

Divinely Blessed & Restored

DO YOU HAVE FRUIT FILLING? ©

The Lord Has Filled You With the Fruit of the Spirit!

Series I

Submitted by: Rev. Doris B. Ryans

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV)

The month will begin a series on the Fruit of the Spirit. Over 2000 years ago, we received the greatest expression of love anyone could ever have given – a gift that cost the giver “**everything**” and for the “**receiver**,” it is a gift that will last forever, and ever, and ever! **What was this gift?** The gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but shall have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)*

This gift, as with any gift, requires our acceptance. Once accepted, we are “born again,” not physically, but spiritually, which means we are changed - *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17 KJV)* and our life will begin to exemplify the Fruit of the Spirit. This month we will look at the fruit of “love.”

There is a popular **song** with lyrics by Hal David that says, “What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of”. How true these words are! In the American Collegiate Dictionary, *love is defined as an intense affection concern for another person, an intense sexual desire for another, to embrace or caress.* Notice the definition focuses upon emotion or feeling. But, if we look at scripture, the focus on love is not as an emotion, but as action. Love is not simply warm feelings or sugary words; it is an attitude that reveals itself in action. *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. Love is not rude. It is not self-seeking. Love is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love rejoices in the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails.” (I Corinthians 13:4-7.)*

Just as Paul wanted to be sure that, the church of Corinth understood what love is, there is a need for us to be reminded. Just as the people of Corinth were experiencing plenty of emotional love, love that is fickle, fleeting, and conditional... so are many today. But just as the church of Corinth, our distorted view of what love is can be corrected if we change our life-style and make love, Christ-like love a way of life. In John 13:34-35 *"Jesus said, a new commandment I give you: Love one another! As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know you are my disciples if you love one another."* Notice He says "a new commandment," not a suggestion. How are we to love? Jesus says, *"As I have loved you."* Jeremiah 31:3 tells us *"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. KJV*

You are probably saying, "I can't love people the way Jesus did! He was perfect! You are right. On your own, you cannot. That is why we need Jesus Christ in our life. Only He can help you be patient and kind. Only He can help you not be selfish, thinking more of others than yourself. Only He can help you to turn the other cheek. Only He can help you to be your brother's keeper. I

"What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of"

Thessalonians 3:12 tells us: "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another...." As we feed ourselves on the Word of God, the love that God planted in our hearts will grow, and grow, and grow.

You want to make a change in your home, your job, your church, your community... show love! If you want to stop violence...show love. If you want safe neighborhoods.... show love. If you want homes to return to the traditional family unit with father, mother and children together... show love. If you want to bring reconciliation to broken relationships and friendships.... show love. If we want to stop teen-age drinking, drugs, & sex...show love. If we want to stop movies and music that disrespect women...show love. If you want to see illness leave your body...show love. If you want peace in your home.... show love. *You have what it takes...you have been filled with the fruit filling of.....love!!*

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

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Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagement

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

Sunday, May 31, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m.

Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!