



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP12: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we will be further examining the Fruit of the Spirit which is the outward and inward product of our regeneration in Christ.

LOVE

This is such a compound element of the result of our life in Christ to the extent that we can actually spend a whole section on this FRUIT alone. Some teachers believe that LOVE is another word for all the other fruits of the spirit. I do not feel that is the case but there are several overlaps. It's not worth splitting hairs over so we will try to examine each fruit.

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:37-40

Love is the energy and life force that came out of God to create the universe. God is LOVE and therefore the world was created by His love. When you flow in love, you are reconnecting with the divine order by which He made everything. When you do something worthy of love for another human being, you feel that energy of God. It feels good to bless another person without agenda or manipulation.



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1 Corinthians 13

⁴ Love endures with patience and serenity, love is kind and thoughtful, and is not jealous or envious; love does not brag and is not proud or arrogant.

⁵ It is not rude; it is not self-seeking; it is not provoked [nor overly sensitive and easily angered]; it does not take into account a wrong endured.

⁶ It does not rejoice at injustice but rejoices with the truth [when right and truth prevail]. ⁷ Love bears all things [regardless of what comes], believes all things [looking for the best in each one], hopes all things [remaining steadfast during difficult times], endures all things [without weakening].

- Love endures (bears the brunt, copes with, hangs in there, sticks it out)
- Love bears without resistance in patience, tolerance, suffers without yielding
- Kind – a good and benevolent nature, considerate and helpful
- Thoughtful – mindful of and careful consideration for the other person
- Not resentful or jealous of another's success
- Content, satisfied with life
- Not proud, arrogant nor bragging about things
- Humble, lowly, meek and modest
- Not discourteous or impolite in a deliberate way
- Decent, gentle, nice and polite
- Not selfish but selfless
- Not easily provoked or ill tempered
- Does not keep score or malice
- Love is fair and not slanted to prejudice or abuse



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- Love is authentic and truthful
- Love bears all things and is very forgiving and also tolerant
- Believes the best about people
- Love is hopeful, believing during the worst of times
- Remains steadfast during difficult times
- Endures all things without weakening

THE FRUIT OF JOY

The phenomena called joy can be described as ‘prophetic happiness’ where the inner singing and dancing comes from another dimension higher and above any natural circumstance, good or bad. Joy is first an inner state of being that has its source from the presence of God and cannot be moved or ruffled by anything that seeks to overwhelm it. It has its source as the life and light that flows from God.

⁵ The Light shines on in the [a]darkness, and the darkness did not understand it or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it [and is unreceptive to it]. John 1:5 AMP

The Greek word for joy is a noun chara which can be translated as inner gladness, internal delight and rejoicing, it is a very deep inner assurance, faith and confidence that sparks a merry heart and outward state of cheerfulness.

. ⁸ Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not even see Him now, you believe and trust in Him and you greatly rejoice and delight with inexpressible and glorious joy, 1Peter 1:8



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Joy is more than a nice feeling or a happy state even though it includes these. The ability to rejoice in adversity and pain whilst maintaining your faith or belief poise is called JOY!

*⁴⁰ The Council (Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court) took his advice; and after summoning the apostles, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. ⁴¹ So they left the Council, **rejoicing** that they had been considered worthy [dignified by indignity] to suffer shame for [the sake of] His name. AMP Acts 5:40-41*

Joy is the currency of the persecuted church and its what make them bold and irrepressible under the most inhumane conditions:

*²³ After striking them many times [with the rods], they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely. ²⁴ He, having received such a [strict] command, threw them into the inner prison (dungeon) and fastened their feet in the stocks [in an agonizing position]. ²⁵ But about midnight when Paul and Silas were praying and **singing hymns of praise** to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; Acts 15:23-25*

Joy is the inner river of faith, praise and energy that bubbles up into feelings, emotions and expressions of thanksgiving within the believer. The best place to get buckets of joy is in the presence of God:

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

The logo features a red line-art illustration of a church building with a steeple and a bell tower, positioned above the text.

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PEACE

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, take pleasure in Him]; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit [your graciousness, unselfishness, mercy, tolerance, and patience] be known to all people. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours]. Phl 4;4-7

There is an overlap of Joy and Peace. One flows into the other seamlessly as you stay in the spirit. The challenge for lots of Christians is that life in the natural world can ‘pull’ us away from the source of life which is in Christ. We are encouraged to find coping mechanisms that enable us stay in the river of joy and peace.

*For you shall go out with joy,
And be led out with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands Isaiah 55:12*



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Peace comes from knowing that the Lord is walking side by side with us in spite of what comes at us. He said “fear not.... when you pass through the waters, I will be with you...” Peace is the absence of fear and that calm restful reassurance that everything will work out because the Lord is in control. So, the ability to deflect off worry and anxiety results in the manifestation of PEACE.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Longsuffering,
- Kindness,
- Goodness,
- Faithfulness,
- Gentleness,
- Self-control

HOMEWORK

We would like you to write up a paragraph or two on each of the remaining listed fruits of the Spirit.

Send to jonathan@citychapel.org.uk before or by next week

Suggestion; do a daily study on each fruit so that you can finish within the allocated week. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE TIME TO DO ALL AT ONCE!