

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:16 - 25

- 16 *This* I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
- 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.
- 18 But if ye be ***led of the Spirit***, ye are not under the law.
- 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
- 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
- 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 22 But the ***fruit of the Spirit*** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
- 25 If we ***live in the Spirit***, let us also **walk in the Spirit**.

Walk In The Spirit

- Ephesians 3:3-5 → 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
- Ephesians 6:17 → And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Galatians 5:22-23

- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Love – Its Superiority

- ***The superiority of love:***
 - The greatest of these is love. (I Corinthians 13:13)
 - The first and great commandment. (Matthew 22:36-40)
 - Love is the bond of perfectness. (Colossians 3:14)
 - God is love. (I John 4:8)

What Is Love?

- The Greek language had four words that translate as “love” (eros, philia, storge, agape)
- Agape → ***“unconquerable benevolence, undefeatable goodwill”. The attitude that never seeks anything but the best for others, regardless of how others behave.***
 - Matthew 5:44 → But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (cf. Matthew 5:48; Romans 5:10)
 - Love is characterized by unselfishness, care and concern, forgiveness, sacrificial service, correction, discipline, obedience, and is to motivate all that we do. (Galatians 5:6, 13-14; I Corinthians 13; John 15:13-14; 14:15)

Love

- The love of God.
 - I John 4:9-11 → 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. (cf. John 3:16)
- The love of Jesus Christ.
 - John 15:12-14 → 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. (cf. Philippians 2:5-11)

Joy

- Joy → “gladness, cheerfulness, delight.” Should be the prevailing atmosphere of a Christian’s life.
 - What are the things that bring us the greatest joy in life? Joy is not dependent on outward circumstances or material things.
- The New Testament is a book of joy.
 - “Joy or “To rejoice” occur over 130 times in the N.T.
 - Philippians 3:1 → “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.”
 - Philippians 4:4 → Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

Joy In The Gospel From Beginning To End

- **Luke 2:10** → And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- **Matthew 2:10** → When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.
- **Matthew 13:44** → Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.
- **Matthew 28:7-8** → He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. 8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

Joy In The Gospel From Beginning To End

- **Luke 24:52** → And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**: (cf. John 15:11; Hebrews 12:2)
- **Acts 8:39** → And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way **rejoicing**.
- **Luke 15:10** → Just so, I tell you, there is **joy** before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.
- **Matthew 25:21** → 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.

What Will Bring Real Joy Into Our Lives?

- Psalms 19:8 → The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. (cf. Psalms 119:16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 174)
- Philippians 4:4 → Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice.
- Romans 15:13 → May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...
- Romans 5:11 → “...be we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the reconciliation.”
- Romans 12:12 → Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. (cf. Proverbs 10:28)

What Will Bring Real Joy Into Our Lives?

- **Philippians 2:2** → Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the **same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**
- **III John 4** → I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
- **James 1:2-4** → My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
- **I Peter 1:7-8** → 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ***ye rejoice with joy unspeakable*** and full of glory:

Rejoicing In Tribulation

- **Acts 5:40 -42** → And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.
- **Acts 16:24-25** → 24 Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Peace

- Peace → Serenity, tranquility, calmness of heart and mind. **Not the mere absence of fighting or an uneasy truce, but harmony, concord, and unity.**
- Things that destroy peace:
 - Galatians 5:15 → 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.
 - Galatians 5:20-21 → 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 26 → Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (ESV)

Things That Make For Peace

- Things that make for peace:
 - Godly Attitude – Ephesians 4:1-3 → I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (ESV)
 - Earnest Pursuit -- Hebrews 12:14; cf. Psalm 34:14 → Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (ESV)
 - Holding to Truth – Ephesians 4:4-6 → 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
 - Peacemakers – Matt. 5:10 → “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Peace -- Peacemakers

- Abraham:
 - Genesis 13:9-7 → 7 and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. 8 Then Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.”

Peace -- Peacemakers

- Joseph:

– Genesis 45:3-5 → 3 And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. 4 So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Peace -- Peacemakers

- Jesus Christ:
 - Colossians 1:20 - 23 → and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Peace – Passes Understanding

- Philippians 4:4-7 → 4 Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the ***peace of God, which passeth all understanding***, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Longsuffering

- Longsuffering (macro thumia) defined:
 - Patience (NET, ESV, NASB, NRSV)
 - Long tempered.
 - The opposite of short-tempered. “Flying off the handle.”
 - The self-restraint that does not hastily retaliate a wrong; endures injuries and evil deeds without being provoked to revenge. Does not harbor resentment and seek an opportunity to “even” the score.

God Is Longsuffering

- Exodus 34:6 → And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,
- I Peter 3:20 → Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.
- Acts 17:30-31 → 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
- Jonah 3:4 → “...yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.” (cf. 10)

God Is Longsuffering

- 9 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.*
- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- 11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,
- 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
- 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.
- 15 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; (cf. Romans 2:4)

Jesus Christ Is Longsuffering

- I Peter 2:20-24 → For what glory *is it*, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer *for it*, ye take it patiently, this *is* acceptable with God. 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (cf. Luke 23:34; I Timothy 1:16)

In Our Lives Longsuffering Will Produce...

- True spiritual strength → Proverbs 16:32
 - *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. (cf. Col. 1:11)*
- Good personal relationships → Proverbs 25:15
 - By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone. (cf. Eph. 4:2)
- True wisdom and understanding → Proverbs 14:29
 - *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

In Our Lives Longsuffering Will Produce...

- **Endurance in afflictions** → James 5:10
 - Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.
- **Constancy in teaching** → II Timothy 4:2
 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- **Forgiveness** → II Peter 3:9; Ephesians 4:32
 - 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.
- **The eternal inheritance** → Hebrews 6:12
 - That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience (longsuffering) inherit the promises.