

Introduction:

- Gal 5:22-23; 1 Cor 13:1-ff
- What we have learned so far is that the fruit of the spirit is not behavior modification. It is the nature of God. It is the description of the trinity. It is what empowers us and enables us to be like God.
- The Fruit of the Spirit is our future. It is what God intends us to look like and act like.
- The Fruit of the Spirit is what identifies us and defines us. The FOS gives us definition in the Spirit. IE. Causes us to be able to see our spiritual abs!
- The FOS is grown.
- This message is heavily Graham Cooke infused.

I. The Fruit of the Spirit and the Nature of God

- A. The nature of God frees us!
 1. Show me a person who lives in the fruit of the Spirit and I will show you an incredible free individual.
 2. If you have been freed from your old nature and you have, then you are genuinely free indeed.
 3. The more you take on the nature of Christ the more freedom you experience.
- B. What ever works for us in Christ automatically works against the devil.
 1. It will be the polar opposite. Devil is hate, God is love. Stress-Peace, Angry-gentle.
 2. Whatever makes us strong in the Kingdom or more like God will naturally and automatically work against the devil.
- C. The Fruit of the Spirit is an encounter with God that opens us up to fullness of God.
 1. What God is offering us is His unchanging self so we, too, can become unchanging.
 2. The Fruit of the Spirit allows us feel God/experience God as well.
- D. The fruit of the Spirit is where we learn to abide in Gods nature.
 1. I receive His nature when born again,
 2. Because I receive His nature when born again, I will also grow in His nature.
 3. When I grown in the nature of God. I become consistent in my approach to people and to circumstances.
 4. The fruit of the Spirit is where we learn to abide in Gods nature.
 5. I'm gonna be like Jesus no matter what!

II. The Fruit of the Spirit

- A. Love is the exclusive affection of God towards us! It is the tangible goodness of God. Love means to treasure, to cause a person to feel loved. It its the highest emotion we can experience. Maybe that is why scripture says: *"But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love."* (1 John 4:8, NLT) God is love.
- B. Joy is the intensiveness of gladness.
 1. Joy is about delight. JOY is a delight of the mind, from the consideration of the present or assured approaching possession of a good. Swamp your circumstances with joy. Joy is about elation, cheerfulness, triumphant. When we practice joy we are learning **the art of celebration**. God is for me! God is with me!

2. *"The passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good; that excitement of pleasurable feelings which is caused by success, good fortune, the gratification of desire or some good possessed, or by a rational prospect of possessing what we love or desire; gladness; exultation; exhilaration of spirits."* Webster 1828
 3. **JOY** is a delight of the mind, from the consideration of the present or assured approaching possession of a good.
- C. Peace is a state of being quiet.
1. It is about learning to be calm. Having an inclination toward calm.
 2. Free from strife. Living composed.
 3. *"In a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquillity; freedom from disturbance or agitation;"* Webster 1828
- D. Patience is the quality of perseverance under pressure with a good heart. Endurance without complaint. Bob Sorge, "Faith sustained over time in the midst of pain."
- E. Kindness is about being considerate. To be thoughtful towards someone, benevolent, loving. Showing superior qualities of grace.
- F. Goodness is about looking after someones welfare. Being favorable to someone. Blessing them. Lifting them up. Giving them a divine advantage.
- G. Faithfulness is about being consistent, loyal, constant, unceasing, firm in your promise, unwavering, being trust worthy.
- H. Gentleness is about having a powerful humility. Being merciful. Sweet spirited. Overcoming.
- I. Self control is about being restrained. Having a good frame of heart and mind. Exercising discretion, believing the best about someone. Composed disciplined, even tempered, having a moderating affect and influence on others.
- III. **The Fruit of the Spirit And God**
- A. The fruit of the Spirit are all attributes that God practices with us on a regular basis. (Selah that!) If God did not practice these we would all be dead.
- B. Questions to ponder:
1. In relationship to God when we are in spiritual warfare, how does the fruit of the Spirit affect the enemy? If they work for us and compel us to be Christ like then they automatically work against the enemy.
 - a) "It rattles his cage!" He cant stand God so he cant stand me being like God.
 - b) It is like light to darkness. It must flee. It cant overtake the light. It is like Legion saying, "Why have you come so early to destroy us?" The presence in Jesus brought torment to the devil.
 2. What if the fruit of the Spirit is a more powerful weapon against the enemy than the gifts?
 3. What if there is a place set aside for you where you can make the enemy tired and weary?
 4. Everything the enemy seeks to bring against us we can turn it around by moving in the opposite spirit. We can afflict him instead.
 - a) When we move with a negative emotion or thought we are empowering the enemy against ourselves. Opposition attaches to what you don't remove.
 - b) Victorious, overcomers, more than a conquerer. More than a conqueror means this: The enemy looks at you realizes he cant overcome you so he does not show up for the fight.

- c) By moving in the FOS you can seriously affect the enemy and release yourself into power at the same time. You can exhaust the enemy with your love.
- C. The nature of God is powerful against the enemy.
1. Nothing works against the FOS! There is no law that works against it.
 2. When you practice it you are on the high road to becoming an overcomer. We cant continue to surrender our identity to negative emotions.
- D. God is not content until we are totally overwhelmed in our heart with His nature, His emotions, etc. He will not be content until we are thoroughly possessed by FOS.
1. We are designed to experience God in our emotions. We get to feel Him not just faith Him. He gave us emotions so we could feel! Feel Him! We are supposed to know God in our emotions. We were given emotions so that we could know Him.
 2. He wants to make us emotionally whole. "What that means is that we end up being as happy as he is." Graham Cooke. Faith works by love. It is experiencing being loved so well by God that we believe what He says.
 3. What if every person you meet you are supposed to be practicing the FOS on them.
 4. What if God is allocated a particular FOS to all the negative experiences of life? ***"What if one of the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus says, you cant have a negative situation without having a FOS present?"***
 - a) Mt 5:44 Love your enemies and bless them.
 - (1) The purpose of an enemy is to teach you to love better. Or how to move in the love of God.
 - (2) The purpose of persecution is to teach you to bless them. The purpose of the enemy therefore is to lift you up.
 - (3) IE. Romans 12:20 you heap coals on his head. What does it mean? Retribution by kindness. That is who God is.
 - (4) IE. John 16:33 tribulation...cheer up I have overcome the world. When you have tribulation I want you to cheer up! It is here to teach me to be cheerful. "Count it all joy!" Overwhelm the situation with Joy!
 - (5) John 14:27 Peace I leave with you. Don't ask for peace, He has already left it with us. He left his peace with us so that we would not have to be fearful. Expect to see it because he left it with us. 2 Thes 3:16 "**Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.**" (2 Thessalonians 3:16, NLT)
- E. If you do not practice the word you do not believe it. If you believe it you practice it. He doesn't want us to have head knowledge he wants us to have heart knowledge.
- F. He has allocated patience to us in all those situations. Application:
1. IE. I have people in my life that have been empowered to help me become patient.
 2. 2 Tim 2:24 Lords servant ...**patient when wronged.**
 3. Romans 15:5 God gives patience so that we can be of like mind. We are more aware of how the world works verses how heaven works.
 4. 1 peter 2:20 patience finds favor with God.
 5. Luke 6:35 Love your enemies, lend, and don't expect return.