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**Bible Study – March 2, 2016**

**“LIVING A FRUIT FILLED LIFE” – Galatians 5:16-26**

**LIVING A FRUIT FILLED LIFE**

Scripture:

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness,gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

**The first three fruit/virtues are habits of mind, which find their source in God: Love, Joy, and Peace**

I believe it is quite intentional that the first of the nine fruit is LOVE. In her hit Song released in 1984, Tina Turner posed the question “What’s Love Got to do with It?” The answer is made clear in Scripture EVERYTHING: If we are anxious about any aspect of the Spirit’s work in our lives, it should be his fruit and in particular LOVE. God’s word teaches us that all that we are and every can be in Christ finds its’ foundation in Love. It is the springboard that propels us to bear fruit in every aspect our Christian walk.

1. **LOVE - A caring commitment, in which affection and delight are shown to others, which is grounded in the nature of God himself.[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Love is evidence of our relationship with Christ**

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

**Love takes Priority over all other Spiritual Gifts**. Paul makes this clear in the LOVE chapter, found in 1 Corinthians 13-1-3

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Question to Ponder:

What are some things that may hinder our love walk?

**Love enables us to get the victory over the enemy**:

In this chapter Paul clearly identifies the things that are in opposition to love which are—envy (v. 4), boastfulness (v. 4), pride (v. 4), rudeness (v. 5), selfishness (v. 5), irritability (v. 5), resentment (v. 5) and maliciousness (v. 6).

1. **JOY - is a deep and abiding inner rejoicing, which was promised to those who abide in Christ**.

“I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” John 15:11

**Our Joy is not contingent upon our circumstance**

“For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his ten sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!” Psalm 27:5-7

**Our Joy comes from being in the presence of the LORD**

“You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore” Psalm 16:11

**Our Joy comes from praising the LORD**

“Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.” Psalm 47:1-3

1. **PEACE - It is an inner repose and quietness, even in the face of adverse circumstances; it defies human understanding**

**Peace is a promised gift from Christ**

**“**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27

**Peace comes from living a Christ-centered life**

“Those of steadfast mind you keep in **peace**— in **peace** because they trust in you.” Isaiah 26:3

**Peace keeps you grounded and sane, even in the midst of chaos and confusion**.

“Do not worry about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:7

1. Manser, M. H. (2009). *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)