

Galatians 5:22,23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

Love, Joy, Peace – Godward relationship (relationship with God)

Patience, Kindness, Goodness – manward relationship (relationship with others)

Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control – inward relationship (inner self)

All three clusters are related to each other

All three clusters should characterize our lives

All three clusters will characterize our lives

When we abide in Christ

When we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in us,

The Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

Gk word – a person’s steadfastness under provocation

Patiently enduring ill-treatment without anger or thought of retaliation

Patience personified – love’s patience with our neighbors

The transcendent radiance of a loving and tender heart which,

in its dealings with those around it, looks kindly and graciously upon them

Graciously, compassionately and with understanding judges the faults of others without unjust criticism

Also includes perseverance – the ability to bear up under weariness, strain, and persecution doing the work of the Lord

We can be “*strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness*” (Col. 1:11)

Patience in our lives springs from God’s power based upon our willingness to learn it – selfishness, anger, ill-will, impatience, or frustration are signs of the old sinful nature – source of our problem – need to be corrected

Patience ad Testing

Patience is closely related to testings or trials in the Bible – logical

How do we react when trials come – James 1:2,3

We should welcome trials and testings when they come, because they force us to draw more and more upon the source of all strength, producing more of the patience which is the fruit of the Spirit

The regular exercise of patience and longsuffering in the small day-to-day frustrations and irritations will prepare us to endure when the great battles come

the heart needs to learn to call instantly in prayer on the Holy Spirit at the first temptation (Rom 12:12)

need to voluntarily and consciously practice prayer every day until it becomes an involuntary or subconscious reaction to problems

Sometimes the greatest test comes to us when we ask God the question, “Why?”

Psalm 30:5 Philippians 3:10 2 Corinthians 4:17 Luke 21:19

Do not use long-suffering as an excuse for failing to take specific action when called for
Matthew 21:12,13

The Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness

Gk word – referring to the kindness that pervades and penetrates the whole nature

Gentleness that washes away all that is harsh and austere

Gentleness that is love enduring

Jesus was a gentle person – few institutions of mercy in his time

Performed acts of gentleness and kindness

Connection with the Holy Spirit

Psalm 18:35 – gentleness of god

2 Corinthians 10:1 – gentleness of Christ

Galatians 5:23 – gentleness of the Holy Spirit

Jesus dealt harshly with the hypocritical religious leaders, but gentle with all others

Warning to churches not to be legalistic without compassion

2 Timothy 2:24 James 3:17

Preachers need to have a ministry of tenderness and gentleness

Broken heart that weeps over the sins of the bad and sacrifices of good

Gentleness is not a sign of weakness

The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

Gk word – referring to that quality found in the person who is ruled by and aims at what is good, that which represents the highest moral and ethical values

Ephesians 5:9 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12 Romans 15:4

The word “good” in the language of Scripture literally means, “to be like God”

He alone is the One who is perfectly good

Goodness is more than just “doing good”

Goodness is love in action – doing good out of a good heart, to please God,

Practice principles of good to witness to others we are “different:

The difference comes from the Holy Spirit within (Hosea 6:4)

True goodness is a “fruit of the Spirit”

Satan can affect human effort for goodness but not the Holy Spirit

Goodness is never alone – always with patience and kindness