

What is the Fruit of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction: in our freezer, we have many packages of peaches grown on our tree. We have a picture of the three apples from our tree this year.

Text: The Holy Spirit offers two specific provisions for the believer: gifts and fruit.

The fruit of the Spirit (9) in our text is divided into three categories:

---enrichment in our relationship with God (love, joy, peace)

---enrichment in our relationship with others (patience, kindness, goodness)

---enrichment in our relationship with ourselves (faithfulness, meekness, self-control)

The Mature Believer reflects the Fruit of the Spirit in his/her life.

How does your garden grow?

I. The Upward Look.

How does the Holy Spirit manifest Himself in our relationship with God?

Love (agape) toward God. Christianity is not a religion –relationship!

Not a ritual but a love affair.

Why Jesus said the greatest commandment is “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and will all your soul, and with all your mind (Matt.22:37)

The result is JOY (Chara) – Joy is a funny thing. Some people cause it wherever they go. Joy is not based on circumstances or position or popularity or bank account. It is based on our relationship with God Phil. 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord.”

ILL. Bill Borden (1887-1913) - millionaire by 21 – Committed life to Muslims in China – died there – “No reserve, no retreat, no regret!”

****Peace** with God made by Christ. The peace of God passes All understanding – (having it all together)

II.The Outward Look.

Patience endures injuries with tolerance. A calm willingness to accept situations that are irritating and painful.

ILL. Short fuse vs long fuse – natural to be critically minded easily offended, eager for reprisal.

ILL. Teacher presents resolution to Board – “I resolve not to let little things upset me”

Kindness is not weakness – STRONG WORD – a desire to treat others with great kindness. Patience is passive but kindness is active to react positively.

Goodness acceptable moral and spiritual behavior

Go through life angry at others, constantly critical, seek revenge.

According to the flesh

Rather: Spirit of goodness.

III.The Inward Look.

Faithfulness – Bride and Groom promise to be faithful – giving their best likewise – giving our best to God: constant, continuous commitment.

Meekness – Gentleness – NOT WEAK – BROKEN FOR SERVICE!

ILL. Breaking a horse.

Self-Control – restraining our passions and appetites

To be under control – To respond in an appropriate way at the appropriate time.

Going through life looking out for #1 – according to the flesh

Undisciplined life.

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit to produce all of these things in believer's life.

Singular – fruit

Produced – not something we must conjure up within ourselves but something produced within us by the Holy Spirit.

Transformation – in and of ourselves, we cannot produce it –

love, joy, peace-

patience, kindness, goodness –

faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

BUT

We can choose to walk in the Spirit – Spirit-filled life

Only

BY TRANSFORMATION

NEW BIRTH BY BEING SAVED

ASKING JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THE FATHER INTO YOUR HEART