

Divinely Blessed & Restored

DO YOU HAVE FRUIT FILLING? ©

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

Series VIII

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 "meekness".

Webster defines meek as showing patience, humility and longsuffering. While viewed by some as being timid or weak, meekness is really a sign of great character as one that is assured and comfortable in one self. The Greek translation of meekness (PRAOTES) refers to "power under control" and in the words of Tommy C. Hagle "like a wild horse that has been domesticated". In other words, a meek person is not weak but strong, having control over his or her emotions, behavior, and actions, characterized by tenderness in words and actions.

...Jesus tells him that he must forgive ".....Until seventy times seven"

Nothing reveals the fruit of meekness more than the taming of the tongue. Meekness means we control what we speak and how we respond. Proverbs 15:1 tells us, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (KJV). That means the fruit of meekness will make us conscious of our tone when we speak to others.

Meekness will also tame our response and keep us from retaliating if someone has spoken in a manner that hurts us. We will do as Jesus command in Luke 6:28 "Bless them that curse you....." (KJV). The fruit of meekness also is shown in our actions and behavior.

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Meekness keeps us from having a contentious spirit and willing to forgive. At the root of most discord is the need to be right or an inability to consider another's point of view. It is prideful people that must always be right or have their point of view prevail. Proverbs 16:18 – 19 tells us "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud" (KJV).

When we have been hurt by someone, we show the fruit of meekness when we can forgive and not retaliate against the one that has hurt us. Peter came to Jesus about someone that had sinned against him. And proposing seven times, Jesus tells him that he must forgive ".....Until seventy times seven" (KJV). Jesus was not saying 490 times literally, he was saying that his unforgiveness should be unlimited. Also, if we have the first component of the fruit of the spirit, love; our love is to be limitless and longsuffering.

As we consider the fruit of meekness this month, we need only look at Jesus who provided the greatest example of all of meekness and humility. (Matthew 11:29). Remember, Jesus declares a blessing upon those who are meek...."Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (KJV)open the floodgates of heaven.....*by producing the fruit of meekness!*

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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P.O. Box 31-1405
Detroit, MI 48231
Ph: 313-566-0944
Fx: 313-566-0945

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Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

December 2009

Rev. Doris B. Ryans' Preaching Engagement

December 16, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

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Journey Into Christlikeness

December 1, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

December 15, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

January 19, 2010 @ 7:00 pm

February 2, 2010 @ 7:00 pm

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

