

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Fruit of the Spirit
Lesson 1C - Introduction

return pages 4 & 5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. (Galatians 5:22-24).

We move now to Nehemiah 8:10. ***Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*** As we found the availability of *the love of God* (Romans 5:5), we now see that He has given us access to *the joy the Lord* (Nehemiah 8:10) as a portion of *the fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22). These are graces, virtues, and character traits which are far beyond anything which could be produced by our flesh. They are the very essence of God's divine nature imparted to the believer and waiting to be put into practice in our lives.

The Lord does not want us to talk ourselves into happiness. He does not want us to try living on fleshly emotions that rise and fall with circumstances. He wants to take control of our lives so that His joy abides through all the troubles, trials, situations, and events of life. Up or down, blessed or distressed, we are strengthened by the joy that comes from abiding in Christ.

If our walk with God and our relationship with our brothers and sisters rises and falls like the thermometer, if our emotions are governed by how things are going or how we feel at the moment, we are operating in the flesh. If we are living in the power and might of the risen Lord, we will know a joy that endures in spite of the wild shifts and changes which occur in our lives.

There will always be conflicts. There will always be matters for prayer. There will always be obstacles and trials. But there should always be joy as well. Through it all, we ought to rejoice in knowing Jesus, be exceeding glad that our sins are forgiven, and give praise to the God who has promised us a home in heaven. This triumphant state of mind is possible when the Spirit within is of greater influence than the worldly things without.

We move now to Psalms 18:34-35, where we find, ***He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.*** God enabled David to take down a giant with a stone; to slay his ten thousands in battle; to wrestle a lion and a bear. He could break steel bows and wage wars. How odd to hear a man like that say his greatness came through the granting of God's gentleness. After all the things David had done for God, it was God's gentleness that made him great. For the purpose

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of our study, we want to note carefully the words of God: ***thy gentleness hath made me great.*** This is the Lord's gentleness operating in the life of David.

Thus far we have seen individuals in possession of God's love, God's joy, and God's gentleness. We see the Lord reproducing His own character and attributes in the lives of men and women who are yielded to Him. Without God no one rises above human nature. With God the saved man and woman have been given a new nature. By God this new nature can bear sweet fruit.

There is another place where we see the bearing of such fruit set before us. In John 14:27 Jesus said, ***Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*** Notice again this is more than calm in trial or confidence in hardship or pacification through meditation or mind control. Jesus said He was going to give His peace. The very peace possessed by the Son of God as He sits at the right hand of the Father may be the portion of each of His saints as they face the challenges of the day.

The man Christ Jesus, sitting in His majesty on high, numbers the hairs on our heads and observes the fall of a little sparrow. He is acquainted with our griefs and is a very present help in all our trouble. Through it all, He is at peace. He sees our tears; He knows our pain; and He carried all our sorrows to the cross. Through it all, He is at peace. As the wars and rumors of wars roll on, as the earthquakes rattle the planet and scary wonders fill the headlines, He is at peace. To a small band of followers who had been promised prisons, persecutions, rejections, and martyrdom He said, ***my peace I give unto you*** (John 14:27).

We try to be peaceful because we desire it or because it is commanded. We tell ourselves repeatedly, "I'm going to be calm. I'm going to handle this right." Somehow, it never happens. Until we cease trying to be spiritual in the energy of the flesh, we will continue to be found wanting. ***It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing*** (John 6:63). There is more at our disposal than the best that we can do. There resides within the Christian that which God can do.

Look at John 14:25-26 ***These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*** Whenever I begin to teach on these matters, the chorus of questions arises, "But how?" Evidently, we cannot teach ourselves how to be Christ-like, but Jesus said the Holy Ghost would teach us.

We are at our spiritual best when we are calling on God in prayer. Considering those prayers, they run something like this: "Lord, make me well; Lord, solve my problem; Lord, give me that; Lord, make him be nice to me;

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Lord make me feel better." Not too impressive. When do we get on our knees before the Savior of our souls and repent of being self-centered, self-serving, self-confident, self-pleasing men and women who are saved but nothing like our Redeemer? When do we begin to plead with Him to change us from what we have always been into what He desires to make us?

We know we do not love God with all our heart, though we can quote the commandment or use it in a sermon. Why do we never repent of this sin and ask for His help'? We know we do not love our neighbors as we love ourselves, but we are accepting of this clear violation of Jesus' teaching and take no pains to have it corrected. We condemn the unsaved for their life of perpetual sin, but we excuse our own transgressions as though they were of no importance. When do we get serious about living the Christian life?

The deacon has a bad temper. He never seeks the Lord about it. The Pastor lost his joy years ago. He does not beseech God for its return. The pianist is so bitter that she drives her husband to despair. She never asks Jesus to cleanse her heart. Day after day, born again people who read their Bibles and attend church fret, worry, accuse, gossip, give offense - take offense on and on the list goes. They never humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and ask the indwelling Holy Spirit to teach them how to live so that blessed spiritual fruit might be found in their lives.

It is my prayer that we can pursue this study together and seek to find how *the God of all grace* (1 Peter 5:10) will gladly make us *conformed to the image of his Son* (Romans 8:29) in order that *ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work* (Colossians 1:10).

Notes

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Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. How will the God of all grace make us perfect? *
2. How do we walk in the Spirit? *
3. What is the Holy Spirit of God trying to teach us as believers? *
4. Why were Paul and Silas able to sing unto the lord after having been beaten with whips and fastened with stocks in a dark prison? *
5. Define this statement from Psalm 18:35B *thy gentleness hath made me great.*
6. How is the Joy of the Lord strength?
7. What can we learn from the things that Jesus prayed for? *
8. What should be our outlook on souls? *

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9. What is God's outlook on souls? *

10. Is there a correlation between Mark 13:7 and James 4:1? If so, what is it?

11. What are the lusts of the flesh? *

12. What is the fruit of the spirit? *

13. What is the first step the believer must take to eventually begin to walk in the Spirit? *

True/false

- When a brother/sister has done me wrong, God allows me to treat them differently.
- When I do not feel good, I do not need to walk in the Spirit.
- God gives you what you need even in a time of trouble, if you trust in Him.

**Scripture memorization**

Nehemiah 8:10; John 14:27; Colossians 1:10

Write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper:
(must be in KJV)

any questions?