

10-14-2026 – Fruit of the Spirit – Week 2

Spiritual fruit... from H.S. Means we produce **more of God**, **less of us**.

The flesh: self-centered, self-willed, & self-absorbed behaviors.

Look at kids/sea gulls: mine, mine, mine.

Part of the H.S.'s work in our lives is to transform us.

- [2 Cor. 3:18](#) - "And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."
 - o H.S. brings out God's attributes in us. It's not trying harder.

We're going in depth into:

[Galatians 5:22-23](#) – "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

1 – Love. The **primary fruit** of the Spirit; the **most important**.

- As Paul said in [1 Corinthians 13:13](#) - "the greatest of these is love".
- No matter what else we do... it's meaningless if we don't have love.
 - It doesn't matter what awards you win -- job you have – money/bank – talents/ super-powers . . . w/o love – what you **have** is **nothing**!

[1. Cor. 13:1-3](#) – "If I could speak all the languages of earth & of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, & if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, & if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor & even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing."

- Love is the foundation; everything else flows from it.
- When Jesus was asked the **greatest commandment**, he said: " You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." – [Matt. 22:37](#). "first & greatest commandment"
 - o Our love for God comes as a response to his love for us.
 - [1 John 4:19](#) – "We love because He first loved us."

- Being Love/Loving others naturally flows from loving God.
 - It's not always easy . . . b/c battle of our 2 spirits.

God is love. That's who God is; what God is. God responds in love.

- [Romans 5:8](#) – “But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- God is love when we're at our worst. Still loves when we're wrong. Loves us when we're disobedient; acting out; rejecting Him; failed.
- Nothing can stop God from loving us, showing His love.
 - [Rom. 8:38](#) NLT – “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.”
- B/c God is Love, God shows love. . . to the just/unjust.
 - [Matt. 5:44-45](#) – “But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.”

Can we say the same?

- This is where H.S. must transform us... **we love most easily when people love us back.** We don't love well when we're **mistreated...** when our **good deeds** are met with **grumbling ... disrespected....**
- [1 John 4:8](#) - [NLT](#) – “But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” Love b/c that's who you are...
- [1 John 4:7](#) - “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.” Love b/c the H.S. is producing God's love.
 - Love is inside us, a result of the **Spirit's indwelling** presence.
- If you're willing for this fruit to grow in your life, it will... feed it. Fertilize it. Use scripture to set the course of your day.

2 - Joy.

- Joy is our response to God's love, blessings, mercy, & grace.
 - o Joy is knowing you're loved, have a home, place at the table!
 - o Joy is knowing God fights your battles; all things work for good!

Nehemiah 8:10 - "Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

- The joy of the Lord is joy that doesn't depend on our circumstances
- It's joy that comes from the Lord Himself - His forgiveness, His presence, His promises, and faithful care for His people.
 - o God's **joy** allows us to live w/ inner peace and strength that comes from a connection to the divine, rather than a temporary reaction to good circumstances
- Jesus said in **John 15:11** – "I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."
 - Jesus spoke of joy right before His trial/crucifixion.
 - o The way we have the Son's joy is thru the H.S.
 - o **Romans 15:13**- "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
 - "Overflow" – interesting b/c Jesus said our experience of the H.S. would be like having "**rivers of living water**" in us:
 - **John 7:38** - "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."
 - o What the H.S. can **produce** in us is **Joy** that bubbles up ... flows like a river ... and overflows to others.
- **Our lives need to reflect joy.** Don't let the enemy steal your joy.
 - o How does He steal it? Distractions. Forget. Wrong Focus.
 - The H.S. will produce more joy in your life. **Feed it!**