

# Divinely Blessed & Restored

## DO YOU HAVE FRUIT FILLING? ©

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

Series V

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 "Gentleness".

Gentleness is defined by the American Collegiate Dictionary as mildness, and a disposition and behavior of voluntary kindness or forbearance in dealing with others. As I thought about gentleness, it occurred to me that every disciple of Jesus must have a basic attitude and feeling of gentleness, of kindness towards others. If I had to give one word to describe the essence of gentleness, it would be compassion.

Compassion allows you to feel the sufferings or misfortunes of another. A Christian's response should be as Ephesians 4:32 directs us; "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted..."

For Christians, kindness is not an option, it is a commandment. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus declares, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." NIV This is a tall order, but we honor Him when we show kindness to others. Jesus serves as an example for us, compassion and kindness is what Jesus exemplified. Think of how Jesus was with the Woman of Samaria when others would have no dealings with her, He showed kindness and compassion to her and in a gentle manner, exposed her sin to her. (John 4:9-28). Likewise, as Christians, we are to have compassion for others, in physical and material circumstances, and in spiritual weaknesses. The fruit of "kindness" does not reside with "hard-nosed" uncaring and unfeeling behaviors and attitude.

There is a saying that "along with the gift of life come plenty of hassle, frustration, and difficulty. No one is exempt from this absolute inevitability. There are no exceptions". (Author Unknown) As Christians, it is during these times that we can minister to others spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Pray and ask God to allow the fruit of "kindness" to govern your attitude and actions. When you do, you can do as John Wesley advised: "Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." *And one way to do all the good you can is the spread the fruit of "kindness" wherever you go.*

### **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!

## **Divinely Blessed & Restored**

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# CALENDAR of Events



## September 2009

**Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagement**

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ecorse, Michigan

**Wednesday, September 23, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.**

## October 2009

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