

The Great Battle

Part One

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Int.

1. Aim: To give an explanation of the fruits of the Spirit so we can learn to overcome the works of the flesh.
2. Gal. 5:16-26
3. From the Context of Gal. 5:16-26
 - a. The flesh and the spirit are contrary to one another = contrary means they oppose each other
 - b. Walk in the spirit ----- live by the rules and regulations given to us in the Bible
 - c. Works of the Flesh - live according to the desires and wishes of the devil
4. There is a great battle for our soul
 - a. If we follow the lusts of the flesh - then we cannot do the will of the spirit
 - b. Rom. 7:14-23 describes this great battle for the control of our lives
5. Every accountable human being is sowing seed
 - a. Sowing either to Flesh or the Spirit
 - b. The way to overcome the works of the flesh is to live by the Spirit. Rom. 8:13
6. We will discuss the Fruit of the Spirit and then show how we can overcome or defeat the Works of the flesh by adding the fruit of the spirit to our lives.

Discussion

I. WHAT IS THE FRUIT ?

A. Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

B. Fruit

1. Fruit = that which is produced by a living organism
2. Mt. 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

C. Spirit

1. The spirit produces fruit in the activity and life of man
2. The person who is under the influence of the spirit, the Holy Spirit, acts in a certain way. The influence of the Holy Spirit comes through the Word.¹
3. God's Holy Spirit has revealed to us God's will, in the Bible, that will make us righteous.

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

A. Love

1. "Spirit which will never seek anything but the highest good of its fellow man! It does not matter how his fellow-man treats him, or what his attitude may be to him, it always seeks their highest and best good."²

¹ P.234 Boatman & Boles, Bible Study Textbook Series, Galatians

² p. 65 Barclay - Commentary on Galatians

2. 1 Jn. 4:7-9 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."
3. John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
4. Agape
 - a. Rm. 13:10 "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." NKJV "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."
 - b. It is an attitude which will never seek anything but the highest good of its fellow men - Agape causes us to act right toward our fellow man regardless of how they have treated us.
5. If we refuse to love others then we are just as guilty of wrong as if we refused to keep any other commandment.

B. Joy

1. Phil. 3:1 "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe."
2. Phil. 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."
3. Joy is a deep happiness
4. Joy lifts us above the trials, troubles and disappointments of life.
5. We can have joy in spite of external circumstances of life
6. A joyful life does not exclude persecution or pain or suffering

7. 2 Tim. 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

C. Peace

1. "Peace describes the serenity, the tranquility, the perfect contentment of the life which is completely happy and completely secure."³
2. Word occurs 88 times in N.T. and in every book - Peace is the absence of discord; peace is found when one force works with another force in sweet and unbroken fellowship There is no jar or irritation in the relationship."⁴
3. Peace is having right relationships in every sphere of life.
4. We need peace with:
 - a. God - Rm. 5:1-2
 - b. Fellow man - Heb. 12:14 Rm. 12:18
 - c. Self - Phil. 4:7 Col. 3:15
5. Harmony is a good word to define Peace.

D. Longsuffering

1. Attitude toward people = never loses patience with them, however unreasonable they may be.

³ p.85 Barclay - Commentary on Galatians

⁴ P. 8 Spiritual Sword Vol. 13 #1 Oct. 1981 "The fruit of the Spirit is Peace" by Garland Elkins

2. Attitude toward events = never admits defeat, and which never loses its hope and its faith.
3. Patience - self restraint which does not hastily retaliate a wrong -- Love suffereth long - I Cor. 13:4
4. "To be of a long spirit, not to lose heart, to persevere patiently and bravely in enduring misfortunes and troubles; to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others; to be mild and slow in avenging; to be longsuffering, slow to anger, slow to punish."⁵
5. Longsuffering is simply the application of the Golden rule in Mt. 7:12. ⁶
6. Col. 3:12 -- "Put on...longsuffering;..."

E. **GENTLENESS**

1. Kindness = ASV NKJV
2. "The sympathetic kindliness or sweetness of temper which puts others at their ease, and shrinks from giving pain."⁷
3. God is kind and Gentle - 1 Pet. 2:3 "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."
4. Christian kindness means treating others in the way which God has treated us.

⁵ P. 387 Thayers Greek/English Lexicon

⁶ p. 13 Spiritual Sword Vol. 13 #1 Oct. 1981 Article "The Fruit of the Spirit is Longsuffering" by Robert R. Taylor

⁷ p. 97 Barclay - Commentary on Gal.

5. Col. 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" Heart of compassion = asv
6. Racoon John Smith, a preacher of the olden days, is quoted as saying: "Kindness is the best sort of revenge, and wins more victories than wrath." ⁸

F. Goodness

1. Often used with the word just or justice
 - a. A just man gave what was due - exactly what was required
 - b. Goodness goes beyond being just
2. Goodness is the quality which is out to do far more than the minimum requirements
3. A just man sticks to the letter of the law, a good man goes far beyond it.
4. Goodness = generous, liberal, open-handed, open hearted.
5. Goodness is possessing the Characteristics of God

G. Faith

1. Faithfulness = ASV, reliability, trustworthiness, loyalty
2. Man's faithlessness will never cancel the faithfulness of God Rom. 3:3 "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"
 - a. God is faithful - Heb. 10:23
 - b. Christ is faithful - Rev. 1:5, 19:11
3. Christians are to be faithful - be loyal in service - be dependable

⁸ p.14 Spiritual Sword Vol. 13 #1 Oct.81 in Article "The Fruit of the Spirit is kindness" by Charles C. Pugh

H. Meekness - Gentleness NKJV

1. It means: "meekness, mildness, forbearance, gentleness, kindness"⁹
2. The happy medium between too much anger or too little anger.
3. A meek man is always angry at the right time and never at the wrong time. It does not mean weakness or cowardice.
4. A meek man will uphold the truth and be opposed to error.
5. Jesus upheld the truth and exposed false teachers and doctrines and he was a meek man.
 - a. Matt. 11:29 "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."
 - b. He was mild of temper, and patient under injuries
6. Meekness means control of anger and the tongue

I. TEMPERANCE - SELF CONTROL

1. Temperance = ASV
2. This word means to grip, to grasp, to hold to
3. The man with temperance has a controlling grip and hold of himself
4. Quality which enables a man to live and walk in the world, and yet to keep his garments unspotted from the world!
5. John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil."

⁹ p.19 Spiritual Sword Vol. 13#1 Oct. 81

6. Our body is a dwelling place to be used by the inner man
 - a. The spirit is charged to not let sin control the body
 - b. These natural desires are not evil within themselves
 - c. But when we allow the desires to become master and satisfied in an unlawful way
this is sin.
 - d. We must control the lusts of our body, not obey them.¹⁰

Conclusion

1. "Against such there is no law."
 - a. Neither God nor man makes laws against these
 - b. These things make us truly free.
2. V. 24 We have crucified -- put to death the flesh
3. V. 25 We live and walk at the direction of the spirit
4. The way to overcome the works of the flesh is to live instead by the fruit of the spirit.

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com

¹⁰ p.20-21 Spiritual Sword Vol. 13 #1 Oct. 1981 -"The fruit of the Spirit is self-control" by Lindsey D. Warren