

**Monday, 6/21/10 – Read Galatians 5:22, Romans 5:8**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: This week we will look at the fruits which are produced by the Spirit's activity in our lives. Each of these attributes has a distinctive Christian concept behind it. Love is the first fruit but it is not the kind of love most people talk about. This is Christian love which extends not only to family and friends but also to enemies. It is defined as "intelligent goodwill" in other words it means that we want and hope for the best in every person. It is epitomized in Romans 5:8 when God demonstrated His love by giving His son who died for us. Will you be aware this week of the Spirit's work in you to demonstrate this kind of love in your family, at work and even on Sunday morning?

**Tuesday, 6/22/10 – Read Galatians 5:22, Romans 8:28 and Hebrews 11:2**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: It is Christian joy that is listed second. This is no happiness that happens but It is a joy that is there in spite of circumstances because we know that God will ultimately work things out for good. Romans 8:28. Jesus for the joy set before Him endured the cross. Hebrews 11:2. Jesus knew both the pain and suffering of the cross but he also knew that what he accomplished on the cross would be beneficial to hundreds of thousands who would follow in His Way. In the midst of a chaotic week and even some sadness, can you relax and think of the ultimate joy of being a worker together with God?

**Wednesday, 6/23/10 – Galatians 5:22, Philippians 4:7**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: This is not the idea of peace which comes after a war or even an argument. This kind of Christian peace comes even in the midst of turbulence and sometimes in the midst of sorrow. It is a peace that comes because one

trusts that God is at work and we can rely on Him to bring a successful end to whatever turbulence or trouble we may be having. It is a peace that surpasses all understanding as Paul writes in Philippians 4:7. Patience--long-tempered—again is an attribute that comes from looking at what is happening from a long view, i.e. in terms of years or even eternity rather than what is happening now or tomorrow. When things get hectic this week and you have two dozen matters to be resolved in the next 10 minutes can you take time out to relax and feel God's peace creep into your mind?

**Thursday, 6/24/10 – Read Galatians 5:22, Ephesians 5:8-9.**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: The NRSV text reads generosity for the word goodness but the word really means goodness and it is a goodness that comes from God which certainly can issue itself in generosity. But we must equate goodness with God or we become the ones who define what is good and that makes goodness very relative. The word kindness is translated goodness in several places and they are almost synonyms. It is really a repetition of the Golden Rule that we should treat others as we would want to be treated. Note that it says as we would want to be treated NOT as we have been treated, that is the Christian difference. It is never easy to turn the other cheek but perhaps you will find an opportunity to do that this week so that you can demonstrate real goodness and kindness. You can if you allow the Spirit to produce this fruit for you.

**Friday, 6/25/10 – Read Galatians 5:22, Hebrews 11:6**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

A Question to Answer: The root idea behind faithfulness is the concept of trust. This is the word most often translated "faith" but the meaning is trust. It is Christian trust because it is a reference to our trust in God and since God is a spirit trust is the only way to approach God. Hebrews 11:6 puts it this way.

“Whoever approaches God must trust that he exists and that he rewards those who seek Him.” It is not trust despite the facts or in spite of the facts but it is trust because God is beyond this physical realm. Since we are surrounded by some much physicality, it is difficult to trust but if you walk through the day with that concept in mind, you will find that trust helps you to see the other fruits of the spirit working in your life. Be aware.

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**Saturday, 6/26/10 – Read Galatians 5:22, Galatians 6:1**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: This word is often translated by meekness but that has such a weak meaning to most people that it does not convey the strength inherent in this word. Gentleness or with humility conveys the idea better. Notice the strength that has to be involved in approaching someone else about their deficiency. Galatians 6:1. It is not an easy task. Read also II Timothy 3:25. Can you use this concept when talking with your children or perhaps even your co-workers? It certainly is a better way of helping people keep on the right track.

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**Sunday, 6/27/10 – Read Galatians 5:22, I Corinthians 9:25**

My Observations: \_\_\_\_\_

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A Question to Answer: The character and strength of a person comes from inside. It is not physical. The I Corinthian passage illustrates well what is true for all these attributes, i.e. we are not striving for a olive wreath of the champion but for an imperishable wreath which is not here and now but its certainty is assured so we can allow the Spirit to produce these uniquely Christian fruits which enrich both our own lives but also the lives of everyone around us. Take a few moments each day to be aware of the Spirit and its power and movement in your life.

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*My Faith Journal, June 20, 2010*

**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.*