THE FRUIT OF HOLY SPIRIT – PART 1

Biblical Reference: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).

I. CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that we are called to bear fruit in all areas of our lives.

2. To persevere in our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

3. To understand that love, joy and peace depend on neither circumstances, nor people.

4. To learn to differentiate between happiness and joy.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. The Fruit of Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is at work in us. His ultimate goal is to make us more like Jesus.

2. The same way a good tree produces fruit, the Holy Spirit works to produce certain characteristics in us. These characteristics are known as the “fruit of the Spirit”: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

B. Cultivating a Heart of Good Soil

   Matthew 13:8 (NKJV)
   But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

   1. The quality of the soil (our hearts) determines what the seed will produce.

   2. We must cultivate a heart that allows the Holy Spirit to work in our lives in order for Him to produce Christ’s character in us.
IV. LESSON: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – PART ONE

A. Preparing Ourselves to Be Fruitful

**Luke 8:15 (NKJV)**
But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

1. Jesus highlights three (3) essential qualities that are found in those whose hearts are “good soil.”

2. Having a noble and good heart. The Bible reveals the many types of hearts people have: divided hearts (Hosea 10:2), lying hearts (Isaiah 59:13), doubting hearts (Luke 24:38), anxious hearts (Deuteronomy 28:65). We must be willing to confront any negative conditions about our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to bring change.

3. Hearing and holding on to God’s Word. We must look attentively to the Word because success depends on the time we spend in contact with it.

4. Persevering. You cannot win a race if you quit. And a seed cannot grow if it’s dug up. Spiritual growth takes time and effort on our part. We must persevere to see results.

B. Love

1. In 1 Corinthians 13, we see a description of the kind of love the Holy Spirit wants to produce in our lives. Actions without love amount to nothing.

2. Anyone can love those who love them in return. But God’s love goes beyond that. Jesus describes the kind of love the Holy Spirit wants to produce in us…

32 “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

3. For the Christian, this kind of love is not optional. It is a command. And our standard for love is not based on how others treat us; it’s based on how Jesus treats us. And this kind of love can only be produced in us by the Holy Spirit.

**John 15:12 (NKJV)**
This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
C. Joy

1. Joy is what every person longs and searches for. But it can only be found in God Himself. And our measure of joy grows as our knowledge of God grows. God is the author of true joy. Knowing Him means knowing joy.

2. There is a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness depends on our circumstances. When they are positive, we are happy. When they are negative, we are sorrowful. But joy is not dependent upon our circumstances. Joy comes from our relationship with God.

3. Joy is what enables us to stand firm when faced with the pressure of negative circumstances.

   Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NKJV)
   17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

4. The fruit of the Spirit, demonstrated in the form of constant joy, is another distinguishing factor of a believer and every growing ministry. We can all be constantly full of joy, but we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit for this to happen.

D. Peace

1. In a general sense, peace can be defined as an absence of conflict. However, true peace comes as a result of reconciliation.

2. When the devil tempted Adam and Eve, a universal conflict began between God and man because of sin. But through Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection, we can be reconciled to God and peace can be restored.

   Colossians 1:19-20 (NKJV)
   19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

3. Since we now have peace with God through Jesus’ work on the Cross, we can have God’s peace within our hearts.

   John 14:27 (NKJV)
   Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
4. The Cross makes peace possible between God and man through forgiveness and reconciliation. And it's the Cross that tears down walls between people.

**Ephesians 2:14-16 (NKJV)**
14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

V. CONCLUSION

Love, joy and peace are the fruit that are linked most closely with our emotions. If we maintain an intimate, personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, we will be able to show the love of God through serving our neighbors; joy when we trust in trying times know that all things will work together for our good; and peace when we have a forgiving heart because of what Jesus had done through the Cross.