeit? Being nice with motives other than reflecting God’s goodness. Exploitation. Goodness is for the benefit of the other person. The counterfeit is being nice to someone for your own benefit.
* Faithfulness: (pistis) to be utterly reliable and true to your word. What is the opposite? Being a friend only in the good time. The counterfeit ? To be only loving by not truthful so that you are never willing to confront or challenge.
* Gentleness: (prautas) acting in a manner that is gentle and mild and even tempered. The opposite? To be superior or self absorbed. The counterfeit? Using mildness to draw people in and then attack. It is humility which is not the same as being inferior.
* Self Control: (egkrateia) The ability to purse the important over the urgent. It is impulsiveness. What is the opposite? Impulsiveness. The counterfeit is? Willpower based on pride in oneself. The need to feel in control.

The Greatest Love:

* We love because He first loved us.

Verses:

* **Acts 4:12 Amplified**: And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under heave given among men by and in which we must be saved.
* **John 3:17 Amplified**: For God did not send the Son in the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe through Him.
* **Romans 5**:8 Amplified: But God shows and clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinner, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us.

We will not be able to grow in the Spirit and see His fruit develop in us if we do not have a saving relationship with Jesus. (Maybe share my testimony.)

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