

Recently I was talking with someone and they got me started on a study on the fruit of the Spirit. Guess what, I learned heaps, think about this; what is the fruit of the Spirit? Sure we can all quote most of them but how are they to be manifest in our life? A Question I asked myself and discovered a complete different idea, which is the way God, meant it to be and I had not been walking in it. Lets take a look at Galatians in the truth of the way it was written. The vines dictionary also adds more to the fruit as well as the Greek meaning, I will summarize each one. Each summary has been taken from various dictionaries and commentaries that agree with each other.

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

Love: agape *ag-ah'-pay* Greek 25; love, that is, affection or benevolence; specifically (plural) a *love feast*: - (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love. It is an expression such as God loved the world and gave his son. Therefore Love can only be in our lives if we have an expression, or deliberate choice to be benevolent toward another by giving. A self will or self-satisfying of self before others is the negative of Love. **Love looks for an opportunity** to good to another regardless of them being Christians or not. If we seek after our own desires and disregard the needs of others we have not Love.

Joy: Greek 5479 chara *khar-ah'* From G 5463; cheerfulness, that is, calm delight: - gladness, X greatly, (X be exceeding) joy (-ful, -fully, -fulness, -ous). Many think that to be happy is the fruit of joy; **WRONG**. Joy basically is the **ability** to be able to rejoice in adverse situations at all times, to be able to give glory to God at all times in all things. It is a basic gladness that "hey I am saved and that is **all** that matters". When trials and tribulations come our way we must be able to withstand "flipping out" and praise God and give him glory for that which we do have like a roof over our head and clothes and freedom in this country, Joy does not allow us to be moved by our circumstances. Joy also is an excitement at hearing the word of God being spoken.

Peace: Greek 1515 eire⁻ne⁻ pronounced - i-rah'-nay from a primary verb (to join); peace (literally or figuratively); by implication prosperity: - one, peace, quietness, rest, + set at one again. Peace is a sense of harmonious relationship between you and God! It is also a unity and peacefulness in the church, between relatives, friends and colleagues. It can only be obtained through the constant dwelling in the word of God. A corresponding word is Shalom, which means wholeness, fullness, finished or perfect. The bearer of peace also brings, gives or commands peace and attempts reconciliation between warring parties, rebuking ambitious desires that cause contentions. It is also known as a fruit of righteousness that can only be obtained from above and shows the wisdom of God is within the person.

Long Suffering: Greek 3115 makrothumia *mak-roth-oo-mee'-ah* from the same as G3116; *longanimity*, that is, (objectively) *forbearance* or (subjectively) *fortitude*: - longsuffering, patience. This is also known as patience but better used as Long Suffering in the English language it is the quality of restraint in the face of provocation, it is the opposite of anger and does not retaliate but produces mercy. It does not surrender to circumstances or depression but produces hope. It is a strength to withstand adverse situations not just put up with them.

Gentleness: Greek 5544 chre⁻stote⁻s - *khray-stot'-ace* From G5543; usefulness, that is, moral excellence (in character or demeanor): - gentleness, good (-ness), kindness. Another word in the English language would be fairness in judging situations or circumstances, Integrity is another word that comes from it. It is a winning attitude that stems from long suffering that does not boast on self and how good we think we are, but reflects the glory on and to God by having an excellent spirit or integrity in our lives.

Goodness: agatho⁻sune⁻ - *ag-ath-o-soo'-nay* From G18; goodness, that is, virtue or beneficence: - goodness. Goodness is very similar to love but quite different in the way it works, it looks for those who are in dire needs, it is acts of goodness unto men, in a natural, civil, moral, spiritual, and evangelical way within the community for both soul and body. The Salvos are the perfect example of the fruit of goodness. Goodness **sees** the needs of others **and acts** to meet those needs regardless of personal possessions or position.

Faith: pistis - pis'-tis From G3982; persuasion, that is, credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: - assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity. Many have heard the terminology of "The word of Faith" preaching or "faith healers" and the such, there so much confusion and contentions over this one little word, but for me to study this word fully took me days, I had to boil it down to this - **Faith is a revealed word from God or revelation** if you like that what is required, asked for, or sought after will be given and you have that assurance that you know that you know that you know it will happen. More on Faith another time!

Meekness: praotēs *prah-ot'-ace* From Greek 4235; *gentleness*; by implication *humility*: - meekness. The feeling of patient submissive humbleness, a disposition to be patient and long suffering. Humility and lowliness of mind, walking humbly with God, acknowledging every favour, being thankful for every blessing, and depending on his grace and mercy, and in behaving with modesty and humility among men.

Temperance: egkrateia - *eng-krat'-i-ah* From Greek 1468; *self control* (especially *continence*): - temperance. This is being another word for self control in the way that it is given by God for a task, temperance follows through with the task and doesn't give up. It is a fortitude to go on and win like a runner in a race who has almost collapsed but finds another strength by which they continue on and win.

Against these fruit there is no law, no-one can find fault with them in a persons life.