

Pastor's Pen

Fruit Producers!

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."-Galatians 5:22

Over the next nine weeks, I will write about the Spirit's fruits. When you became a Christian, if indeed you are one, you were indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Your old self died, was buried with Christ, and rose with Him to walk in the newness of life (Romans 6:5-11). Since you are a new creation, the fruits of the Spirit will be evident in your life. Sinclair Ferguson wrote this about the fruit of the Spirit:

"It's interesting, isn't it, that Paul calls these different qualities—there are nine of them—he calls them fruit. "Fruit" in the singular, not "fruits" in the plural. Although, earlier on in this chapter, he'd spoken about the "works"—plural—of the flesh, not just the "work" of the flesh. And I rather think that he's suggesting that all of these qualities belong together. They're meant to grow on the same tree, as it were. You can't really develop one of them fully without having all of them. At the same time, I wonder if the reason he calls them "fruit" is because they take time to grow and they need to be nourished. It's interesting, I think, isn't it, that he uses a horticultural metaphor here, not a mechanical one. These qualities can't be artificially produced. They need to be developed in us by God's grace."

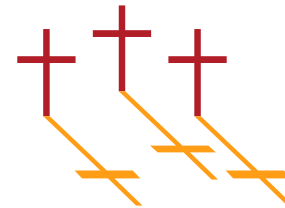
The first fruit listed is Love. What kind of Love is Paul referencing here? When we hear the word Love, it takes on many meanings. I love my wife, my dogs, the Miami Dolphins, and steak. Obviously, I love my wife more than the other things listed. This is not a problem in the Greek. The word translated as Love in this text is *agape*.

This Love is not a feeling but a choice. It is the choice to be kind, sacrifice, and consider another's needs more significant than your own. It is unselfish; It is the Love of God for us when He sent His Son to die for His elect.

This fruit will manifest in your daily life as a follower of Christ. You may think that you can't love this way, but, if you are a child of God, He will allow you to love this way.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark



Quote of the Week

"If we empty our hearts of self; God will fill them with His Love."
-Charles Spurgeon

Grace Gems

The work of the Holy Spirit
- James Smith

I love to meditate on the work of the Holy Spirit to whom we are so much indebted, and from whom we receive such great and invaluable blessings. To Him, I feel that I am indebted for every good thought, and for every good work. How wonderful His patience, that He should bear with me so long; and how wonderful His loving-kindness, that He should confer on me so much! O that I was more deeply sensible of my obligations!

It was the Holy Spirit who quickened me when I was dead in trespasses and sins . . . imparting a new life, infusing new thoughts, and producing new desires in my soul.

Having quickened me, He conquered me, subduing . . . the enmity of my heart, the obstinacy of my will, the worldliness of my affections, and bringing every thought into subjection to the obedience of Christ. Having quickened and conquered me, He comforted me, assuring me of a saving interest in . . . the Love of God, the perfect work of Jesus, the precious promises of the Word, and the eternal rest which remains for the people of God.

Having quickened, conquered, and comforted me, He sanctified me by . . . separating me from the world, and setting me apart for my Redeemer's glory and praise.

As my Sanctifier, He became my Guide . . . leading me into the truth, conducting me out of the paths of danger, and directing me into the everlasting way.

Not only my guide, but He became my Guard . . . preserving me from danger, protecting me from foes, and becoming a wall of fire round about me. Whenever I wander, He reproves me; when I willfully go astray, He corrects me, and makes me smart for my folly. The work He began so long ago, He carries on; nor will He withdraw His hand from it, until it is perfected and I am fully fitted for glory.

Reader, what do you experimentally know of the work of the Holy Spirit? Has He quickened you? Has He conquered you? Does He comfort you? Are you sanctified by His presence, power, and operation in your heart? Does He . . . guide you by His counsel, guard you by His power, and correct you for your follies?

The work of the Spirit within us, is as necessary as the work of Jesus for us! For if the atonement of Christ entitles us to glory, it is the work of the Holy Spirit that prepares us to possess and enjoy it. We must be washed, justified, and sanctified, in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God—or we cannot be saved!

Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 04/28/2024

General Offering	5,828.51
Building Fund	1,019.75
Uganda Missions	200.00
Benevolence	5.00
G3 Offering	195.00

Total.....\$7,248.26

Attendance 189

G3 Foreign Missions\$1,786.50

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

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Grace Harvest Bible Church

May 5, 2024

Welcome