February 10

Fruits of the Spirit/Love

Everyday Love

 We should show our love in action – Read: I John 3:18.

 Everyday love for one another presents itself in many ways, a casserole for a sick friend’s family, a contribution to world hunger, used clothing for a needy family and the list goes on… just smiling at someone on the street maybe just the thing they need to lift their spirits and make their day.

 We should show this love, not as a duty, but as a privilege of the love God has given us – Read: I John 4:7.

 As we go day to day our love must be shown, freely, not expecting something in return – Read: Romans 12:9

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 12:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I see the needs of others and to respond to that need out of love and not out of need for personal recognition.

February 11

Fruits of the Spirit/Love

Love Your Enemies

 When someone against you - Read: Romans 12:17.

 We all seem to have someone or maybe a whole family that we cannot seem to get along with; maybe they have wronged us somehow, gossiped about us or upset us somehow. Paul says – Read: Romans 12:19.

 Solomon gives a perfect way to pay back” our enemies – Read: Proverbs 25:21-22.

 Paul gives us something to think about – Read: Romans 12:21.

When we have trouble getting along with others we should try “killing” them with kindness, make them feel so bad that they wronged us that it will be hard for them to do it again!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 12:18.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to live in peace with everyone, O Lord, and to always repay evil with good.

February 12

Fruits of the Spirit

Love

 As the words to a song says “What the world needs now is love, sweet love.” Love is one of the main themes of the New Testament, love for each other, whether it is romantic love, friendship or a general, genuine love for everyone.

 We need to “practice” love, being slow to judge or find fault. Love is not a natural ability, we have to be taught to love, give hugs, kisses and I love you are important right from birth, to instill a closeness and a desire to show love to others.

 The only obligation we have to each other is to love – Read: Romans 13:8a. If we love someone we won’t hurt them, we will do our best to help or comfort them, out of love comes the way and the means to be good to one another.

 Love is tolerant – Read: Ephesians 4:2.

 Let your love show in every possible way – It’s our only obligation in life!

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 13:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me show my love to others, especially in small ways, and all praise be to you, O Lord for your eternal love.

February 13

Fruits of the Spirit

Joy

 Joy is mirth and gladness, which is given by the Holy Spirit – Read: Romans 14:17, 18.

 We should serve the Lord with joy – Read: Psalm 100:2.

 The Lord has lifted the burden of sin from our lives our hearts should easily fill with joy!

 We should be filled with joy like the jailer, after Paul and Silas told him the good news of salvation – Read: Acts 16:34b. Joy comes in believing in the Lord!

 Our life as a Christian is not always easy, although for many of us our tribulation, so far, is nowhere as bad as for the people in Paul’s day – but Paul even had joy – Read: II Corinthians 7:4b.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Philippians 4:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me always to be joyful, O Lord, in your service, always looking on the bright side, even in my troubles.

February 14

Valentine’s Day

Romantic Love

 St. Valentine’s Day is a day for love, I Corinthians 13 is referred to as the “Love Chapter” – Read: I Corinthians 13:4a, 7a. Love is many things, but in marriage love is caring, sharing, responsible love.

 In marriage we must be sensitive to each other’s needs – Read: Genesis 2:24. When you become one in marriage it should not be hard to treat your spouse the way they should be treated because in a sense if you mistreat them, you are mistreating yourself – Read: Ephesians 5:28-29. That also goes for women – Read: Ephesians 5:33b.

 There is probably nothing in this world more wonderful than a successful, rewarding marriage, making Christ the head of the home is the way to a happy, lasting marriage.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Ephesians 5:21.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, may you always be the head of our home and we can have the comfort of knowing you are always there to guide us through the Holy Spirit.

February 15

Fruits of the Spirit

Peace

 Peace comes from God and it is useful to us as believers – Read: Colossian 3:15. This peace is there for us to use in our daily lives to make our life easier.

 God’s peace is so unique, so special, it’s hard for us to even think about, peace is against human nature – Read: Philippians 4:7.

 We receive this peace through our knowing Jesus – Read: II Peter 1:2.

 There is hardly anything worse for us than a troubled mind and heart, Praise the Lord, true peace comes from you!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 8:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, thank-you for the wonderful peace that you have given me and may I always be mindful of it.

February 16

Fruits of the Spirit

Patience

 Sometimes we become impatient with the Lord, wondering what he has in mind for us, but if we can have patience, it will be rewarded – Read: Hebrews 10:36.

 Patience is another virtue that is against most people’s normal nature. Patience is not easy to define, but we should think of all the times in our own lives when patience paid off, the long awaited promotion, or back when we were children waiting for our birthday, patience is not always easy.

 Now as believers we must patiently wait for the Lord’s return, we must not give up, Jesus promised to return and He keeps his promises – Read: James 5:8.

 God is the source of our patience – Now the God of patience… Romans 15:5a KJV. Rely on the Lord when patience seems impossible!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Psalm 37:5, 7a.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Lord, grant me God given patience to endure this life until your return.

February 17

Fruits of the Spirit

Self – control

 There are different aspects of self-control, being able to control our spending, not over eating and of course controlling our tongue and our anger. Learning to control our anger is not always easy; we all have different temperaments – Read: James 1:19.

 Many times we get angry at others who don’t believe as we do, but usually if our anger flares at these people we lose whatever ground we could have gained in bringing them to the Lord.

 In our everyday life our anger gets us into a lot of trouble, depend on the Lord to help you control your temper.

 As believers we are to fulfill God’s purpose - Read: James 1:20. We must pray for strength in controlling our anger.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Proverbs 25:28.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, when anger wells up inside of me, O Lord, to keep it in check.