

Inspiration Inspiration



from the Pastor's Pen

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“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, long suffering.” (Galatians 5:22)

When God purposely isolates and spells out 9 specific qualities that will be coming direct from His Holy Spirit, He is really letting you know the extreme importance of these 9 specific fruits.

These 9 fruits are major fruits and qualities that are coming directly from God Himself - and every Christian should do the best they can to work with the Holy Spirit in getting all 9 of these fruits worked into his or her personality.

Love

If I had to rank all of the above fruits in their order of possible importance, the quality of love would have to be #1. And this is why it may have been listed as #1 fruit in the above Scripture verse.

One of the main messages that come through loud and clear from studying our Bible is the extreme importance that God is placing on love. God commands that we learn how to love Him, love ourselves, love one another, and to even go as far as to be able to love our enemies and those who will try and hurt us.

However, being human, the command to love one another is often times hard for us to do. This is why it is so important for you to work very closely with the Holy Spirit to get this fruit worked up into the core of your personality

God gives the commandment to love: *“As I loved you, so you too love one another.”*

This is self-less Christian love which embraces everyone, not just friends, but also enemies. In the Gospel, Jesus says: *“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even the sinners love those who love them.”* Jesus commanded something else of us: *“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who offend and persecute you.”* Thus, you love other people not for their good or disposition but for themselves; they too are very dear to God in themselves and the Jesus in you must reach out to the Jesus in them.

With your heart full of God's love, embrace someone you otherwise would not embrace. It may be someone who “irks” you on your job or someone who seems cold and distant. You will reap a blessing. **Amen?**

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