

## Daily Devotional, October 29, 2020

### “Fruit of the Spirit”, (Galatians 5:22-23, NKJV)

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)*

Commonly, when we teach this passage to our children, we change “fruit” to the plural “fruits.” But in our text, we find it in the singular. God the Holy Spirit has one kind of fruit, and these nine attributes in our text taken together are the sum of the outworking of His ministry in His people.

“Love” is the ultimate evidence of saving faith (1 Corinthians 13:13). “Joy” is the ability to rejoice in the presence of God regardless of circumstances. “Peace” is the default state of the Christian whose identity is secure in Christ Jesus. “Longsuffering” is extreme patience, an outworking of love. “Love suffers long and is kind” (1 Corinthians 13:4). Do you see how all of these traits work together as one? “Kindness” is the charitable attitude of love of neighbor. “Goodness” is relative in man but perfect in God the Holy Spirit. “Faithfulness” is required in stewards of the gospel, which stewards you are if you truly believe. “Gentleness” is a quality of the humble person who is slow to take offense and fast to forgive. It is nearly synonymous with meekness. Meekness and “gentleness” are not reflective of weakness, but of true spiritual strength. “Self-control” includes temperance in all things, and an ability to be in such a close communion with Christ that impulsive sin is muted in one’s life. Christian friend, earnestly seek the Lord, and pray that He will teach you His character, that you might live a life of worship of your God, which is not only the reasonable service of man, but the duty of all men as well. And may the benefit of enjoying a life lived according to “the fruit of the Spirit” accrue to you today and all of your days.