

The Holy Spirit & the Fruit of the New Birth

Born of the Spirit

- **Please Read: John 3:5-8; 1:10-13**
- **John 20:22**, “He breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”
- What makes Christianity a reality is the rebirth of the human spirit
 - o Which I believe to be the greatest of all God’s miracles known to humanity
 - o From death to life, darkness to light, from Satan’s nature to God’s nature

Titus 3:5, “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

A New Nature

- Sinners sin because that is their spiritual nature- that’s why we don’t judge them
 - o Jn 3:17- God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world
- John 8:44, “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.”
- **Please Read: 1 John 3:7-19**
- **2 Cor. 5:17**, A new creation with a new nature
- A completely new species, new creation- something that never existed before- brand new
- In God’s eyes it’s not our skin color, ethnicity, gender that determines who we are
 - o What counts for now and eternity is what spiritual nature we have

Galatians 3:26-28, “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

ZOE – Eternal Life

John 10:9-10 NKJV “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus...”

- Life – ZOE – The God Kind of Life – Just think of it- makes us children of God
- Christians mistake “Eternal Life” as their experience once they get to heaven
 - o Or that it means you will live forever- but every human being will live forever
- If you are born again, then you have eternal life in your spirit right now- nature of God
- There are 4 Greek words for Life- 1) Zoe, 2) psuche “human life” 3) Bios “Manner of life”
 - o Can anyone name the 4th – anastrophe “confused behavior”
- The Church has majored on manner of life or behavior rather than on eternal life- nature
- Eternal life is God imparting His very nature and Spirit in us to change us- **1 Cor. 1:5**

Fruit

Matthew 12:33, “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.”

Galatians 5:22-23 AMP

But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].

- Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faith, Gentleness, & Self-Control
- Is it the fruit of the Holy Spirit or the fruit of our recreated spirit or perhaps both

In the W.E. Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, points out that there is only one Greek word for “spirit” and that is “pneuma,” which means breath or spirit. Therefore, sometimes it is difficult to tell whether the Bible is talking about the Holy Spirit or the human spirit, unless it specifically says the Holy Spirit because the same Greek word, “pneuma,” is used for both words. It is obvious that the Bible is talking about the human spirit here in Gal. 5:22, not the Holy Spirit. How do I know that? Well, ask yourself the question, where does fruit grow? Fruit grows on the branches because of the life that comes from the trunk or the vine of the tree.

- **Please Read: Romans 11:16-18; John 15:1-17**
- The root supports the branches, but it's the branches that produce the fruit
- Certainly the Holy Spirit in our human spirit helps us in the fruit producing department
- The fruit in Galatians 5:22 is referring to the fruit of our recreated spirit- to come naturally
- Unlike fruit that grows, contrast that to the “Works of the Flesh” which are manufactured

The fruit of love is produced from our born again human spirit because of the life that comes from abiding in the Vine, the Lord Jesus Christ. That life has been imparted into our spirits through the Word of God by the Holy Spirit- born again of incorruptible seed- 1 Peter 1:23

- The nature of God within us is destined to grow and develop = spiritual maturity
- Fruit isn't produced fully mature; doesn't suddenly appear on a branch fully ripe
- Not automatic: requires cultivation, feeding, watering & exercise- Word & Spirit of God
- 1 John 4:18, *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drive out fear”*
- I'm not perfectly developed in Love, it's a process- we can grow, develop & mature in it

If we don't keep ourselves full of the Word and the Spirit so that the fruit of our spirit will dominate our lives, we will inevitably default to the flesh- a life of selfishness and self-gratification. Unfortunately, it takes no effort on our part to walk in the flesh, but to live out of our spirit requires discipline, deliberate, decisive and consistent application.

- **Please Read: 1 John 4:7-8**

Love

Romans 5:5, “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

- God is love and we are born of God- His life and love nature within us
- Walking in Love is key to walking in the Spirit, be led and used by the Holy Spirit
- In Acts 7:51 we see that folks can “Resist the Holy Spirit”
- Ephesians 4:30, the Holy Spirit can also be “Grieved”
- The Holy Spirit is all about unity within the Body of Christ

Ephesians 4:2-3, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

- The Early Church was a Spirit filled church and you could see the love of God operating

Acts 4:32-34, “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.”

- Strife, gossip, slander, arguments, jealousy etc. are works of the flesh
- The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God’s power, but also of His love

Galatians 5:13-15, “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

- A new commandment Jesus gave us in John 13:34-35
- Love is the fulfillment of the Law- Romans 13:8-10
- The greatest fruit of the move of the Holy Spirit is God’s love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 AMP

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end].

Joy

In Nehemiah 8:10, it states “for the joy of the Lord is your strength” and in Isaiah 12:3, “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” It’s no wonder the enemy wants to steal it.

- Joy is a fruit of our recreated spirit- results in praise, thanksgiving and gratitude
- Joy is not the same as happiness (favorable circumstances)- Joy is an unfading flame
- Joy and the operation of faith go hand in hand
- Joy is the note of victory, whether we feel like it or not- it’s stirred up by faith

Psalms 42:5-6, “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”

- Joy is a choice, released in our lives as we meditate on how Great our God is
- **Ps 126:3**, “The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”
- The Lord also pours out the anointing of joy upon us- **Hebrews 1:9**
- Ps 94:19, “When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.”

Ps 4:7- You have filled my heart with greater joy than when their grain and new wine abound.

Psalms 16:11, “You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Ps 21:6-You have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

- **Please Read: 2 Samuel 6:12-23** *Beware of kill joys, stealers and drainers*
- God wants us glad, happy and stress free- child like- excited and expectant
- Not grumpy or so serious and somber all the time with long faces- full of prune juice
- So how is Joy Expressed through our lives as a testimony to others?
- Psalms 5:11, “But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy”
- Psalms 27:6, “at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy”
- Psalms 28:7, “My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.”

Ps 30:11-12

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Ps 126:2-3, “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

- Angels know about joy
- Job 38:7, “while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy”
- Heb. 12:22, “You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly”
- Luke 15:10, “I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one...”

Peace

- The world is in desperate pursuit for peace, but it elusively evades them
- Isa 48:22, *"There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked."*
- Ps 9:17, *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God."*

Job 3:25-26, "What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil."

- Peace is more than just the absence of conflict or division; war and turmoil
- Peace is a tangible spiritual substance that affects the very atmosphere or person

Luke 10:5-7, "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you."

- There is no peace apart from Jesus Christ who is the Prince of Peace
- 2 Th. 3:16, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way."
- **Please Read: Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 19:41-44**
- **Please Read: John 14:26-27; 16:33**
- Ro. 5:1, "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus"

Isaiah 53:5, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

- 1 Tim 1:2 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- The Peace of God: produces comfort, rest and quietness of soul; security and safety
- Ps 4:8, *"I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."*
- Ps 29:11, *"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace."*
- Ps 119:165, *"Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble."*
- What we allow in our minds greatly determines the measure of peace- Mind of Christ
- Isa 26:3, *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."*
- Rom 8:6, *"The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace"*
- **Please Read: Philippians 4:2-9**
- Our actions have a great bearing on the measure of peace that we have
- James 3:18, *"Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."*

Eph. 4:2-4, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Col. 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."

- **Please Read: Ro. 14:17-19; 15:13** Holy Spirit facilitates the peace of God in our lives

Patience

In the KJV, this fruit was translated “Longsuffering.” Not in all to imply that we have to suffer as we endure or put up with the enemy’s attacks- to suffer long. Patience coupled with joy causes us to be more than conquerors in life- patience is a choice and the Holy Spirit working in us.

2 Timothy 3:10-11, “You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings.”

- Romans 12:12, *“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”*
- Patience is as an aspect of love, in that it always perseveres- 1 Corinthians 13:4
- Notice that the first point in describing love is “Love is patient...” in vs 4
- **Please Read: James 5:10-11; 2 Timothy 4:1-2**

This God like attribute in us never gives up or quits until every available resource has been exhausted for people to repent. Patience coupled with joy is God’s wonderful provision of grace to face any difficulty in life and overcome it with a heart that never quits- a godly stubbornness.

Colossians 1:11-13, “Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.”

Hebrews 6:12, “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

- With God there is a timing to things and we don’t want to force things prematurely
- Being patient is a sign of faith where we are resting and trusting in God at work

Luke 8:15, “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

In our western culture, we want everything fast, right now. Unfortunately this kind of culture cultivates impatience in us. I believe that rural communities who embark upon agriculture as their livelihood understand what it means to wait patiently for a harvest. They have an advantage over us urban dwellers who are accustomed to instant this and instant that, fast food restaurants, and microwave dinners.

James 5:7-8, “Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near.”

- Patience, longsuffering, perseverance, endurance to not quit or give up
- A spiritual stamina, strength & fortitude to go the distance- the Holy Spirit at work in us

Kindness

The KJV uses the word “Gentleness” here but I’m going with kindness since the KJV uses the word “Kindness” in other passages as the same Greek word elsewhere like Colossians 3:12 & Titus 3:4.

- 1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love is patient, love is kind.”
- The fruit of kindness is a defining characteristics seen through our actions to others
- Kindness is really a multi-faceted word- so let’s see how it is used in Scripture
- **Please Read: Ephesians 2:6-7; Titus 3:3-5** *First, let’s see God’s Kindness Towards us*
- Mercy is a form of kindness extended towards those who don’t deserve it
- **Please Read: Acts 4:8-10** *Healing is a form of kindness*
- **Please Read: 2 Samuel 9:1-8; Joshua 2:8-14** *To show pity and spare one’s life*

Generous & Giving

- **Please Read: 1 John 3:17-18** *Kind acts of giving to those in need*
 - o The word “Pity” is GR “Bowels, Intestines” speaks of inward pity, mercy & affection
- Pr 11:17, “A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.”
- Pr 12:25, “An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”
- Pr 19:17, “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, he will reward him for what he has done.”

Acts 28:1-3 *After Paul’s Shipwreck*

Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.

Kindness Expressed through Forgiveness

- One of the greatest aspects of kindness is seen when forgiveness and mercy is extended
- **Please Read: Colossians 3:12-14**

Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

- **Please Read: Luke 6:35-38; Acts 14:16-17**
- When we feel like saying “I told you so” and rubbing it in- we show kindness instead
- Instead of giving people what they deserve we give them kindness instead

1 Thessalonians 5:15, “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

2 Timothy 2:24, “And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.”

So we so these wonderful words wrapped up in Kindness: Compassion, Pity, Healing, Forgiveness, Sympathetic, Merciful & Generous- pleasing to the Lord and for the Holy Spirit to move!

Goodness

Luke 18:18-19, "A certain ruler asked him, 'Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good — except God alone.'"

- God is a good God, yes He is – God is Love so God is Good
- Ps 107:1, *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*
- Rom 2:4, *"knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance."*
- Ps 86:5, *"You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you."*
- John 10:10- Good God versus bad devil – simple theology – the Good Shepherd, lays down
- There are literally hundreds of Scriptures that declare and illustrate the goodness of God

James 1:16-17, "Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

- The nations know their gods as aloof, austere, angry, demanding and vindictive
- The devil is a liar and tries to slander the goodness of the true and living God
- **Please Read: Luke 11:5-13**
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is a clear demonstration of God's goodness

Lk. 12:32, "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Walking in our Father's Footsteps

The essence of goodness is always looking after the welfare of others- totally unselfish.

Goodness is a fruit of God's love nature in us- demonstrated in enriching & blessing others.

God is the source of all that is good, and is bestowed upon humanity as a seed to be reproduced and embraced in our lives; with the intent to be passed on and sowed into others.

- God sets the bar or standard of what goodness is and what it looks like- how it's defined
- Through the new birth we are good natured – we have God's nature of goodness in us
- **Please Read: Matthew 12:33-35** - A tree is known by its fruit

Eph. 2:8-10, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- Eph. 5:1 states to be imitators of God, therefore as dearly loved children- goodness is seen
- Acts 20:35, *"Remember the words of Jesus, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*
- How God treats us and how we treat others is how goodness is put on display
- Goodness is always highly sought after and desired by all

Galatians 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Faith

The Young's literal translation, KJV and many others more accurately translates this Greek word here "pistis" as faith, which is used elsewhere in the Bible as belief in God.

- Romans 10:17, "Consequently, 'Faith' *pistis* comes by hearing and hearing by the Word..."
- Hebrews 11:6, "And without 'Faith' *pistis* it is impossible to please God, because..."
- We were born into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ- confessing Him as Lord
- Literally, we received salvation by believing and speaking God's word from our mouths

Mathew 12:37 YLT, "for from thy words thou shalt be declared righteous, and from thy words thou shalt be declared unrighteous."

1 Peter 1:23, "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God." *The seed is the word of God-* Lk. 8:11

- The Word of Faith- Ro. 10:8, "Get the word in your mouth so it gets in your heart"
- The Spirit of Faith- 2Cor.4:13, "Believing from the heart, the mouth speaks to move Mts"
- In John 6:63, Jesus said, "*The words I have spoken unto you are spirit and they are life.*"

God's Word that is conceived in your heart and spoken out of your own mouth, becomes a spiritual force releasing the ability, power (Grace) of God within you. When God's creative Word is spoken from your heart in faith- all things are possible to those who believe!

- God's grace is contained in His Word- John 1:14- Jesus the Word 'full of grace and truth'
- Acts 20:32, "*Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build...*"
- 2 Cor. 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Ephesians 3:7, "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power."

- The cornerstone principle of the Bible: "by God's grace and through our faith"
 - o Ephesians 2:8, "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith*"
- Power of God is in the Word of God; the promise is produced when mixed with faith- Heb 4
- Grace: "Grace is the power of God at work in us who believe" **Please Read: Romans 12:3-8**

At the new birth, God gives to each believer the same measure of faith to start with- notice the Bible says "the measure" not "a measure." It's up to each believer to develop and cause that measure to grow and increase through meditating and acting upon the Word- **2 Th. 1:3**

Acts 6:1-10 Stephen was full of faith and the Holy Spirit (vs 5) = full God's grace and power (vs 8). Faith is a fruit of our spirit – every Christian has faith (the measure of faith) like they do patience. Needs to grow and develop- Fruit grows and so does our faith- meditate and act on God's Word.

Gentleness

Such a beautiful fruit of our recreated spirit, being sensitive, considerate and merciful to people. The KJV version has translated this word as meekness. Meekness is not to be confused with weakness. Meekness is another word for humility, Eph. 4:2, *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”* I see gentleness, meekness and humility here in:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 AMP “Love is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].”

Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

- The Holy Spirit at times will move in a sweet, gentle and graceful manner
- The more we are in God’s presence the sweeter we become- as in fresh water- refreshing
- **Please Read: 1 Kings 19:1-14** The Lord dealt gently with Elijah

2 Corinthians 10:1, “By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you — I, Paul, who am ‘timid’ when face to face with you, but ‘bold’ when away!”

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 4:18-21** *I’ll take love and a gentle spirit*
- Paul was mature and measured in exercising church discipline and spiritual authority
- **Please Read: 1 Th. 2:3-12** *Our appeal does not spring from error or impure motives*

Humility is reality (relying upon God as our source) and pride is deception (relying upon ourselves). James 4:6 says, *“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble”*

- Pr. 15:1, *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”*
- Philippians 4:5, *“Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”*
- James 4:10, *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. “*

Luke 14:11

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Philippians 2:8-11, “And Jesus being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Self-Control

I like to refer to this attribute or fruit of our spirit this way, “Keeping our flesh under control.” Whether it’s restraining from retaliating and taking revenge on someone who offended or indulging the passions of the sinful nature in our flesh, the fruit of self-control keeps it at bay.

Definition: the ability to control oneself, in particular one’s emotions and desires or the expression of them in one’s behavior, especially in difficult situations.

- Restraint exercised over one’s own impulses, emotions, or desires
- Ability to regulate one’s emotions, thoughts and behavior in the face of tempt/impulses
- KJV translates Galatians 5:23 as ‘Temperance’ – voluntary moderation and self-restraint.
- Titus 1:8, an elder should be “self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.”

Restraining the Flesh

- **Please Read: Romans 13:11-14; 1 Th. 4:3-8**
- Ro. 12:17, “do not repay anyone evil for evil” | Eph. 4:26, “In your anger do not sin”
- There’s no grace in religion to deal with the sinful nature- Colossians 2:20-23
- It’s by the Spirit of Holiness that we bring our body under subjection- Romans 8:12-13
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 7:1-9** *Marriage helps keep it in check*
- Pr. 25:28, “Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.”

1 Peter 5:8, “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

- When there is no self-control than we are out of control- wild and crazy behavior
 - o A body left unchecked runs on instinct – a sure path to self-destruction- **Jude 10**

Gal 5:24-25, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Sanctification

Our new spiritual nature is holy/righteous- to be like God, Ephesians 4:24, “and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

- In the OT there was a “Nazarite” vow – voluntarily be consecration and separated
- Involved the abstinence of anything from grapes, cannot cut hair or touch dead things
- **Please Read: Numbers 6:1-8; Judges 13**
- We are sanctified and consecrated unto the Lord via the new birth
- But this must be lived out in our lives- offering our bodies as living sacrifices – Ro. 12:1
- **Please Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1**
- To be separate and not love this world or anything in it

Freedom from Selfishness

We have just shared an amazing journey to rediscover the fruit of our recreated spirit. God is love and we are partakers of that divine nature in our recreated spirit nature. When we were born again we received eternal life- the very life and nature of God in us- His own love nature.

- However the fruit of our spirit needs to mature, grow and be developed
- Being full of the Word and the Spirit we will grow in grace as we practice these fruit
- Spiritual maturity is measured by our love walk which is essential for our faith to work
- Moreover, as we have been saying the move of the Spirit in our midst rests upon love
- Galatians 5 contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of our spirit – how we will live
 - o Vs16- If we live by the Spirit we will not gratify the desires of the flesh
 - o Vs 18- If we are led by the Spirit then we are not under law – we walk in love
 - o Vs 25- Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit
 - Not being conceited, provoking and envying each other

Hebrews 10:24-25, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

- I believe that selfishness is the root of all sins
 - o The original sin
 - o The fall of Man
 - o Continued on in Human history and manifested in war, crimes, human behavior
- **Please Read: Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11**
- **Please Read: James 3:13-18** *Satan’s original and continual sin is selfish ambition*

Genesis 3:6, “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

- **Philippians 2:21**, “For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”
- The battle against selfishness will be a lifelong one as long as we live in this mortal body
- The good news is we have so much working for us to overcome it in every area of our lives
- **Please Read: Philippians 2:1-13**

Close relationships, like parents, spouse and close friends are avenues by which God helps identify and put his finger on buttons of selfishness that need to be eradicated. Folks who isolate themselves from others in order to protect themselves, limit the necessary influences in life to foster change in them. When people bring the worst out of us, we should thank them for identifying those weak areas in our lives that needs to be addressed by the Word and the Holy Spirit- they’re really doing us a favor. The more perfected we become in Love, the less the enemy can take advantage of us- become untouchable.