

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT 9-WEEK STUDY
Study Guide for March 25: Love

TEXT: Galatians 5:22-23

INTRO: There is a major difference between “works” and “fruit.” The difference is this: works are the result of human effort, strain and labor, and fruit is not. Fruit is the result of yielding to a Divine, supernatural life force that is working within us that causes fruit to grow. A machine in a factory works. A machine turns out a product. However, a machine cannot manufacture fruit. Fruit is produced by a life force that runs throughout a plant or tree. A machine can produce works in an instant, but fruit growth takes time. It doesn’t come quick and it doesn’t happen overnight.

When it comes to the spiritual life, we can produce works of the flesh ourselves, but we cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit ourselves. Only God’s Spirit can produce God’s fruit. The process begins by believing on Jesus Christ. In fact, without Jesus Christ in one’s life, no fruit may be produced. Jesus said, “without Me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5b). Every Christian should do the best they can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to get all 9 of these fruits worked into their personality.

THE FIRST FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8; 1 John 3:16-18; 1 John 4:7-12

DEFINITIONS:

● What are the four different kinds of love in the Bible?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

● The fruit of the Spirit type of love is _____ love.

DISCUSSION:

Follow along with 1 Corinthians 13 and try to answer and discuss the following questions:

- How important is love to our value as human beings? (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
- How does love treat other people and deal with frustrations? (13:4)
- What attitudes does love NOT have toward other people? How does love think about others? (13:4)
- How does love regard the feelings and failures of others? (13:5)
- How does love react to lies, scams, schemes and deceiving and tricking others? (13:6)
- How does love handle tough times? (13:7)
- How is the love of God to be reflected in the love Christians have for each other? What is wrong with ignoring the obvious needs of others? (1 John 3:16-18)
- What is the source of love? How was love revealed to us? What should we do as a result? How does love change or improve us? (1 John 4:7-12)
- In what ways do we manufacture love rather than rely on the Holy Spirit to help us be more loving?
- Do you think the fruit of the Spirit type of love is intended to show up by feelings or by actions?
- How does love set the tone for the rest of the fruits of the Spirit? What are some other verses that emphasize the priority of love?

DECISION:

What can you do this week to demonstrate the Spirit’s fruit of love?