



Day 8, Monday, January 29, 2024

Produce the fruit of the Spirit

READ - Galatians 5; 1 Corinthians 13

Once we ask Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within. The apostle Paul gives some great advice for loving and living in the Spirit in Galatians chapter 5. He tells us we are called to serve one another humbly; to love others like we love ourselves. He goes on to list the fruit that comes from living in step with God, one of which is love.

Love is a loaded word. If you asked ten people to describe it, you would most likely get ten different answers. The good news is we don't have to guess what true, Godly love is. It is spelled out for us in the Word. Love is patient and kind. It does not boast because it is controlled and gentle. It is not rude, self-seeking, or easily angered. It does not delight in evil, but rejoices in the truth because it is full of goodness, faithfulness, and joy. Do you see the connection between these two pieces of scripture? They weave together quite beautifully and leave us with a clear picture of what love and living in the Spirit really looks like.

One thought or interpretation is that love is the actual fruit and all the others are attributes of love, much like we read in 1 Corinthians 13. You might then say love is also ... joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control ... **when we are filled with love, we are filled with all these fruits.**

REFLECT

If these are fruits of the Holy Spirit living in us, then the more the Spirit is filling us and in control of us, the more likely love and all the fruits are to be visible and edible. Spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to fill you and lead you.

Which fruits do you think you and those in your family bear often and easily?

Which fruits do you think you should ask God to help you bear more often?

PRAY

Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit bring forth a greater love in my life for you. May love bring forth fruit that looks great, tastes great, and is enjoyed by all those who know me. Lord, I want your love to fill my life and overflow into all the relationships you have given me to steward. Fill me today and every day! In Jesus name, amen!

