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Letter from the Editor:

Have you ever heard a sermon, seen a program or attended a prayer breakfast with the theme: Fruit of the Spirit? This is a popular theme for a prayer breakfast. I remember one prayer breakfast in particular, when Sister Wilda Comeaux brought her beautiful centerpiece decorations for a prayer breakfast at Marietta Chapel. We had each participant explain their "fruit" and its meaning in their lives. It was a very special affair, as I remember. I always thought that the Fruit of the spirit should be Fruits, and capitalized, because there are nine fruits mentioned. However, after further research I found out that it depicts one fruit which depicts the nine qualities of the desired characteristics of a good Christian, who lives in a Christ like manner. Paul's writings about the fruit of the Spirit is found in Galatians 5: 22-23. In the New International version of the bible, these verses read: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Against such things, there is no law. The fruit of the spirit relates to virtues and Paul sees these fruits a counterbalance of the various vices. The fruit of the spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory.

What are the fruit of the Spirit? Bible verse and meaning
The fruit of the spirit is a phrase found in the bible of Galatians: 5: 22-23. It refers to nine attributes of a Christian life, inspired by the Holy Spirit living within them. These attributes, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each of these qualities is important in living a life that is pleasing to God. When we seek the presence of God, with humility and faith, we can experience true joy and peace from living according to God's will. The fruit of the spirit is something to strive for daily; a fruitful life, living in communion with God.

The Greek word translated as fruit refers to the natural product of a living thing. Paul used fruit to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside every believer. The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the spirit, and not by the Christian. The Greek word is singular, showing that the "fruit" is a unified whole, not independent characteristics. As we grow, all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.

Yet, like physical fruit, that needs time to grow, the fruit of the Spirit will not ripen in our lives overnight. Like a successful gardener must battle against weeds to enjoy the sweet fruit that they desire, we must constantly work to rid our lives of the "weeds" of our old sinful nature to choke out the work of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to reject those old sinful desires. We can say “No” to sin and accept the way out God faithfully provides (1st Corinthians 10:13) by following the Holy Spirit’s leading. As we give the Spirit more control of our lives, He begins to do in and through us what he can do -to shape us and grow us like Jesus (2nd Corinthians 3:17-18).

Paul uses nine characteristics to describe the fruit of the spirit in Galatians. Let’s take a look at the fruit of the spirit list and see what each one means.

The Fruit of Love:

“Dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God. because God is love.” - 1 John 4: 7-8

True, biblical love is a choice, not a feeling. It deliberately expresses itself in loving ways and always seeks the welfare of others. Biblical love depends on the giver’s character, not emotion. For instance, a mature believer demonstrating love will not exercise his or her freedom if that action might harm another Christian in some way. Rather than risking the possibility of causing the immature Christian to question and stumble, the mature believer will not exercise his freedom out of love for his brother.

(Romans 14: 1-15. Love chooses to set aside one's own preferences, desires and sometimes even needs to put the other person first. (Phillippians 2:1-3).

The fruit of joy

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13.)

Sometimes we Christians tend to downplay the meaning of joy. But the Greek word translated as “joy,” in Galations 5 means “gladness and delight,” - basically the same thing the world means when it talks about joy. It was a feeling of gladness based on our circumstances.

Sadly, the world's joy cannot last because it is based on fleeting, physical circumstances. As we cling tight to Jesus, abiding daily in our saving relationship with Him, we will experience the fullness of joy he promised. (John 15: 4-11).

The Fruit of Peace

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. (Isaiah 26:3).

The world doesn't offer much peace. Just look around.

The world cannot give it because the world does not know the One who peace. But for those who have the spirit of peace within us, the peace of Christ is possible, no matter our circumstances (John 14:27). We can reject the chaos

of the world and embrace God's peace. The book of Phillipians tells us how. (Phillipians 4: 4-9).

First choose to rejoice in God and who he is. Second, bring all your worries, fears and concerns to God in prayer. Third, fill your mind with God's truth. And, fourth, choose to think about the things of God.

The Fruit of Patience

"Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4: 2).

We don't see much patience in the world today, not even in the church. Maybe part of the reason is the fast-paced "want it right now" culture. But Christians have everything they need to be patient because we have the Holy Spirit living in us longing to display his character to those around us. Patient people put up with circumstances and other people, even when severely tired. Patient people display endurance, long suffering and perseverance.

The New Testament also specifically connects patience with sharing the Gospel. God is patient as he waits for the lost to come to him. (2nd Peter 3-9) and He calls his people to be patient as we extend the offer of salvation in Christ to others. (2nd Timothy 4:20).

The Fruit of Kindness and Gentleness

"Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,

clothe yourself with compassion and kindness.”

The characteristics of ‘kindness’ and ‘goodness’ are closely related. Together they present the picture of one who not only possesses moral goodness and integrity, but also generously expresses it in the way they act toward others. This “goodness in action” reflects God’s kindness and goodness to us. God demonstrated his Kindness and goodness to us in our salvation. (Titus 3:4) and will continue to “show the immeasurable riches of his grace and kindness toward us” for all eternity (Ephesians 2:7)!

The Fruit of Faithfulness

“His master replied, Well done, my good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:21) To be faithful is to be reliable or trustworthy. For the Christian, this is the faithfulness specifically to the Savior who redeemed us. Christian faithfulness therefore, is continued and consistent submission and obedience to the same spirit who provides the ability for us to be faithful.\

This attitude is in direct contrast to our previous “faithfulness to our own sinful desires and ways. The word also describes someone willing to suffer persecution and even death for Christ’s sake. “Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in

all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 2
(Thessalonians 1:4)

The Fruit of Gentleness and Meekness

“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”
(Philippians 4:5).

Closely linked to humility, gentleness is grace to the soul. It is not weakness, but it is strength under control. For instance in Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he wrote that the “Lord’s servant” will “correct his opponent with gentleness.” (2nd Timothy 2:25. And in Paul’s letter to the church in Galatia, he wrote that those that have been caught in sin should be restored in a “spirit of gentleness.” (Galations 6:1). Gentleness, being the opposite of self-assertiveness and self interest, is also a key ingredient in unity and peace within the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:2).

The Fruit of Self-Control

“:Like a city whose walls are broken, is a person who lacks self-control.” (Proverbs 25-28).

The last characteristic in Paul’s description of the fruit of the Spirit points us back to his list of the “works of the flesh.” in Galations 5: 19-21. Those of us with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit have the strength to control our sinful desires to say No to our flesh. Self-control gives

us the strength and power to say Yes to the spirit and foster a beautiful, bountiful harvest of spirituality.

Walk in the Spirit

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (Galatians 5: 24-26).

A Godly Leader

“A godly leader finds strength by realizing his weakness, finds authority by being under authority, finds direction by laying down his own plans, finds vision by seeing the needs of others, finds credibility by being an example, finds loyalty by expressing compassion, finds honor by being faithful, finds greatness by being a servant.”

Roy Lessin

September Birthdays:

Marcetia Gober

Malik Beckerk

Layla Becker

Madison Peeples

Tracy Holt Harkness

Nazir Brown

We hope that your birthday is the happiest, and that you will have many, many more!!!!!!

