

# Crossroad of Truth

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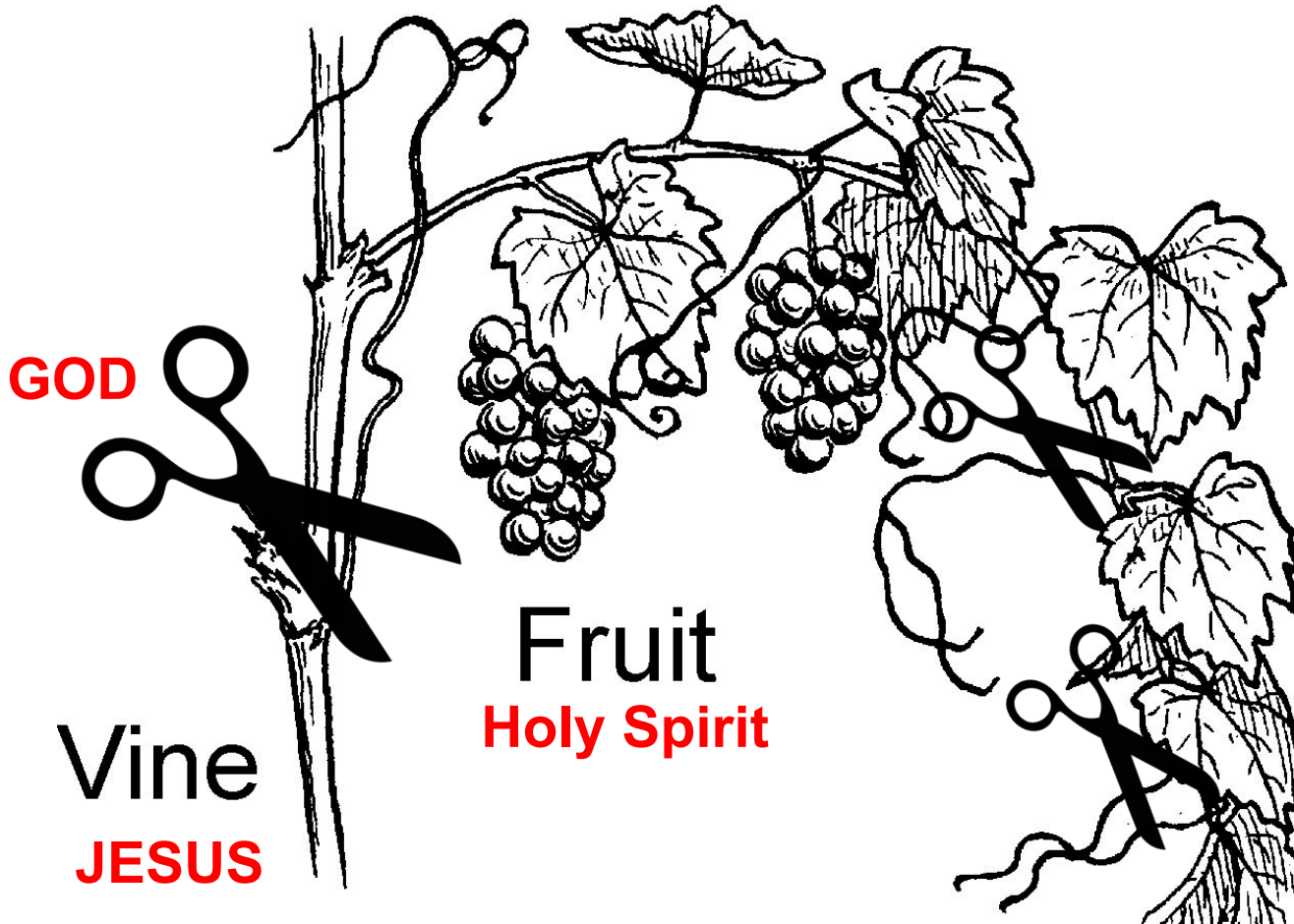
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# Last Time

## Fruit of the Spirit

- Why God Cares About Fruit?
  - Love

# Why Does God Care About Fruit? <sup>5</sup>



All we need is  
**FAITH** in Jesus,  
and He will take  
care of the rest.

If we (the branches) are not connected to the true vine (Jesus) and bear fruit (empowered by the Holy Spirit), then the vinedressor (God the Father) will judge us and either prune (cleanse) or cut (condemn) us off from the vine (Jesus).

# 1. Love - Agape<sup>1</sup>

At the end of the day, Agape love is feeding God's sheep:

**John 21:15-17**

**15** So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son of onah*, **do you love Me** more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "**Feed My lambs.**"

**16** He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son of Jonah*, **do you love Me?**"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**"

**17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son of Jonah*, **do you love Me?**" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "**Feed My sheep..**"

# 1. Love

## 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails.

# Today

Fruit of the Spirit

- Joy
- Peace

# The Fruit of the Spirit <sup>2</sup>

## Galatians 5:16-21

**16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**19** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries,** and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.**

# What Is The Fruit of the Spirit? <sup>3</sup>

## Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is

1. **love, joy, peace,**
2. **longsuffering, kindness, goodness,**
3. **faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.**

**Me → God**

**Me → others**

**Me**



# What Is The Fruit of the Spirit?

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## 2. Joy<sup>4</sup>

The Greek word is *chara*, which describes a feeling of inner gladness, delight or rejoicing.

Joy in the NT is almost always used to signify a feeling of gladness and delight that is based on spiritual realities, and independent of what "happens."

Joy is of more than just a mood. It is a confidence deeply rooted in God's sovereign control of the universe, His unchanging divine promises and eternal spiritual realities including the assurance of ultimate victory over sin for those in Christ.

Joy is often times greatest when circumstances are the most painful and severe, not only when things go our way.

## 2. Joy<sup>5</sup>

God's joy is full, complete in every way. Nothing human or circumstantial can add to it or detract from it. But it is not fulfilled in a believer's life except through reliance on and obedience to the Lord.

When we surrender to the Spirit, He opens our eyes to God's grace around us and fills us with joy (Romans 15:13).

Joy is hard to find in a broken and fallen world. It is only through fellowship with God that can make our joy complete (1 John 1:4).

Joy is a part of God's own nature and Spirit that He manifests in His children.

Joy is the inevitable overflow of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and of the believer's knowing His continuing presence and having a sense of well being experienced by one who knows all is well between oneself and the Lord (1 Pet 1:8).

## 2. Joy

The Spirit produces joy in these four ways:

1. Joy of Deliverance
2. Joy of Salvation
3. Joy of Spiritual Maturity
4. Joy of God's Presence

## 2. Joy

### **Joy of Deliverance**

When God sets someone free, we rejoice:

1 Samuel 2:1: Hannah was filled with joy at her deliverance from her enemies.

Acts 12:14: The servant girl was so overjoyed that God had rescued Peter from prison that she forgot to let Peter in the house.

## 2. Joy<sup>6</sup>

### Joy of Salvation

Our greatest reason to be joyful is that God wants to save us and spend eternity with us:

Luke 15:7: I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

1 Pet 1:8: In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **9** receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Isaiah 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

## 2. Joy

### **Joy of Spiritual Maturity**

As the Holy Spirit works in us to bear more fruit, we become confident in God's promises and rejoice in our walk with Him and with other believers:

John 15:11: The fullness of joy comes to those who continue in the love of Christ and obey Him.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:9: **19** For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

Hebrews 12:2: looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## 2. Joy

### **Joy of God's Presence**

The Holy Spirit draws us closer to God and the knowledge of true joy. We would not seek God without the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 16:11: “You will show me the path of life. In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.”

Matthew 2:10: When they [wisemen] heard the king [Herod], they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child [Jesus] was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

Matthew 28:8: So they\* went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.



## 2. Joy<sup>6</sup>

Reasons why you are NOT experiencing the joy of the Lord:

- Wordly Joy
- Idolizing Joy
- Unbelief
- Sin

## 2. Joy<sup>7</sup>

Places where you will NOT find joy:

- Unbelief
- Pleasure
- Money
- Status and Fame
- Military Glory

**Where will you find real joy?**

The answer is simple,  
in Christ alone.

## 2. Joy<sup>8</sup>

Places where you will NOT find joy:

### **Ecclesiastes 2:10-11**

10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;  
I refused my heart no pleasure.

My heart took delight in all my labor,  
and this was the reward for all my toil.

11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done  
and what I had toiled to achieve,  
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;  
nothing was gained under the sun.

# What Is The Fruit of the Spirit?

## Galatians 5:22-23

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1. love, joy, **peace**,
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Me → God

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Me

## 3. Peace

Hebrew = Shalom; Greek = Eirene

The opposite of peace is anxiety or worry

Peace is

- being in a harmonious relationship with God
- not the absence of danger
- in the presence of God
- outwardly a condition of freedom from disturbance (eg. war)
- inwardly, within the soul

We must be at peace *with* God before we can experience the peace *of* God

### **3. Peace - Shalom**

Shalom is To be safe, to be sound, healthy; to be finished or complete, uninjured in mind or body.

It signifies a sense of well-being and harmony within and without, health, wholeness, happiness, quietness of soul, prosperity, tranquility, security, safety

Shalom is used as a greeting and also as a way of asking “how someone is doing” and conveys the idea of wanting the very best for someone in their life.

Shalom is used today in Israel as a greeting and wishing one another well, saying essentially "may all things be prosperous with you" which is intended to mean to be happy, whole, right with God, fellow people, and creation.

### **3. Peace - Eirene**

“To bind or join together” again of that which was separated or divided and restored back to one again

Jesus through the blood of His Cross binds together that which was separated by human sin, the sinner who puts his faith in the Lord Jesus, and God.

Colloquially known as “having it all together”

Peace here is not the peace with God which we have by justification, but the peace of God in our hearts, and can be defined as inner rest and well being based on the consciousness of being right with God

### 3. Peace <sup>9</sup>

How did we lose peace with God? Sin

Sin brought spiritual death, and later physical death, the ultimate disruption of peace, oneness, and harmony between God and human.\*

Instead of God's using typical methods of battle to "win" us back, He sent us the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus' came to bring about a full and abiding relationship of restoration and love i.e. peace.

The cost of this peace was His life (Isaiah 53:5).\*



### 3. Peace

None of us can accept Jesus' offer of peace by our own will and power.

Our natural selves do not want it.

Only God can lead us to want peace with Him; the Holy Spirit leads us to want Jesus and His message.

Before we were saved by God, we were His enemies, We were under judgment, we were under wrath; but we have been reconciled to God. Now we have peace with God, peace with God. We have peace with God. We no longer are at war with God or He with us.

“Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

### 3. Peace <sup>10</sup>

Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is the confidence that He is with us in and through difficult times.

Jesus promised peace before the Cross:

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” ([John 14:27](#))

As believers, we are to be "anxious for nothing," for God promises to "guard your hearts and minds." ([Philippians 4:4-7](#)). This peace “which transcends all understanding”, which seen by the world is incomprehensible. \*

There is no peace in the whole world except by faith in Christ.

## 3. Peace <sup>11</sup>

Two kinds of peace:

### 1. Experiential

- The day by day experience of a believer, can be lost (Philippians 4:7)

### 2. Judicial

- The war with God is forever done (Romans 5:1).

A person can have peace by justification by their faith, but not experience peace day-to-day unless they continue to walk with God.

## How Does The World Find Peace? <sup>12</sup>

When the world is disturbed, upset, and troubled he or she will do one of three things:

1. They **first try to change the circumstances** because their source of peace comes from circumstances, not in God.
  - They can only be at peace when everything around them is in harmony.
  - So they try desperately to change the circumstances, which cannot always be controlled.
2. If he cannot change their situation, next they **try to forget their problem and run away**
  - Examples: vacation, go home to mother, take a drug, or drink their woes away.
3. The last option **they try is to blame their difficulty on somebody else.** It is everybody's fault but his.

## How Do We Find Peace? <sup>13</sup>

To have peace with God means that there is nothing --no sin, no guilt, no condemnation--that separates us.

And that peace with God is only through Christ (Romans 5:1).

"Grace and PEACE be multiplied to you in the KNOWLEDGE of God and of Jesus our Lord seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the KNOWLEDGE of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence." (2 Peter 1:2; 1:3)

## An Example <sup>14</sup>

Three Christian brothers met one day  
To speak of things divine;  
They had so much of Christ to say,  
With joy their faces shine.

The first one said, 'My brothers dear,  
By virtue of Christ's blood,  
My heart retains no guilty fear,  
I now have "Peace with God".'  
(Romans 5:1)

### **Romans 5:1**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The second brother answered bold,  
'You lag on heaven's road;  
I grasp the truth with higher hold,  
I have the "peace of God".'  
(Philippians 4:7)

### **Phil 4:7**

and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

## An Example

The third dear brother drew up tall;  
He laughed and scarce could cease:  
`My brothers dear, I beat you all—  
I have the "God of Peace." (1Thess  
5:23)



### **1 Thess 5:23**

Now may the God of peace  
Himself sanctify you  
completely; and may your  
whole spirit, soul, and body  
be preserved blameless at  
the coming of our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

They all had peace, they all were  
right,  
But peace in diverse measure;  
The third had scaled the highest  
height  
Of Heaven's exalted pleasure.

—T. Baird