

Matt 7:20 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Which fruits is this scripture referring to? The fruits of the spirit. Here is a collection of thoughts and scriptures from last night's discussion.

Love The word "love" can be used as a noun. For example, as in an object or thing well liked. What greater love is the sacrifice of Christ's body for the whole world. The word "love" can also be used as a verb. For instance, as in to have a strong liking for; take great pleasure in. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son St John 3:16. And because of this love and our belief in him we can have everlasting life. Jesus told us that the great commandment in the law is to love him with all your heart, soul, and mind. Likewise, the second commandment is to love thy neighbor as thyself Matt 22:36-40).

Joy Great happiness; delight, triumph, euphoria, exhilaration, rejoice

We have to delight ourselves in God. When our forefathers did not serve God with joy and gladness, he caused Israel to serve our enemies with a yoke of iron. Deu 28:47-48. You are blessed when you delight yourself in the Sabbath. God will cause you to ride upon high places Isa 58:13-14. If you are lacking in this joy, pray to God to restore your happiness (Psa 51:12). Let us remember to rejoice in our sufferings as Christ and count it joy we when fall into divers temptations. (I Pet 4:13) (James 1:2).

Peace It's the freedom in quietness; tranquility. Freedom from the sensation of war or violence. God leaves us peace, and he also gives us peace that is not of this world. God promises to give us "perfect" peace as long as we keep our minds stayed on him (Isa 26:3). If God gives us peace, then what is the peace of the world God informs us about? St. John 14:27 Mark 4:37-39

Longsuffering Enduring long temperance; opposition of hate and anger. Love suffers long. Love is kind. I Cor 13:4 Longsuffering as charity. Jonathan loved David so much that Jonathan's father couldn't turn Jonathan away from David. Learn love and in the end, it purifies you after longsuffering. The Hebrews both now and then endured longsuffering. It took tremendous power to "turn the other cheek" from extreme atrocities. The people trusted in God and believed that everything would be okay one day. There's also longsuffering in marriages. Marriage is a mutual contract in which the husband and wife vows to be together as one flesh. In this day and time, marriages are disannulled before it starts. There are so many divorces, couples are unwilling to stick together and endure longsuffering.

Gentleness Quality of being kind, mild mannered. Rom 5:8 tells us how Christ died for our sins; it was his love and his endurance on the cross. Thank goodness for God's tender mercies to sacrifice himself James 5:11,13-14. While suffering on the cross (hanged on the tree) Gal 3:13, the people mocked Christ and stated if ye be God, save yourself. Christ illustrated gentleness when he asked God to forgive them for their sins.

Faith Hebrews 11:1 faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Webster's Dictionary, "believing in or about something without knowing the outcome." Complete trust or confidence in God. The woman with the issue of blood believed that she would be healed by touching the hem of Christ's garment. Matt 9:20-22

Meekness humbleness, lowliness, modesty, plainness, simpleness, quietness. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. What a blessing to receive the inheritance or heirloom of the earth for being meek. Ruth is called a virtuous or meek woman Ruth 3:11. Prov 9:13 tells us about the clamorous woman; she is the opposite of a meek woman. A clamorous woman is foolish.

Temperance Moderation, self control, abstinence. As women of God, we have to learn to be silent and control our desires to overtake authority from men. I Tim 2:11-12. In all things, we have to find the equilibrium (moderation) Philip 4:5; too much of anything is bad. There are scales for everything: poor vs. rich, black vs. white; unclean vs. clean; etc. Review the works of the flesh and fruits of the spirit scale, where do you fall? II Pet 1:5-8 describes the levels in this walk. You must first have faith; you have to believe in his word. After belief, you add virtue which is honor. You have to respect this truth. We grow in knowledge and temper the knowledge so that you're not "puffed-up" and lose souls. You can have so much knowledge where you question the truth; Satan would have you doubting and thinking there's so many possibilities. Once you have temperance, you are able to endure or have patience with people when you're discussing God. You're able to hear a matter without jumping to conclusions. You have the ability to separate your feelings and give the truth. When we're able to do all these things, we are acting godly, for Christ is all these things: faith, virtue, temperance, knowledge. To have these things are operating with brotherly kindness and allows you to reach the ultimate level of charity.

Conclusion Christ's flesh was crucified for our sins. During his suffering on the cross, Christ exhibited all the fruits of the Spirit. We must crucify our flesh daily and submit more to the holy spirit. Every day it is indicative that we ask God to help us to walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh. Jesus said it best, ".....the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt 26:41). So here's the conclusion of the matter fear God and keep his commandments; it is our sole purpose in life (Ecc 12:13-14).