FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Key Text: Galatians 5:22+23

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Heavenly Father we bless Your Holy name for the opportunity given to us to be among the living and also to study under Your feet, receive the glory in Jesus Name. Both our teacher and we the listeners grant us the wisdom to understand Your word in Jesus Name.

I welcome everyone in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23 KJV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

What is fruit?

- It is the outcome of a particular thing.

- It is the evidence of a particular thing.

- It is the result of something.

- It is the undeniable proof of something.

Now the word of God is saying the outcome, evidence, results and proof of the Holy Spirit are these things mentioned, this tells us that if a man claims to have the Holy Spirit, these are the things that most showcase and prove his claims. All the things mentioned are one. That is why the word "fruit" is not pluralised. Those things mentioned are the results found on one particular tree called the Spirit. Jesus Christ says that, He is the true Vine, and we are the branches. If truly we are a branch of Christ then we must bear fruits according to the Spirit that lives in us. That was why He said if a man does not bear good fruits then he is cut down and cast into the fire. It is expected of us to bear good fruits.

God wants us to bear fruits, He does not want us to be barren, and not that we should only bear fruits but that we should bear good fruit. This is the result of the fact that we are following Him. This would prove to the world that indeed we have the same Spirit such as the one in Him. The Spirit is the One that helps us not to bear bad fruits which are the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 KJV This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. From this we know that the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit are contrary to one another.

That is why a man cannot fake it that He has the Holy Spirit when it does not, a person who is not saved cannot pretend for long if he tries to, the fruit would expose him. The more reason why a false minister can be easily detected. The Holy Spirit is one with many packages in Him and the moment we are saved these packages are opened to our spirits to express the image we been exposed to in the realm of the spirit, now we can no longer live for ourselves but to

live in accordance to the dictates of the Spirit of God which has been revealed to our spirit. The more reason you would not be able to do things you found easy to do before you accepted Christ, because there is now a new source in your life. A genuine born again would exhibit this fruit because they are the evidence that he has the Holy Spirit.

If anyone is missing, it is therefore possible that the person is the one resisting the flow of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit at work is different from the one exhibited in the world. When the world loves it is different from the one given by the Spirit because what the world calls love in most cases is not love according to the Spirit. Let's examine the fruit of the Spirit in relation to what it is with God and what it is to the world. Because there are times that we see unbelievers expressing some good attributes which we might believe to be the fruit of the Spirit, an unbeliever can be good but his goodness is not the one given by the Spirit.

LOVE

What is love?

God is Love. I would rather define love this way because it is what God encapsulates. The "Love" of that fruit of the Spirit is not a feeling but a choice. It is agape love, it is not a love a man can strive to get by his own ability or strength. When it is said that bear fruit, it means allow the flow of the Holy Spirit in you to produce results. It is how well we allow the Holy Spirit to manifest Himself through us that can produce this fruit, it is exercised through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a choice to be kind, to sacrifice, to consider another's needs greater then one's own. Philippians 2:3 KJV Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

It is something that comes out of a man naturally, not something forced. It is as a result of I'm maturity of a tree that a tree cannot bear fruit that is the same way with the Spirit, for a

man to produce fruit he must have grown. This is the major reason why someone who is not saved cannot love the way God wants him to love. A love that seeks no advantage over others, this kind of love can only be gotten through the Holy Spirit. No amount of human toil, or determination can produce Spiritual fruits, but the Spirit's influence in a yielding heart can. That is why the Spirit prompts you to still bless the person who just finished ridiculing you. Just like Stephen at the point of death he still loved, not because he tried to but because he had allowed the Holy Spirit to gain expression in him.

A love that makes a man pray for those who want to kill him is not the love spurred by the world. In fact, the love of the world says do good to those who do good to you, but God says do good to your enemies. Those people that hate you at your workplace, you need to do good to them, as a child of God you cannot hate them because you have the Holy Spirit in you. There is no genuine reason to hate anyone on earth.

As a Christian you must allow the Holy Spirit to work thoroughly in your life. Agape love is an "hard" kind of love, it is not a love that an ordinary man can exhibit, it is difficult for the flesh to produce, in fact the flesh cannot produce it because flesh is always self centered.

John 15:13 KJV Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. This was basically what Christ did. He literally died for us all and bore our pains, He was not the offender, He did not deserve to die, yet He went all the way to Calvary to die for you and I. Now the Lord is not saying that you should kill yourself because of anyone but that you should lay down your life in every other way. This kind of love is directly opposite to selfishness. It does not concern itself about what it would gain but what the other person stands to gain, it does not pride itself guiding its own ego no! It seeks the well-being of the other. It is a kind of love that places itself at the last end. Jesus Christ did not think about Himself before dying He thought

about what would become of us if He does not. Because of how uneasy it is to exhibit this kind of love, it is therefore referred to as a hard love but as Christians we must exhibit it because that is God's nature.

1 John 3:11 KJV For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. God's commandments right from time memorial has always centred on love, love for God and love for one another. If we put God in mind whenever we do things and also put others in the equation then we would walk uprightly. Luke 6:35 KJV But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. When the scriptures is talking about enemy it means "foe" not friend. If you are meant to do good to your enemies then what should you do to your friends?

Some don't even greet those whom they believe are their enemies. Immediately they discover

that someone is seeking after their hurt they would start to keep malice. Christians that keep malice do not know what they are doing, they have not learned that from Christ. Just imagine someone who took your certificate and destroyed it, which cost you to lose a well-paid job, coming to you to borrow money to buy food because he is hungry and you going inside to give him the last notes of currency with you so that he can buy something to eat. Can that be exhibited by a man who is not under the influence of the Holy Spirit? even to the point of not collecting the money back. It is love that makes us value anything other than God, the love we have for God would make us obey His commandments even when others are saying it is burdensome, we will see it as a kind of way to reciprocate our love for Him.

1 John 5:3 KJV For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. Love is the greatest gift God can give (1 Corinthians 13) love (agape) is kind, never fails and is patient.

There are still some Christians who take revenge, love is not like that. Love as a fruit of the Spirit talks about you allowing the Spirit to gain a selfless expression in you. But love as a whole is wider than ordinary understanding can comprehend.

JOY

What is Joy?

This is a state of happiness or felicity, a source or cause of delight, it is gladness in our inward part. The Spirit produces this, that is why a true child of God would always be seen smiling because the joy of the Lord fills his heart. The Holy Spirit helps us to keep God's commandments, as He steps forward to produce joy in us. John 15:10-11 KJV If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. [11] These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. Every fruit of the Spirit is a reflection of spiritual growth the more we get more acquainted with Christ through His word the more our joy He raises and this would rule our spirit.

The fact that a man is born again means he must therefore bear fruits of Joy. This kind of

Joy is not the one gotten from people, things around or pleasure, but the one given by God Himself, it is eternal and not temporal like the one the world gives. In most cases the fruit of Joy accompanies salvation, that is why when most people give their lives to Jesus Christ, they experienced a kind of Joy in their hearts that they cannot understand. That was why they kept on smiling and willing to share the gospel at every point in time. However, this joy can be lost if a man continues in perpetual sins. At times when you fall into sin you feel sad, by this indication you repent and continue to glow.

But many no longer have joy, it has been stolen by the enemy a long time ago and God is willing to restore this joy, but they themselves are nowhere to be found. The psalmist recognised the importance of this joy that was why he cried out to God for the restoration of it after committing so many sins. Psalm 51:12 KJV Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.If you have lost

your joy I believe you would cry out for restoration today.

Romans 14:17 KJV For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. An evidence that you are experiencing the kingdom of God here on Earth is that you are filled with the joy of the Holy Ghost. This kind of Joy helps one to rejoice even in suffering and tribulations, in sickness and poverty. It is far above what the world calls joy, in fact meaningless to a carnal mind. 2 Corinthians 7:4 KJV Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation. here we see Paul talking about him exceedingly joyful in all their tribulation.

On the world level tribulation can never bring joy but it does bring joy to men of the Spirit. As Christians, negative things that happen to us for Christ's sake will produce joy in us. 2 Corinthians 8:2 KJV How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their

deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. These were the remarks of Apostle Paul concerning the churches of Macedonia talking about how by God's grace they were able to suffer great trials of affliction with joy. When some people suffer little persecution when they are not guilty, they weep and weep, this is not the fruit of the Spirit. Joy abounds in our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and we are to continue in it as the Holy Spirit continually spurs us.

Philippians 1:25 KJV And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; This joy can be prayed for once it is lacking. This is when we would even rejoice whenever we are tried. Joy is the natural reaction to the works of God whether promised or fulfilled. And it manifests in different ways.

1. The joy of deliverance: This is when God sets one free from bondage or from enemies (1 Samuel 2:1, Acts 12:14)

2. The joy of salvation: There is no greater reason to be joyful than this, than for us to know God's plan to save us so that we can be together with Him for eternity. (Luke 15:7, Acts 8:8, Acts 13:52)

3. The joy of spiritual maturity: The more we grow in Christ we get more matured, and bear fruit that makes us more confident in God's promises and rejoice in our walk with Him and other believers. (John 15:11, Philippians 2:2, Hebrews 10:34) We endure because of the joy set before us.

4. The joy of God's presence: The Holy Spirit is the One that draws us to God and makes us a partaker of His joyful presence as believers we carry God's presence around, which produces joy in us. (Psalms 16:11, Matthew 2:10) we are therefore to express our joy that it becomes an action. There are times that this joy becomes overwhelming that we cannot express it. We can choose to be joyful by accepting God's word, promises and His presence, joy is not to be found in this world that does not know God but

in constant fellowship with Him, this is what can make our joy complete.

PEACE

What is peace?

- Peace is a state of tranquility or quietness.

- It is freedom from disturbance.

- It is a state of calmness, sereneness, serenity and stillness.

This is a state of the mind that everyone wants to experience except those whom the devil is using. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit and bear His fruit will have inner peace and also seek peace wherever they find themselves. The Lord Jesus Christ wants us to have peace. He wants us to be free from every form of trouble and disturbances. He Himself is the Prince of Peace.

For this reason if we say we are in Christ we should also have peace that even the world can testify to. Peace as a fruit is not what any man can achieve or get by efforts, it naturally flows out and expressed by true children of God, in

most cases when a man just gives his life to Christ, there is this kind of peace he gets in his heart that he is now in good relationship with God. He would basically have little or nothing to worry about. The peace we exhibit as a fruit was paid for by Christ on the cross Isaiah 53:5 KJV But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him. This was one of the major reasons why Christ died to create peace between us and God. In the same way if we say that we have Christ in us then we should have His peaceful nature in us we should be peacemakers just as He taught us in Matthew 5:9 KJV Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Jesus Christ is our model that is why this fruit would be linked to Him once we exhibit it. A man who has this fruit of the Spirit can never be comfortable where there is strife,

hate, quarrels, dissensions, commotion, tumult, unrest, uproar, and pandemonium.

There are some Christian homes that are unsettled currently just because this fruit is lacking, but once they start to manifest the family will become happy again. The devil does not want any child of God to be happy at any point in time because he knows that in it his strength lies, so he always looks for ways to attack one's peace so as to steal one's joy. Mark 9:50 KJV ...Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another. The Lord Jesus Christ said "have peace with one another" this is a way to know if you possess this fruit, when you cannot remain calm or untroubled whenever you observe that someone has something against you. You would always want to be at peace with everyone you come across. Jesus Christ said follow peace with all men.

The Lord always wants to see His own children in perfect peace. Isaiah 26:3 KJV Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee : because he trusteth in thee. And because

of the importance of this fruit of the Spirit, the Lord released it to His disciples at His departure. John 14:27 KJV Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. Here He made it clear that the peace He is giving them is different from the one the world can give any man. If the world gives a man outward peace can the world give him inward peace? The devil takes away our peace through anxiety, agitation, nervousness etc. He always throws these things at us so as to cause an unstable mind. But the Lord is saying "do not be fearful nor be afraid" I have given you my peace, most times weak Christians are the ones who experience lack of peace easily, there are times that you would fall into sin and the devil will capitalise on that sin to the point that you will lose your peace even after you have genuinely repented.

Although the Holy Spirit alerts us most times of our wrongs by constantly pointing out sins to us

and giving us the solution instantly, at that point if one does not heed to His voice, one might not be at peace until one repents. Any prompting in the Spirit that causes unrest and spurs one to godly repentance is from the Holy Spirit and we must obey. The importance of this fruit made Jesus always greet peace when He got to many homes. Those who reject Jesus Christ have not known the way of peace. Romans 3:17 KJV And the way of peace have they not known: The gospel itself comes with Peace not false peace as some say. Romans 10:15 KJV And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! God is the author of peace.

1 Corinthians 14:33 KJV For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. This fruit that the Spirit produces in us would help us live peaceably with everyone around us and even in the Church of God. 2 Timothy 2:22 KJV Flee also

youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. A man who must harvest righteousness must plant the seed of peace making. James 3:18 KJV And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. But at the same time the fruit of the Spirit includes a peace that goes beyond that of salvation. It is a sweet relationship. We are called to His presence. (Ephesians 2:11-18) and called to be confident in that presence (Hebrew 4:10) because we are His friends (John 15:15) the spirit-filled Christian has a peace that is abundantly available in every situation unlike anything that the world has to offer. (John 14:27)

LONG-SUFFERING

What is long-suffering?

- It is the act of serious persistence to endure hardship especially for the sake of Christ and the gospel.

- It is the ability to endure much pain and suffering without complaining.

At times patience is not easy to exercise or exhibit that is why we must rest on the Holy Spirit to lead us through. As Christians a lot of things would happen that will test our patience. Challenges will rise that will test how much we are able to persist for Christ. But when this fruit is born in us we would find it easy to hold onto Christ even when things don't seem right and this we will do with joy.

This fruit of the Spirit is very important especially during these last days, the Antichrist will soon show up and those who lack the ability to suffer long will fall away. Because they will not be able to endure. This fruit of the

Spirit is as important as the others and it helps us even in our daily activities, in our relationship with others, even in our families, in some families some children are known for their ability to endure and adapt to any kind of situation that suffices in the family but some cannot stand a little problem. But in situations when the weak one gets saved and receives the fruit of long-suffering or patience, it will be discovered that those weak ones would be the ones to be encouraging others in moments of crisis.

A man who is patient would have an even temper, he would be able to forbear anything impatience can make a man do irrational things at times, it will look as if waiting before taking some actions is taking too long then doing things that can jeopardize the future. You must bear fruit of patients even in your walk with Christ, you must know that His timings are different from yours, that is why you must learn to forbear. This also has to do with tolerance, some people don't know how to

tolerate others they can not stand humiliation, so they tend to bark at every wrong thing done by those around them.

We should be able to tolerate others no matter their tribe, religion, family, race, nation etc we should have the capacity to endure pain or hardship, although this does not mean that we should compromise our faith or the truth of God's word for lies, we have to stand firm in the truth as we tolerate others no matter what. A patient person is slow to anger as they wait for God to provide comfort and punish wrongdoing. Patience comes from a position of power. A person may have the ability to take revenge or cause trouble but patience brings self-restraint and careful thinking. Losing patience is a sign of weakness.

- Long suffering is God's nature. (Exodus 34:6 Numbers 14:18)

- Through long-suffering we are able to forgive one another and it happens to be true love. (Ephesians 4:2)

- We approve ourselves as the ministers of God by long-suffering (2 Corinthians 6:6)

- As elect of God we are commanded to put on long suffering. (Colossians 3:2)

- Our lives must follow the pattern that showcases long-suffering which the Lord produced in Apostle Paul.

- The Lord's long-suffering is towards us because he does not want any to perish. (2 Peter 3:9)

KINDNESS

What is kindness

- It is a sympathetic or helpful nature

- It is having a compassionate, soft hearted, warm-hearted and tenderheartedness.

If you look into the life of Jesus Christ our Savior carefully you will evidently see this fruit in His ministry, most times he healed out of compassion to show an act of kindness. Most times those who have this fruit are able to do miracles and healings because such kinds of hearts born out of love from the Holy Spirit cannot be overlooked by God. This type of kindness is different from the one the world has to offer, it comes from the Holy Ghost. 2 Corinthians 6:6 KJV By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, We are commanded to put on kindness as elect of God, this we can achieve by giving place to the Holy Spirit to gain expression through us. Colossians 3:12 KJV Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and

beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; It was kindness for the wretched state of man that made God to send His Son to us to redeem us.

Titus 3:4 KJV But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, our salvation is an act of His kind nature. When we also possess this nature we would act beyond our normal ability to be kind, even to those who do not deserve it. This kind of kindness is what the world calls "foolishness" because it is one that shows compassion and gives a good reward to those who do us bad. It is such that does not think to do evil but is tender-hearted placing oneself in the person's shoe.

Everyone deserves our kindness no matter the age, family, race, religion etc. One must be kind even to animals. Some people can kick an animal that does not plan to do them harm, they will just feel like kicking it out of the way, this is not a kind heart. We must let the Holy

Spirit do His work in our lives, we must make sure that we do not let flesh make us react harshly and unconcerned about others. It is kindness that would make a man place another person's needs above his. It is kindness that will make one purse what he is doing to help others. Jesus was going and the crowd encompassed Him and blind Bartimaeus shouted for mercy, people around him who do not have this fruit of the spirit told him to be quiet because they do not care if he get healed. They knew he was blind, in fact, they nicknamed him "blind bartimaeus" yet said he should keep quiet!

What does that mean?

- Keep quiet, it's not someone like you that Jesus Christ is looking for.

- Shut up and maintain your blind state.

- No one would listen to you and even Jesus will not answer you because the people He wants to attend to are just too many.

- You are so irrelevant that He may not even attend to you.

But this man had heard about the caring nature of Christ before, He heard that He has been doing good without collecting a dime and He Himself is a poor man who does not have anything to offer Christ, even if he was asked to bring money he does not have. He is in a state of helplessness but he was not hopeless and he cried loudly among the thousands of people that were following Jesus, imagine the noise, imagine the distractions. And Jesus heard his voice and stood still, and commanded them to bring him to Him. I pray for someone reading this that because of you and that your own difficult situation the Lord Jesus Christ will standstill to attend to you in Jesus Christ name.

They brought him to Jesus Christ and he received his sight. Beloved, in the midst of the crowd the Lord could have pretended as if He did not hear blind Bartimaeus' voice but out of kindness He could not just walk away by ignoring the voice of someone who desperately

needed help, He had to stand still. He did not wait because blind man Bartimaeus was a prominent man who would give Him money. He did not wait because He knew that if He helped him he would later come and pay Him. But because the nature He had could not resist helping him He waited. When we show kindness because of what we have envisaged that will happen in future probably because of the good we will receive in future from those we do good to then that is not the kind of kindness produced by the Holy Spirit.

It is a type that does not expect a reward when done. By compassion, Jesus did a lot of good works. In the parable of the wicked servant, why the wicked servant was punished was because he did not bear the fruit of kindness by forgiving the other servant of his debt, while he himself received kindness from his master. Matthew 18:33 KJV Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? That is how many people are today who have received kindness from Christ

but refuse to show kindness to others. Forgiveness is also an act of kindness. As Christians we must be kind and known for it, not as an act of eye service but as what flows out of our heart, the Lord seeks those who would be merciful to others in mind, heart and in acts.

GOODNESS

What is Goodness?

Goodness is the quality or state of being good. It has to do with the character of God, and goodness is one that relates directly to morality. This is the desire to be a blessing to others, it is not what one can achieve by human or self effort. It is a moral characteristic of a Spirit-filled person. It seeks the benefits of others and not just because one decides to be good. When the Holy Spirit yields this fruit in our lives we will selflessly act on behalf of others. The fruit must be exhibited in the lives of true children of God as they want the well-being of others around them. It is goodness that would make a man see his fellow believer drawing away from Christ and call his attention to it.

We have people around us who have forsaken Christ to take up something else even unknown to them. But we know those things, we are aware of it but instead for us to come to the aid

of the person we keep quiet and think in our hearts that it is not our business. Those who behave in such a way do not have this fruit. There were some focused believers who constantly preached Christ and are now preaching networking business, cryptocurrency, money doubling and making platforms. They have lost focus and when we notice this and not talk, it means we do not mind if such people perish. Goodness would make a person point out the sins of an erring man to him challenging him to repent and stand strong in Christ.

Goodness spurs giving at times, you might enter into a public transport incidentally with someone you know so well and even those you do not know, goodness will let you pay such a person's transport fare with nothing attached. But in a situation you did that just because you have been eyeing the sister and have been looking for an opportunity to get her then you decide to pay her transport fare so that you can get her attention, that is a goodness from the

world's perspective and not the fruit of the Spirit. Goodness can make you give up your seat to another, probably, you find yourself at a place with limited seats or the hall may be occupied already and you are lucky enough to get a seat. Goodness can make you stand up for the pregnant woman who just came in, or the sick person. It is goodness that will make you go and visit the sick in the hospital or at home to ask after their health and pray with them.

As a student, goodness will make you forsake your leisure to take free tutorials with those who do not understand the course even at your inconvenience. It can make you rearrange a scattered place even when you are not the one that scattered it. It can make you even pray for your enemy. To the world, praying for your enemy is foolish and can't be done, but with goodness as prompted by the Holy Spirit you can do it.

There is no excuse for any man not to exercise this fruit. If we see that we lack it then it's our duty to cry to God for help. We must possess the

character because it is God's character, our God is a good God who is good both to those who do Good and evil.

- He causes rain to fall both on the just and on the wicked. Psalm 107:15 KJV Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

- He wants to show His goodness to His people for them to be satisfied in it. Jeremiah 31:14 KJV And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord.

- The goodness of God is great. Zechariah 9:17 KJV For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids.

- His goodness leads men to repentance. Romans 2:4 KJV Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

- God wants us to be full of goodness. Romans 15:14 KJV And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

- All the things that comes from the Spirit are expressed in goodness. Ephesians 5:9 KJV (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

As Christians we must let the Holy Spirit have His place in our lives to the point that He would shape our characters, some are rigid to the point that they do not want to change. They have not been giving place to the workings of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We must resolute and release ourselves to allow the outflow of the workings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It must swallow up our personal moral standards and replace them with godly moral standards. Goodness will make you do good even to someone who you do not know, helping them would give you pleasure, please produce goodness as a fruit.

FAITHFULNESS

What is faithfulness?

The word faithfulness is derived from the word "Faith" which means believe and trust in and loyalty to God, it means firm belief in something for which there is no proof. It also refers to complete trust.

- It is from the word we have faithfulness which is firm in adherence to promises or in observance of duty.

- it can also mean steadfast in affection or allegiance.

I will therefore say faith-full which means full of faith.

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. NLT

But faithfulness on a general biblical term is the assurance that God exists beyond reasonable doubt and the Grace to trust in Him.

Faithfulness is steadfastness, constancy or allegiance. It is carefulness in keeping what is entrusted into our hands. It is the conviction that the scriptures accurately reflect reality. Faithfulness as a fruit of the Spirit, does not only allow us to have strong belief and assurance in God but also helps us to constantly prove ourselves truthful before Him and before men.

It makes us stand distinct as we would not be found in deceitfulness or trickery, because we have the consciousness that God is everywhere we then remain truthful at every point in time. The Spirit builds this consciousness in us which will then make us to be plain, dedicated, devoted, and loyal. Those who have the fruit of faithfulness do not fall into the acts of betrayal, they remain loyal to God and to people, they do not accommodate lies. They are always committed with whatever thing God has placed in their hands. The Spirit of God makes them to always see Christ in their duty posts and not men, so they know that their services are not to

men but to Christ. Anyone who has this fruit won't be unfaithful in marriage, because this fruit would basically reflect in every area of such a person's life. In the workplace he/she would serve diligently even if his boss is younger than him.

He would preach and teach only what God sent him to preach no matter what people will say. One thing about faithfulness is that it makes a man remain truthful and dutiful even when no one is watching him to chastise him. He/She that is faithful sees being faithful as a lifestyle.

Faithfulness creates trust, but because of the unfaithfulness of many Christians they can no longer be trusted. They are now being carefully checked and watched so as not to steal at work. Some are placed under serious supervision in the exam hall because the lecturers/invigilators cannot trust them. During exams, in a Bible school, are there supposed to be invigilators watching them for them not to cheat? Except for the sake of sharing papers and other related

reasons, but not for the sake of examination malpractice.

They should be able to do the exams without invigilators, but it's not so because examiner's know that the fruit of faithfulness is missing in the lives of many. When the fruit of faithfulness is present in the lives of every Christian in such a situation where exams are being done, nobody would cheat during the exam even if there is no invigilator there to invigilate them. I heard of a Bible School where ministers steal the groceries of one another. This is uncalled for, if such people graduate, what will become of the church's funds? And even what will they teach their members? Without these fruits a man cannot make heaven, it is also this fruit that would allow a man to make good use of the talent God has given him to profit the master. (Luke 19:12-27) Faithfulness is required in every area of our lives. Faithfulness in studying the word and prayer. Faithfulness at work's resumption time. Some go to work late or do not even bother to go because it is government

work, yet they collect full salary at the end of the month, it is being unfaithful to God through the government.

Some women still meet with other men apart from their husbands, same with some men they are unfaithful. When a man has the fruit of faithfulness he would not use false certificates to secure a job. It is unfaithfulness to God that makes a minister of the gospel to reject ministering at a place because the honorarium is small or there is none. The Lord wants us to get this fruit effectively in our lives as He helps us because we cannot do it on our own, it is because you are still controlled by the flesh that is why you collect goods on credit and promise to pay the next day when you know in your heart that you won't.

Unfaithfulness makes two or more people agree on a business plan yet one of them goes to do otherwise at the other's back. As heaven bound Christians we must produce this fruit in our lives that is why we have to seek the Lord to fill us with this fruit as we would not please Him

without them. Men of old possessed this fruit, the likes of Abraham, Moses, Elijah etc. We too must not be left out.

MEEKNESS

What is meekness?

This is a moderate, humble, or submissive quality. It is by no mistake that this fruit is listed among the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit is opposite to what the flesh can produce. The flesh produces pride, arrogance, and extravagance. But those who are led by the Spirit would not be held under the deceit and the superfluities of life. The Lord Jesus Christ who is God personified exhibited this fruit making Himself an example to us who also carry our cross after Him. He Himself said it in Matthew 11:29 KJV Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Apostle Paul also had that kind of nature. 2 Corinthians 10:1 KJV Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:

Then we are also commanded to put on this nature as elect of God. Colossians 3:12 KJV Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; This fruit is what makes us to see others better than ourselves and keeps us humble, Christ could not fight back at the soldiers because their meek nature could not produce otherwise, it is what is contained in a man that comes out, when a man presses an orange fruit forcefully, it is still orange fruit that would come out of it, no matter how hard it can be pressed it will not produce a mango juice.

Meekness helps us to govern our passions and resentments so as not to be easily provoked and when we are provoked we can be easily pacified, this is what the Spirit produces in our lives, our passions not to react and hold grudges will be well guided when we have this fruit, we would not see any reason to glorify self. In most cases self is what does not make us exhibit this fruit, because we place too much pride on self

and we do not want to be cheated. We will be so much cautioned to retaliate when we feel pressured. There are times you will be forced to reply in anger but meekness will help us to keep our calm. It is the gentle nature that constantly seeks for peace in the face of strife.

A Christian with the fruit of meekness would not in any way promote disunity but will always seek for unity and oneness among people and will be known for it. Christians who are meek do not boast about what they have acquired or anything other than Christ. They boast about what the love of Christ has done for the church and for them, because their confidence is in Him. The kind of meekness that is shown only to well privileged people and not to common men is a worldly one. We must be meek even to those who seek our help, even in relation to those who do not match up with us in power yet seek our hurt. The nature of a sheep can best be used to describe someone with a meek Spirit, a sheep is not troublesome, does not feel she is better than other animals,

moves gently and not roughly with pride. She stays within the jurisdiction of her territory, when a man bears the fruit of meekness, humility is seen.

That is why the Lord Jesus Christ says by their fruit you shall know them. Someone with this fruit will not harm others, will not fight back when fought against, and will forgive easily. Meekness places our strength under God's guidance, it is a powerful tool for God's Kingdom. We have been learning the fruit of the Spirit for some days now... Have you started checking your life to see your shortcomings? Which of this fruit is missing in your life? Those who do not have the complete fruit will not enter heaven. Please put your life on the scale of God's word now, and begin to analyze your stand.

SELF-CONTROL

What is self-control?

- It is the ability to subject the actions and passions of the body.

- It is the power to put the decisions and pleasures of oneself under check, in order not to lose control or go awire.

This fruit cannot be exhibited by someone who is not in Christ, it is the Spirit of God that helps us to bear it. Self to a nonspiritual man is domineering and such cannot be free from its grip because he lacks the power. As Christians who are bearing the fruit of self-control the spirit produces grace in us which would suppress the lustful passions, desires, ungodly actions, reactions, speeches and evil thoughts. This fruit helps the spirit-filled believer to live circumspectly. This is an essential fruit in the life of a child of God as without it a man would continually live under the grip of the flesh to

exhibit its works which would then lead to damnation. What is affecting most of the Christians these days which is making them misbehave is lack of self-control.

Before we all came to Christ we were controlled and served self and because of self had eating deep into our lives, and since we give our lives to Christ we have not allowed the spirits to take away the grip of self from us because we still want to enjoy pleasure. It is lack of self-control in the church today that has made many immoral people pollute the church right from the altar to the pew. Lack of self-control has made many parents lay curses on their children. Self-control helps us to restrain the reactions that come with anger, lust, pride etc . The self-cautioning. It would guide your lips from speaking what it ought not to speak. Its helps one restrain himself from fighting for positions, it helps to guide one's eyes, ears, mouth, nose, hands and legs.

One would not be able to see or watch things He/She is not supposed to see or watch such as

the naked ladies and men walking in our streets, movies that do not give glory to the Lord, secular movies as a whole, pornography, sign boards that are sensual, romantic magazines and novels, material things of this world, sexual objects and symbols, violent movies. The fruit of self-control would help one guide his eyes diligently and not allow himself to make him peep into defiling things.

How to have fruit of the Spirit manifest in you

1. Be born again.

2. Be baptized with the Holy Ghost and Fire.

3. Always meditate on the scriptures.

4. Always fast and pray.

5. Put the word of God in your heart.

6. Walk in the Spirit always.

7. Be an addicted soul winner.

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Contacts:

+2347067511039

+2349028350180

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Compiled & Edited by

Dorcas Aloba

(Media & Publicity Director)

Media Team

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