

Galatians

Week Twenty-Five

Review: The fruit we bear is blood bought, Holy Spirit planted within us. Though we cannot make the fruit grow, we can be good gardeners, actively participating. How do we spiritually grow?

-By faith. We depend and are led and filled by the Holy Spirit.

-By

2 Cor. 6:4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in *purity*, in knowledge, in *patience*, in *kindness*, *in the Holy Spirit*, in genuine *love*, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are *being transformed* into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Love

Mat. 27:22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?... 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph. 3:14 14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being *rooted and grounded in love*, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

It is the giving of oneself for the ultimate good of another without regard to the cost to self or the worth of the one loved. It is more than an emotion, but it is not less than.

Check the fruit/taste the fruit

2 Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

- You aren't the fruit inspector for other people's lives
- If you aren't seeing the fruit, the solution isn't to try harder. It is to focus on the source.

Joy

Neh. 8:10 The joy of the LORD is your strength.
God is a joyous God.

Christians should be joyous *and* happy.

Zeph. 3:17 The Lord your God is in your midst (the innermost part), a mighty savior. He will exult (make mirth) over you with joy (exceeding pleasure as at a festival), He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice (spin around) over you with shouts of joy (triumphant singing).

Heb. 12:1 ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the *joy set before Him* endured the cross.

Jn. 15:11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Rom. 15:13 Now may the God of hope *fill you with all joy* and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the *Holy Spirit*

Ps. 149:4 For the Lord delights in His people; He will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the godly ones exult/jump for joy in glory; Let them sing for joy (triumphantly/loudly) on their beds.

Lk. 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.

Lk. 15:8 Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' In the same way, I tell you, there is joy *in the presence of the angels* of God over one sinner who repents."

Deut 30:9 Then the Lord your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the Lord will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers; if you obey the Lord your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.
He delights to love and be loved.

1 Pt. 1:8 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

Fruit check:

Peace

Col. 1:21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace *with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of *peace*, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing

Isa. 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever...12 Lord, You will establish *peace for us*, since You have also performed for us all our works.

Jn. 14:25 “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

1 Thes. 5:23 Now may the *God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely*; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

2 Pt. 1:2 Grace and peace be *multiplied to you* in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness.

Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Check:

Col. 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule (be an umpire) in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body.

Patience

Ex. 34:5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger (patient/long-nosed), abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

2 Pt. 3:7 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Jam. 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, so that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord’s dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

Check:

Goodness

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was *good*.

Ex. 33:18 Then Moses said, "I pray Your, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My *goodness* pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you....

Gen. 50:19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Kindness

Jn. 19:26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"

-Real kindness is not selective or based on merit. In the NT this word is always used in reference to those who don't deserve it.

Tit. 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us

-Jesus' kindness is personal

-Jesus' kindness has a point, an end goal.

-God's kindness knows no end.

Isa. 54:10 For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken says the LORD who has compassion on you.

Eph. 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Fruit check:

Faithfulness

Deut. 7:9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the *faithful* God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations....

Lam. 3:22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; *great is Your faithfulness*.

Heb. 2:17 For this reason He had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Jn. 17:4 I glorified You on the earth by accomplishing the work which You have given Me to do.

Jn. Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Rev. 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.

Check:

Gentleness

Phil. 2:6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

Ps. 18:31 For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God, the God who girds me with strength and makes my way blameless? He makes my feet like hinds' feet, and sets me upon my high places. He trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and **Your gentleness (humility) makes me great.**

Check:

Self-Control

Isa. 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away. Yet who of His generation protested? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was punished.

Check:

He bore all of the fruit on the cross/the tree.

Discussion

Fruit bearing is the believer's righteous responses to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our earthly life. It is looking at any situation and saying, "What is the most loving, joyful, peacemaking, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, self-controlled thing to do here, and acting accordingly.

Recall the homework assignment I gave out—which was to think of a problem or situation you are working through, whether it be personal, ethical, political, societal, community oriented, whatever.

Does the definition above help when working through your specific issue, concern, problem, struggle...?