



KNOWING THE POWER AND PRESENCE OF GOD

LESSON NINE

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

What an awesome assignment we have as disciples of Jesus. We are to learn and live by His teaching and continue the ministry of Jesus. How can this be possible?

Romans 8:5-7 NIV *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

Galatians 5:22-26 NIV *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

1. **LOVE:** Loving others is wanting God's best for them – wanting them to be all God is calling them to be. This does not only include family and friends but also the homeless and sick and hungry. God has created us all to be in a relationship with Him and with others. Without this relationship there is a hole in our lives, an emptiness we might try to fill with possessions, food and drink, characters in TV programs, movies or books, or other fantasy relationships which never quite work. But a wholeness, a feeling of completeness is reached when we relate to God and to others in a way we are created to relate: blessing and encouraging the God-given uniqueness of others. God gives us a supernatural love for others that is beyond words to explain. God is love. God comes to live within us. God loves through us as we allow Him to do so.

Read I John 4:7-16 about the love of God and our love for one another. God showed His love by sacrificing His Son for our sins. God's love is made complete in us if we love one another. He lives in us and gives us His Spirit when we acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God. God is love.

2. **JOY:** John 15:10-17 NIV *"If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for his friends. You are my friends if you do as I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I have learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.*

(To 'bear fruit' or to be 'fruitful' is to have a life changed by what you show, do, and/or speak that results in others coming to know Jesus as Lord and Savior or grow in their faith or be relieved of physical, emotional or spiritual problems.)

3. **PEACE** Read Philippians 4:6-9 about not being anxious but bringing requests in prayer to God with thanksgiving, and receiving the peace of God. We are to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and choose to think about what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. Think about and put into practice what has been learned from the apostle Paul. And the God of peace will be with you.
4. **FORBEARANCE or PATIENCE** First Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*
5. **KINDNESS** Ephesians 4:32 NIV *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*
6. **GOODNESS** Read First Peter 2:12 and 15 which teaches us to live good lives so that others may see the good deeds and give the glory to God. God intends that by doing good we should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.
7. **FAITHFULNESS** Read Third John 3-4 John is writing about his great joy when he is told about the faithfulness to the truth of some of the believers under his spiritual guidance.
8. **GENTLENESS** Prophecy about Jesus from Isaiah 42:1b-3 was repeated in Matthew 12:18-20 *“Here is My servant whom I have chosen, the One I love, in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out, till He leads justice to victory.”*
9. **SELF CONTROL** Second Timothy 1:7 NIV *For the Spirit of God does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. Psalm 19:14 NIV *May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

The Lord’s words to me on April 20, 2019 [Success is loving Me and receiving My love, learning from Me and walking in obedience, knowing My heart for you and accepting My love and mercy, guidance and blessings, protection and gifting.]

Colossians 3:15-17 *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

