

# Divinely Blessed & Restored

## DO YOU HAVE FRUIT FILLING? ©

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

Series III

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 continues 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. John 3:16 KJV tells us: *"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."* 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 *"peace."*

Peace is defined by the American Collegiate Dictionary as freedom from strife or dissension, or freedom from mental disturbance. Dorothy Harrison Pentecost said "Peace is full confidence that God is who He says He is and that He will keep every promise in His Word. My personal definition of peace is "Being calm and at ease, even in the midst of a storm."

Peace is not the absence of pain or the absence of trials and tribulations, if it were, we would not be promised a Comforter; – we would not need a Comforter – if the Christian life were a life free of pain. However, peace is a state in which we can exist during the times of storm.

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In other words, as Charles Stanley stated, "You hurt but your soul rests in One who is able to soothe." This means you do not become burdened down with fear, worries, and concerns. Key here is "burdened down." We will always have situations in our life that we must deal with, but as Christians, we are not to become "burdened down" when they arise. Instead, during our difficult times we find peace in the Comforter. We find The Shepherd in the valley. The Rock of Ages. The Bright and Shining Star. It is during our difficult times that we have the blessed assurance that "...I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13:5(KJV). As Pastor Charles Stanley said "He is gently blowing on the stinging wound. One can almost hear Him saying, "Sweet hurting child, you are so special to Me. I hurt with you. I'm staying right here to take good care of you".

Realize God does not want us to live "burdened down," in fear and worry. He wants us to be "burden-free" and there's only one way to be "burden-free" – GOD! The Amplified Bible says, "Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him...."(1 Peter 5:7). That means trusting Him and obeying Him. Psalms 55:22 says, "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall" (NIV).

This state of "peace" is yours when you are in oneness with God! (Psalm 4:8). That doesn't mean you won't have difficult times, trying times....but you will find peace in the arms of Jesus. In John 14:27, Jesus said, "My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." You might ask if peace is God's gift to me, why does it seem so hard to hold on to? I've often pondered that and as I studied while writing this article, the Holy Spirit led me to Isaiah 26:3 which says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trust in You. (NIV). Your gateway to peace is a close, personal relationship with God.

A gateway is a passage or entrance that is closed or may be closed by a gate. As you reflect upon the fruit of the spirit "peace", ask yourself, is your gate to God open or closed? God stands with outstretched arms saying, "whosoever will, let him come" (xxxxx). But, He will not come into our life and over ride our will. If we choose to close the door, He will let us.

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It is up to us to decide whether or not we are going to open the gate! Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr. uses the following simple acrostic that helps you remember to cast your burdens on the Lord. It forms the word "CAST":

**C – Choose** to believe what the Bible says.

**A – Ask** God to forgive you for worrying, for being anxious, and for carrying burdens you were not meant to carry.

**S – Settle** in your heart that God cares for you abundantly.

**T – Throw** [whatever [your burden [is] upon the Lord right now!

Take time to fill yourself on the Word of God and His promises to you! Commit to memorizing scriptures that you can quickly pull out of your arsenal when you begin to become "burdened-down." I call them "fight-in" scriptures, and you cannot wait until you are under attack to get your arsenal together, you already need to have your quiver full! Here are some of my favorites:

- *Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper.*
- *Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*
- *Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.*
- *Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me.*
- *Romans 8:31 If God be for me, who can be against me.*

God's desire for His children is for them to be at peace no matter the situation. Even in the midst of the turmoil and instability of today, you do not have to fret. Why? Psalms 4:8 tells us, "Peace with God is the fruit of oneness with God." ***You have God, the Prince of Peace ...you have been filled with the fruit filling of. ....Peace!!***

## 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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# July

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagement  
July 26, 2009 @ 7:30 am  
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, MI