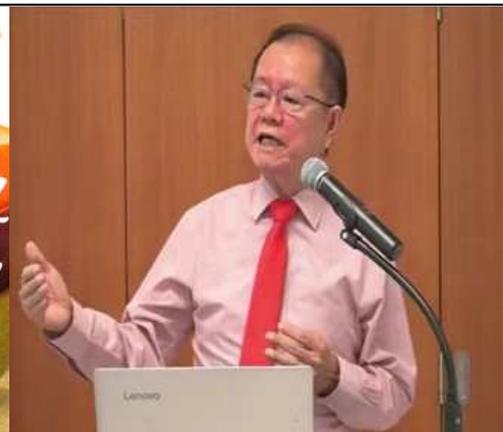




22nd November 2020



We have committed 3 weeks this November to the study of the Fruit of the Spirit. In contrast to what we see around us in this world, Christians are to live in the Spirit and exemplify the fruit thereof.

We read in Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Works of the Flesh

To fully understand the fruit of the Spirit, we must first contrast it with the works of the flesh. The Bible lists these in a few verses before listing the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are obvious, which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

To make it very clear, the Bible concludes this list by saying that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

On the other hand, those who produce the fruit of the Spirit will find, that against such things there is no law. This means that those who practice these spiritual traits are obeying the Law. They fulfill the Law without even thinking about it at times, because the fruit of the Spirit comes out of their lives naturally, so they are not doing it to satisfy a legal imperative.

Let us sum up the fruit of the Spirit in 3 categories of three.

Love, Joy, Peace

The first 3 qualities that adorn a person living in the Spirit are love, joy and peace. These are the characteristics of a contented person because these are inner qualities of the heart. Jesus says in Matthew 15:19-20 For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimony, and blasphemies. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands doesn't defile the man.

Continued on the back page



Fidelity is published weekly by the Household of Faith, Singapore, currently live streaming every Sunday at 6pm at <https://tinyurl.com/HOFstream> until we are allowed to assemble back at the Metropolitan YMCA, Stevens Road, Singapore 257854. Check our website - www.hofsg.com for the latest updates. Postal address: Pasir Panjang P.O. Box 27, Singapore 911121. Website: hofsg.com. For more details, contact the minister. Henry Kong at henry.kong@yahoo.com. Mobile: +65 9326 0669. Scan QR Code to go to our website (left) or our FB Live Stream (right).





Coming next week is an 8-page special colour edition of Fidelity where we will display photographs of our first 2 Missions Sundays. This is especially significant since we are unable to assemble in a similar way to celebrate our 3rd Missions Sunday.

Still, we can all prepare, pray and provide for Missions as we purpose in our heart.



Fruit of the Spirit *Continued from Cover*

It is so important that every Christian search his heart and ascertain that there is love, joy and peace within.

Patience, Kindness, Goodness

The next 3 qualities that adorn a person living in the Spirit are patience, kindness and goodness. These are the characteristics of a caring person because of the actions that we bestow on one another.

The Household of Faith recently completed a short series on "One Another". Fifty-nine times in the New Testament, we are exhorted to intentionally look away from our own needs and to care for one another.

Galatians 6:2 puts it so clearly - *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

The last 3 qualities that adorn a person living in the Spirit are faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are the characteristics of a devout person because these are spiritual qualities that we offer to God.

THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER



So few Christians remain faithful. Like the parable of the sower, so many allow the seed of the word of God to be taken away.

This is why we need self-control, like we do when we go for our physical exercises because so many things get in our way and distract us from doing our daily devotions and church services.

