

Some of the Outcomes

Monday, 6/7/10 – Read Galatians 5:22 and 1 Corinthians 13

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: Over the next few weeks we’re going to look deeply at those qualities identified as fruits of the Spirit. This week, let’s spend a day thinking about some of them individually. We won’t have enough days to consider them all. But this will give us a good overview of the list. Remember: these are qualities we can hope to experience as an result of living close to the Spirit of God -- even though they may take awhile to develop as the Holy Spirit slowly transforms our hearts. ... First, at the head of the list, is **LOVE**. We’re so used to thinking of love as a feeling that it’s hard for us to think of it any other way. Read again through 1 Corinthians 13. What does that passage say love is? How would you put it in your own words.

Tuesday, 6/8/10 – Read John 20:11-18 and Galatians 5:22
My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Mary Magdalene was the first to experience Jesus risen from the dead. Try to imagine her **JOY** and how she might have sounded when she told the other disciples: “I have seen the Lord” (John 20:18). ... When have you felt great, great joy? What was that feeling like for you? Have you ever felt God’s Spirit rising up joyfully within you?

Wednesday, 6/9/10 – Read Galatians 5:22 and John 14:27
My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus promised us **PEACE**, and peace is listed as one of the fruits of the Spirit. But notice that Jesus says his is a different kind of peace, not the kind of peace that the world gives. What’s your guess? What does the world call peace? How might Jesus’ peace be different? Have you ever experienced this different kind of peace?

Thursday, 6/10/10 – Read Romans 12:9-13 and Galatians 5:22

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The word “patience” in the list of fruits of the Spirit is literally **“LONG-TEMPER.”** This is the opposite of “short-tempered,” and it also carries the meaning of endurance. ... Some things in life take a long time; they don’t happen instantly. Becoming an extraordinary musician, for example, takes years of disciplined practice even for the most talented. ... One of the fruits or outcomes of living close to God’s Spirit is “long-temper,” the capacity to follow a long and difficult process all the way to the end. ... When have you seen it happen that someone failed simply because their emotions flashed too quickly -- or they gave up too soon? ... Write down something you have done that took a long time and was hard to do? Looking back, does it seem to you that the Spirit of God was producing “long-temper” in you?

Friday, 6/11/10 – Read Romans 15:14 and Galatians 5:22
My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The word translated “generosity” in Galatians 5:22 is literally **“GOODNESS.”** It’s the same word that is translated “goodness” in Romans 15:14. ... Pause and think for a moment. We use that word “good” almost indiscriminately. To you what is truly, truly GOOD? When we live close to the Spirit of God, we can hope for (we can expect) that one of the qualities that will mark our lives is TRUE goodness. What is this goodness? Write down your definition

and write down the name of one person in whom you have seen that goodness.

Saturday, 6/12/10 – Read **Colossians 3:12-14** and **Philippians 4:4-7**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The list of fruits in Galatians 5:22 includes both **KINDNESS** and **GENTLENESS**. Again, how do you define these words? What do they mean to you? How are kindness and gentleness different? ... One note: the word “kindness” is often used in the Bible in reference to God, as in Romans 2:4 and 11:22. What the Spirit produces in us is “divine kindness”? ... What do you think God’s kindness is like? When have you felt Divine Kindness moving through you toward another?

Sunday, 6/13/10 – Read **Galatians 5:22** and **Ephesians 3:16-19**

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Self-control is literally **INNER-STRENGTH**. Day by day, as we open ourselves to the Spirit of God, we are being made stronger internally, spiritually. ... Think of “places” in your life where you don’t feel strong enough. Maybe it’s a relationship that’s hard to manage or an illness that’s hard to bear or a worry that gets you down. In your prayer today, ask the Spirit to do its promised work of strengthening your spirit. Remember that this takes time; the fruits are the outcomes of allowing the Spirit to work within. For today just pray that the Spirit’s work will progress within you.

My Faith Journal, June 3, 2010

Outcomes #1

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.