

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit –pt1
Welcome to Harvest Community Church
Series: The Holy Spirit
Text: Galatians 5:22-24, John 15:1-5

In most studies on the Holy Spirit there is a rush to get to the teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The most important thing that the Holy Spirit does in the life of a Christian is not the endowment of power, it is not the bestowing of gifts, it is not imparting wisdom, it is changing the **character** of the person. We are not known to man or God by our gifts but by our **fruit**. Today we put an emphasis on charisma. Charisma without fruit makes a person a character. When the Holy Spirit enters a person, He transforms their character. It is the character of God that fully completes the **personality** of an individual for the glory of God. As long as the Holy Spirit is in control of a person, He naturally manifests His character in a believer.

Matthew 7:16-17, John 13:35, Romans 8:5-10

A study on the Fruit of the Spirit can be divided in three ways:

- ~ Love, Joy and Peace are the result of our relationship with God and reflect our **upward** life.
- ~ Patience, Kindness and Goodness are developed and expressed in our relationship with other people, this is our **outward** life.
- ~ Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control reflect our **inward** life.

It is important to remember that the fruit of the Spirit is **one** fruit not many fruits. All nine attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit are the character of God and are who He is. The Fruit of the Spirit in our life is not what we do, it is who we are because of the Spirit of God in us. We act and live who we are because of whose we are. Fruit has a stem, skin, flesh, a core and seed. The seed comes out of the core and gives fruit the ability to reproduce.

The Fruit of the Spirit is contrasted with the works of the flesh. There is a significant difference between a life lived in the Spirit and one lived in the flesh. Although we are saved by grace and not **works**, a life lived in the Spirit will have a life of good works (fruit) that reflect the grace by which we are saved. **Galatians 5:16-26**

If you and I are not under the control of the Holy Spirit then we are under the control of our **flesh**. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is an issue of **Lordship**. Lordship deals with ownership. Either Jesus is Lord of our lives or we are.

How do we walk in the Spirit?

- 1) **listen** to Him.
- 2) **follow** Him.
- 3) **obey** Him.
- 4) **trust** Him.

Every Christian is to be a fruit bearing follower of Christ. One way or the other, good or bad we are bearing fruit of some kind. **Isaiah 5:4-5, John 15:1-8**

Fruit bearing is important because:

- Fruit bearing is an **expression** of the life of Christ.
- Fruit bearing is an evidence of **discipleship**
- Fruit bearing prepares a **harvest** because where there is seed there is continual fruit bearing.
- Fruit bearing **blesses** other people.
- Fruit bearing brings **glory** to God.

Love – John 15:12

The new commandment sets the **standard** for what real love looks like. We are to love as Christ has loved us. Only the Holy Spirit can make that possible for us to do. **John 13: 34-35**

Scripture tells us of three types of Love:

- 1) **Agape**
- 2) **Phileo** Brotherly Love or human love, friendship. It is one dimensional, emotional and conditional.

Luke 6:32

- 3) **Eros** This is Physical romantic love. In the context of marriage Agape, Phileo and Eros build on one another and become a complete expression of love. In the Lord it is pure, holy and wonderful. Eros outside of marriage is simply lust. Lust is selfish because real love or agape would never Eros without the covenant of marriage.

Agape is the Greek word used to accurately describe the Love of God. It is the Highest, purest, sincerest form of Love. Agape is unconditional, limitless, self-less and is not bound by emotions. It tolerates anything. This type of love, when applied to any relationship, **never** fails. Everything in the Kingdom of God operates on the Law of Love. Because God is love our relationship with Him is not based on our love for Him but on His love for us.

1 John 4:10 & 19 Because God loves us and everything He does is based on the Law of Love, a true Christians will love like God. First we will love God like He love us and second, we will love others like God loves us. Agape is what we **relinquish** our lives to. Loving God means totally surrendering ourselves to Him; it is the total commitment of our lives and will to Him. **Mark 12:30-31 (AMP)**

Agape is **greater** love. Greater love is selfless. Greater love lays down its life that is why we can say “It is no longer **I** who lives but **CHRIST** who lives in me”. **John 15:13** The opposite of love is not hate, it is selfishness. Agape seeks the advantage, pleasure and well being of others and doesn’t regard self. Selfishness seeks its own pleasure and well being without regard for others. Selfishness is **emotional**, it has limits and is conditional; it determines how to treat others based on how it is first treated. **GOD FIRST LOVED US**, even while we were still sinners, missing the mark and offending Him. He Loved before He was loved. Whenever the spirit of “I” rises up in our life it is an indication that we have given Satan a place in that relationship; this could be in our walk with God, our marriage, our families, business or friends.

If the opposite of Love is selfishness, what is the opposite of hate? **Worship!** Love is not an emotion it is a decision and a commitment. Worship is both a decision to Love that also involves feeling. Worship is to adore at the highest level, so much so that all of life is about the one we have fully devoted ourselves to be whole heartedly for. Hate is to **despise** at the deepest levels and involves just as much commitment in the opposite direction. It takes just as much intensity and dedication to worship as it does to hate. Anything that falls short of that kind of commitment is neither Worship not hate. This is what Jesus is talking about when He says He wants us to be hot or cold not **lukewarm**.

God gives us His definition of what love is – **1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NKJV & NLT)** You will notice that this teaching on love deals first of all with Holy Spirit given gifts. The main point is that gifts without **character** are just a bunch of annoying **noise**. The Fruit of the Spirit moves us from childish thinking and ways to the mature living that comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Chart your progress in the area of Love: Always, Usually, Sometimes, Seldom, Never

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Patient _____ | ➤ Not easily offended _____ |
| ➤ Kind _____ | ➤ Not suspicious _____ |
| ➤ Not envious _____ | ➤ Keep no record of wrongs _____ |
| ➤ Not proud but humble _____ | ➤ Honorable _____ |
| ➤ Not rude _____ | ➤ Truthful _____ |
| ➤ Unselfish _____ | ➤ Avoids evil _____ |
| ➤ Not easily angered _____ | |

