

Understanding The Importance and Purpose of Walking in The Fruit of the Spirit Handout 2

1. You are called by God to bear fruit!

A. "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:1-2)

B. I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing (JOHN 15:5)

c. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain..." (John 15:16)

d. Fruit-bearing covers three areas:

e. Character – This is the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The inward power which produces a display of righteousness to the world.

F. Conduct – This one, along with the character, is what Jesus was referring to when He said, "You shall know them by their fruit" (Luke 6:44)

g. This is not a number of converts, signs and wonders, but moral character which produces godly character.

h. Works – The number of people we see come to the Lord through our words and deeds

I. Fruit we produce should remain as a testimony after we are gone It is God's will that our fruit should remain, leave a legacy (John 15:16)

j. Social orders change with the times, but the work of God, local churches, and Bible schools remain

k. "For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." (Galatians 6:8)

l. Your job is to use any means possible to make eternal change

2. For many Christians, these nine attributes, (Fruit of the spirit) which sound so simple, are an ideal, a way of living that remains just out of reach.

a. Many believers want to experience a life that is full of the love of God, His characteristics and the direction of the Holy Spirit, but past hurts, lifelong habits and daily frustrations make that seem impossible.

B. Thankfully, God is the God of the impossible.

C. As the Apostle Paul reminded us in Ephesians 3:20: "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."

D. Let's rest on that a moment. God—our God—is able to work in each of us to accomplish more than we can possibly imagine!

E. How is that possible? By us taking—or possessing—the fruit of the spirit.

F. Taking the fruit of the spirit should be the desire of every Christian because every Christian should desire more of Jesus in their lives.

G. As the book of Acts makes so clear: "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:28, KJV).

H. The reason Paul used the word “fruit” referring to a life dominated by the Holy Spirit is because fruit is always produced, whether plant, animal, or human, from some kind of seed.

I. The kind of seed always determines its fruit.

J. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. (Genesis 1:11-12)

k. Apples always produce apples; oranges always produce oranges; dogs always produce dogs; cats always produce cats; humans always produce humans.

L. The character of the seed determines the fruit.

M. The moment you received Jesus as your Savior by faith, God sowed His Spirit and Word into your heart like a seed, and you were spiritually Born again by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God.

N. having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, (1 Peter 1:23) NKJV

O. Just like apples always produce apples and oranges always produce oranges, God’s seed inside you began to immediately produce God (God-like character) on the inside of you.

P. The kind of seed always determines the outcome of the fruit; therefore, you should expect your life to yield the fruits of the Spirit for that is the seed God has sown in your heart.

Q. The fruit that the Holy Spirit produces is wonderful, godly fruit, overflowing with blessings and life.

R. As you allow the Holy Spirit to produce these fruits in you, you will find that people love to be near you because you’re such a pleasurable experience for them, and they want to come back for multiple servings of that great fruit.

3. **But the fruit of the Spirit is love...**

A. The world operates in what is called low level love.

B. This is love that is based on selfishness; love that is restricted by limitations or conditions; or a love that is rooted in mutual satisfaction. These three types of love are what I call low-level love,

c. However, the love that Paul writes about is Agape Love

d. Agape is a love that has no strings attached. It isn’t looking for what it can get, but for what it can give.

E. This is the profound love God has for the human race, for He loved man when he was still lost in sin with no ability to love Him back. God simply loved mankind without any thought or expectation of receiving love in return.)

F. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” In

the phrase, "For God so loved the world," the word "love" is the word agape.
G. When you love with such a pure love that you expect nothing back in return, it is impossible for you to feel hurt or let down by the response of the recipients of your love.

H. You don't love them for the purpose of getting something in return; you shower them with love simply because you love them.

I. This kind of love is much high-level love. It is a love that has no strings attached, a love that loves simply and purely — the God-kind of love.

J. By this we come to know (progressively to recognize, to perceive, to understand) the [essential] love: that He laid down His [own] life for us; and we ought to lay [our] lives down for [those who are our] brothers [in Him].
(1 John 3:16) AMPC

K. The Father loved us to the point of self-sacrifice. Jesus' agape drove Him to lay down His life for us. In the same way, we are to agape our brothers and sisters to such a high extent that we would be willing to lay down our lives for them.

L. If we are truly operating in agape and they don't respond in like fashion, it won't offend or hurt us. We are not looking for what others can do for us; we are simply focused on how to love others with no strings attached.

M. Therefore, the way other people respond to us has no effect on our desire to shower them with agape love.

4. **Agape Love is not empty love that talks but does nothing**

a. Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. (1 John 3:18) NIV

b. The word "love" is again the word agape, which tells us that when agape is at work, it is a force so strong that it demonstrates itself with deeds and actions

c. It is a love that does something, just as God loved us and then did something to save us from our lost and sinful condition.

d. Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest]; and earnestly desire and cultivate the spiritual endowments (gifts), especially that you may prophesy ([a]interpret the divine will and purpose in inspired preaching and teaching) (1 Corinthians 14:1) AMP

e. The word "pursue" is the Greek word dioko, which means to hotly pursue.

F. If we want to attain agape love and regularly walk in it, we must hotly pursue it! It must be the focus and the aim of our lives.

G This means that attaining this high-level love doesn't come easy.

H. If agape is the basis of your sexual relationship with your spouse instead of , you will always seek to serve and please your spouse rather than being self-centered and focused only on your needs.

I. If agape is the basis of your family relationships you will always remain devoted to your family, regardless of the disappointments that may occur along the way.

J. And if agape is the basis of your friendships you will be a faithful,

immovable friend for life rather than a come-and-go friend who is faithful only as long as you get what you want out of the relationship.

K. In fact, if agape is the driving motivation of your life and the force behind all your relationships, it will make you to be the best, most devoted, faithful, and reliable friend anyone has ever known.

L. You may ask, "But how can I possess such love? Is it really possible for me to regularly exhibit such love in my life for other people?"

M. If you were seeking to walk in the kind of love that originates in the power of your flesh, it would be impossible, for flesh is selfish and self-focused and therefore cannot love that highly.

N. But because the seed of God's Word has been sown into your own human spirit, the potential for this divine love is within you all the time.

O. Now it is up to you to shove the flesh aside and release the love of God from down deep inside.

P. If you will let the Spirit of God release it from your heart, you will discover and enjoy the fruit of the Spirit called "love."

Q. This high-level love is already inside you. Now it's time for you to free that love and allow the Holy Spirit to manifest it in your life!

R. So frequently examine yourself to seek if you are flowing in the fruit of love .

S Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves not Christ. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?9 2 Corinthians 13:5) AMP

NOW MAKE THIS CONFESSION

I **BOLDLY** confess that I am hotly pursuing agape love in my life. I want to attain this high level of love and regularly walk in it, so I treat this fruit of the Spirit like it is one of the most important aims of my life. Because the seed of God's Spirit and Word is sown in ME, I have the potential for this divine love within me all the time. So right now, I determine to shove the flesh aside and release the power of God from down deep inside. Because agape is the driving motivation of my life and the force behind all my relationships, I am the best, most devoted, faithful, and reliable friend anyone has ever known! IN JESUS NAME!