

Strength in Truth Conference 2021

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength Isaiah 40v31

The Fruits of the Spirit

Love Joy Peace

Longsuffering Gentleness Goodness

Faith Meekness Temperance



'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance'

Galatians 5 22,23

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 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. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 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.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5 13 to 26



Works of the flesh...fruit of the Spirit

- All our works fall into these categories
- 'But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;' Isaiah 64 6
- Repulsive
- May not immediately appear so on the surface, but are intrinsically so underneath
- Some parallels (opposites) to the fruit of the Spirit



Walk in the Spirit... be led of the Spirit... the fruit of the Spirit... live in the Spirit

- Spirit dwells within: 'he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth... but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.' John 14 16-17
- Fruit is the evidence of the Spirit dwelling within
- Only produced by the spirit, not like the works of the flesh
- Union with God – like marriage produces fruit



- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering - *forbearance, forgiveness*
- Gentleness - *kindness*
- Goodness - *behaving rightly*
- Faith
- Meekness - *humility*
- Temperance - *self-control*

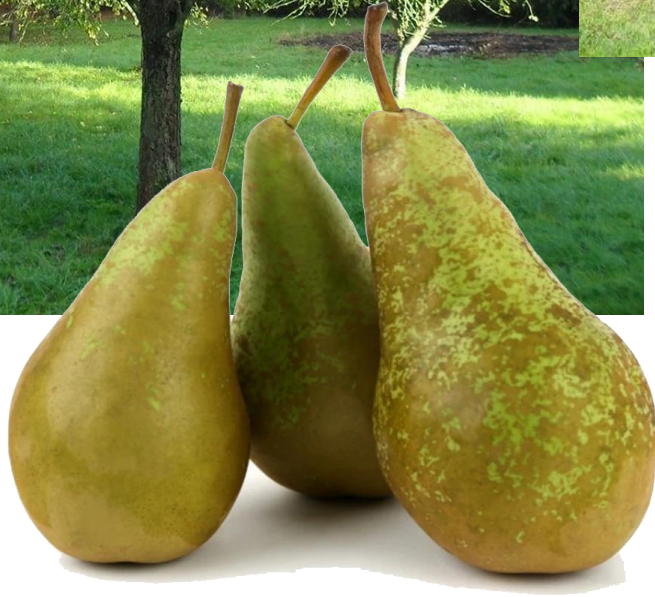


The mistake in the title...

'Fruit' is singular...

- The 9 qualities make up the fruit of the spirit.
- Expect them all to be present.
- Combined, like ingredients in a recipe.





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'By their fruits ye shall know them'

- 'Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.' Matthew 7 15-20
- Beware of false 'fruits'
- E.g. Zeal is not a fruit of the Spirit – apostle Paul, the scribes and Pharisees
- Longsuffering of God – dig it about and dung it



'By their fruits ye shall know them' (cont.)

- Different amounts of fruit – some thirty, some 60, some an hundredfold
- We should earnestly desire and pray for the fruit of the Spirit
- Not because it is the evidence of our own salvation
- ...but to the glory of God



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- Start with an apology...
 - Vast subject
 - Shortcomings and inability
 - May the Lord guide us
 - May each of us have tasted for ourselves of the Love of God



Fruit is like its parent...



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Fruit is like its parent

- Bramley apple tree – taste, colour, shape, texture
- Every Bramley tree is descended from that tree as a cutting. It's the only way it can be described as a Bramley.
- To understand Love as the fruit of the Spirit, we must look at the Love of God.



Qualities of God's love

- 1 Kings 3 5 - 28



Qualities of God's love

- Sacrificial
- Not self centred
- Desires the best for the loved one
- It hurts Malachi 1, 2; Hosea 6, 4; 11, 8;
- Not shortlived – eternal. Marriage
- Unchanging – not dependent on last meeting
- Vast, infinite disparity and distance between God who loves and man who is loved Ezekiel 16



Qualities of God's love (continued)

- 'Four' dimensions – depth is what we can't see
- Passeth knowledge
- It's personal and individual
- Jesus – 'moved with compassion'
- 'Jesus wept' John 11, 35



Love foremost

- Foremost attribute of God
- God is love
- His banner over me was love
- In the benediction – ‘...The love of God...’
- Not a facile love
- ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’

John 3 16



Love foremost

‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets’ Matthew 22 v37-40

1 Corinthians 13



How does this apply to us?

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. 1 John 3 10-24



How does this apply to us? (continued)

- ‘Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me’ Galatians 2 20
- A love towards God
 - Do I love the Lord or no?
 - ‘Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.’ John 21 v17
- A love that will hurt. ‘They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him’. Zechariah 12 10
- A love that constrains us ‘The Love of Christ constraineth us’ 2 Corinthians 5 14
- A love towards God’s people



In conclusion

'A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.'

Luke 13 6-9

- May the Lord give us that earnest desire for fruit, to His honour and glory
- And especially to pray that the Spirit will grant us more of His love



In conclusion

'For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.'

Ephesians 3 14-19



Thank you

