

"The Application of Grace"

Galatians 5-6

Part 6

Introduction: Last week in our study we were looking at the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. In this section Paul commanded his readers to walk in the Spirit and then he made a promise.

Notice Galatians 5:16

When we walk in the Spirit the promise is that we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. In verses 22 and 23 Paul gives us the virtues of walking in the Spirit, and he contrasts this with the works of the flesh.

Notice Galatians 5:19-21

When a person is controlled by the flesh these are the characteristics that will show forth in his or her life. Notice the word "works" is plural. Not all of these works will be in the life of the person controlled by the flesh. Some may be much more evident than others.

Notice Galatians 5:22-23

Now we see that the word "fruit" is singular. This fruit cannot be separated. When the believer walks by the Spirit this entire group will be manifest in our lives. It is not that we will love and not be longsuffering. This is a bouquet, and it is all together. If one of these listed here seems to be present but the others are not, then we can be sure that what appears to be a fruit of the Spirit is nothing more than a counterfeit produced by the flesh. When we are controlled by the Spirit each of these will be evident in our lives.

Let me remind you of what De Haan says concerning the fruit of the Spirit.

"The "fruit" of the Spirit is singular and consists of three groups of virtues:

- 1. Personal fruit—love, joy, peace. These have to do with our own subjective personal life.*
- 2. Outreaching fruit to others—longsuffering, gentleness, goodness. This is our attitude in grace toward others.*
- 3. Up-reaching fruit—toward God. They are faith, meekness, temperance. Nine parts of one fruit, all supplied by the Spirit. It covers our complete responsibility toward God, our fellow man, and others."*

Let us also be reminded that this fruit cannot be manifest in our lives if we are not walking in fellowship with our Lord.

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

➤ **"The Fruit of the Spirit"**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice Galatians 5:22

Last week we looked at the first three virtues which are love, joy, and peace.

a. Love

The love here is "agape" love which is the greatest of all love. It is the love of God manifest in our lives as we walk in the Spirit. It is a love that wants the very best for others. It is a sacrificial love that the world cannot understand. It is unconditional meaning that it is given while expecting nothing in return.

Romans 5:5

⁵ *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

b. Joy

The virtue of joy is not happiness. It is not based upon positive events in our lives. It is a deep inward joy that exists even when our world is falling apart. It is a joy that is experienced even at the most heart-breaking times of our lives. It exists when we are facing trials that are completely overwhelming.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Jesus had this joy even as He faced the terrible wrath of God upon the cross. The joy existed when all His disciples forsook Him, it existed when the soldiers drove the nails through His hands and feet. This is the very same joy that lives deep with each believer who is walking in the Spirit.

c. Peace

The virtue of peace is that deep inward peace of God that passes all understanding. It is a peace that fills the heart in the midst of the times of greatest turmoil in our lives. This joy and peace are what the world so longs for but apart from Jesus Christ it cannot be experienced. I will say that the two virtues of joy and peace should be enough to make us long to forever walk in the Spirit. They are virtues that can always be in our lives as believers if we are willing to walk in the Spirit. This now brings us to the next virtue.

d. Longsuffering.

This word means "long tempered, slow to anger" and again this virtue is best seen in our Heavenly Father and the way He is longsuffering toward mankind.

2 Peter 3:8-10

⁸ *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

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.*

1 Peter 3:18-20

¹⁸ For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

¹⁹ By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

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.

Think of the longsuffering of God in the life of Ahab. Time after time God reached out to the wicked king because God desired to see him saved.

This is the very virtue that is manifest in us as we walk in the Spirit. We will be longsuffering with people. We will not seek vengeance when we believe they have done wrong to us. We will love them, and we will patiently do all we can to bring about a peaceful resolution. This word describes the believer who, without being angry and without the thought of revenge, shows patience and forbearance to those who annoy, oppose, molest, or treat him or her badly.

e. Gentleness

This word means "kindness." It has the idea of being kind to people who do not deserve kindness. Is this not how God has treated us?

Ephesians 2:3-7

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

We can forgive others, knowing that God, in His kindness and grace, has forgiven us.

f. Goodness

This goodness expresses itself in the believer's willingness to give of himself unselfishly. It also involves repaying evil with good with no vengeance involved.

Romans 2:4

⁴ Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Peter 3:9-11

⁹ Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Conclusion:

We will look at the remaining virtues when we get back here. In closing I want to remind you of a thought from the Word of God. It is seen in what Paul wrote in the previous chapter.

Galatians 4:19

¹⁹ My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

God is working to form the character of His Son in each one of us.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Romans 8:28-29

⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

²⁹ *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*