

Term 2 – Equipped by God for the Journey

Lesson 5

Fruit of the Spirit: Part 2

We continue our study of the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit are God's characteristics that are deposited in us by His Spirit. This is part of becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus after we are born again. **Galatians 5:22-23** identifies the nine characteristics that are the fruit of the Spirit. In our last lesson we studied "love" because all other fruit (characteristics) come from the love of Jesus in us. As we study the remaining fruit of the Spirit, remember these two key points:

1. They are "of the Spirit" and are not natural characteristics. We must look in the Word of God for our understanding of each fruit or characteristic.
2. The fruit of the Spirit are given to us as evidence of His indwelling Spirit. They are a witness of Jesus to others. We have them so that we can minister the Word of God by His Spirit and not just by the letter of the law.

2 Corinthians 3:6 *"Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."*

Joy

The joy of the Lord transcends human joy and is the greatest form of joy we shall ever know. It is not a joy that comes from our circumstances. It is a joy that comes from knowing the Lord and His promises. Godly joy is rejoicing in the Word of God that is already fulfilled and that which shall be fulfilled.

John 15:9-11 *"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."*

John 17:13-16 *"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*

Romans 5:8-11 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."*

Hebrews 12:1-2 *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

John 16:33 *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer: I have overcome the world"*

Joy (continued)

1 John 1:1-4 *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”*

Nehemiah 8:10 *“Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*

Matthew 25:20-21 *“And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliverdst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”*

Peace

Peace that is from Jesus is unlike any other peace. It comes when we know that our lives are hid in Christ Jesus and that He is Lord over all things, including death itself. His peace comes when we know that God is always with us. The circumstances of this world do not change who He is or who we are in Him. We know that our future is determined by the Lord. His peace is the Spirit’s response when we are troubled or afraid. His peace is the power of His Word to calm the fiercest storms in our lives.

Isaiah 9:6 *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

John 14:1-3 *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”*

Mark 4:37-41 *“And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”*

Philippians 4:6-7 *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”*

Longsuffering

We may think that longsuffering comes only with much personal pain or that we should dread when we are required to walk in it. In the Spirit, longsuffering is the complete opposite. It is a most wonderful quality that is made of hope, faith, forgiveness, endurance, and love. Longsuffering means never giving up but always walking in the love of the Lord regardless of our circumstances or how hopeless a situation might seem. It is a spiritual patience that is beyond the ability of natural man. It is what our Heavenly Father showed us through His Son Jesus Christ. We must be eternally grateful for His longsuffering in our lives.

John 15:9 *“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”*

2 Peter 3:8-9 *“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

1 Timothy 1:15-16 *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”*

2 Peter 3:13-15 *“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;”*

2 Timothy 2:10 *“Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”*

James 5:10-11 *“Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”*

Romans 15:4 *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*

Colossians 1:10-13 *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”*

Gentleness

The gentleness of the Lord in us gives us the ability to have a soft answer that breaks down the walls and chains of hardness in our lives and the lives of others. The gentleness of the Lord understands the human condition. It enables us to act with compassion, seeking for healing and restoration, rather than judgement.

Proverbs 15:1 *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”*

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 *“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.”*

Gentleness (continued)

2 Timothy 2:24-26 *“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”*

James 3:17 *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”*

Matthew 10:16 *“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”*

Goodness

The goodness of God shows the heart of the Father towards us. Goodness is an unwavering desire for and willingness to do all, that we might be with Him now and forever. His goodness is a path of righteousness and blessing in following Him. His goodness also lets us know the truth about the things that bring great harm and destruction to our lives. As a Good Shepherd, He warns us and is always willing to direct our paths in Godly righteousness. When we turn from ungodly things, we can be partakers of His goodness.

Romans 2:4 *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”*

Romans 15:14 *“And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”*

Romans 11:22-23 *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.”*

1 Corinthians 2:9 *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”*

Matthew 11:28-30 *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

John 10:11 *“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”*

As we study the fruit of the Spirit, we pray that you have revelation and quickening by the Spirit as to the manner of person you are in Christ Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit now dwells in us and these characteristics of Jesus Christ should be recognizable in your own life. They are a witness to you and to others that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus and that your life is miraculously transformed. You have a unique experience with Jesus and are able minister the gospel of the life changing power of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:25-27 *“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”*

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

Read the scriptures in the lesson about each fruit of the Spirit.
Answer the following questions:

Joy

1. Whose joy do we have?

2. What is the source of our joy?

3. What is joy a source of in our walks?

Peace

4. What brings us peace?

5. What do we need to do to keep God's peace in our lives?

6. What is the power of God's peace?

Longsuffering

7. What is the purpose of longsuffering?

8. How long is “long”?

9. What other fruits are displayed in longsuffering?

Gentleness

10. What is accomplished through gentleness?

11. What is a key trait of gentleness?

Goodness

12. What does the goodness of God lead to?

13. What condition is identified for us to obtain goodness?