

The Fruit Of The Spirit

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” (Galatians5:22-23)

As the seed is laid on the ground, the farmer will water and wait patiently for the seed to sprout out. Springing from the ground a small green plant will grow gradually as a bush or tree budding, blossoming and bearing fruit. The fruit will be green at first then gradually its color will change to a ripe delicious one, inviting an appetite for a person to pick and eat.

The seed is the Word of God that gives eternal life for everyone who believes in Jesus. He is the same seed that once you receive as your Savior and Lord, redeeming you from sin by His death on the cross, His word will start to grow in your heart and His presence will be manifested in your life. These manifestations can be outlined in two folds:

1. The Springing of new direction, new hope, desire and experiences in life that you never have before.

2. The changing or renewing of your negative attitudes and character bringing you to spiritual maturation determined by the manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual maturation is not measured by long years that you have Jesus in your heart, but how much of the fruit are present in your life; not the quantity or duration of having the fruit but the intensity of the ripening fruit of:

1. Love: You will start to love people around you, the people with whom your relation is limited by work and reciprocal interest, like your neighbor, officemate or friend. You will give more love towards them and you will have the desire and the burden to share with them the new beautiful life that you have in Jesus. Your selfishness will gradually be replaced by loving your neighbor as yourself.

2. Joy: You will have the real happiness for the new eternal life that you have in Christ Jesus. You will never have the fear of death and this is the first reason of your true joy. Day after day you will see life differently. Before you don't feel the true presence of God but now you are sure that God is watching over you. Your fears have disappeared, and you will give no attention to small annoying things in comparison to the true imperishable riches you have in Jesus. **“The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We write this to make your joy complete.” (1John 1:2, 4)**

3. Peace: You will experience a calm feeling. Your running towards many directions will be hampered and will be replaced by your drawing towards God. The fire and the terror in your heart will be extinguished, and the battle of evil thought of hatred, anger and revenge will vanish and be replaced by brotherly kindness. Peace will flow from your heart to the people around you. Many of your quarrels and fights will be stopped. You will start to reconcile with many of the people whom you have broken relationships. You will avoid trouble and your love will extend even towards your enemy. You will endeavor to make peace with everyone. **“Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of peace will be with you.” (2Corinthians13:11)**

4. Patience: In your previous life you are the one who plan to do all the tasks. But in your new life in Jesus, God is the one who plans for you and He will direct you in what to do. Your new style will be to ask God first for any decision to make and to wait for his answer. This fruit is difficult to bear and accept, but in your new life with God through Jesus you have the assurance that whatever you ask you receive from God. Truly, God can do anything, but He wants you to wait upon Him, and that you will be patient in trial and hard times, with perseverance during the long suffering.

5. Self control: All sinful acts are against God and you should have self control not to do any of it. **“The acts of the sinful nature is obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you as I did before, that those who live this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.” (Galatians5:19-21)**

6. Kindness: Previously, you had irrational behavior towards other people around you. Now you will be more kind to them. You will be kind to the poor, slaves, sick people, the prisoners, and the oppressed. You will be kind to the widows, the fatherless, the older or aged people, to those in trouble or facing trials and tribulations. Your hand will extend love towards the weak, the poor and the feeble people around you. **“But when you give a banquet invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke14:13-14)**

7. Goodness: God will change your daily activity towards doing good deeds for others. Change may touch your daily entertainment and the time that you spend to please yourself. The time you spend into useless things you will give to God to be in use in a proper way. You will notice and the people around will see how you are changing from harmful or useless person to beneficial and useful child of God. Changes will extend to your personal life, work, profession and future plans. All these will be touched by God, and will be changed or used in a better way according to His good and perfect plan for you.

8. Faithfulness: You will be faithful to God who has saved you from death and has given you eternal life. Your faithfulness will be extended towards your family, your household, your spouse (marital faithfulness), children (parental faithfulness), and as well as your friends, relatives and towards your work and co-workers.

9. Gentleness: Your rude style of shouting and speaking harsh words will be replaced by comforting words, pleasant testimonies, praise and thanksgiving to God. You will be keen not to injure anyone around you. Other version for gentleness is humbleness, an attitude which should be directed towards God and men especially those higher than you.

The fruit of the Spirit are to be taken fully from God. It is improper for you to take one and leave the others behind. Joy and peace everyone likes and it is the first to manifest as indication of acceptance to Jesus and gaining eternal life. Kindness will appear later. Faithfulness, goodness, and gentleness need more time to manifest. But patience, self-control and humbleness are the most difficult ones to bear as these are the master subjects for the growth in Christ Jesus. Finally, if we claim we have the real love of God and to others as to ourselves, we will desire and strive to reap all the fruit remaining.

My dear and beloved: It is high time for us to check what fruit we have and still do not have in maturity. While we submit ourselves to God we may ask willfully, and God will give generously **My Prayer:** *Dear Father God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus. Please grant me real love, more joy and peace. Help me to be more faithful, gentle, to be good and kind. Grant me the strength to be patient, humble and be disciplined according to your word. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*