Fruits of the Spirit February 18

Humility

To be humble is hard but – “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6b. So – Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will lift you up. James 4:10.

The most humbling experience would be to truthfully compare ourselves with the Lord, when we do this with an open mind and heart we will find that we fall well short of his perfect example and the experience will bring us to humble ourselves before Him.

As Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount – “Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!” Matthew 5:5.

As a Proverb warns – Pride leads to destruction, and arrogance to downfall. It is better to be humble and stay poor than to be one of the arrogant and get a share of their loot. Proverbs 16:18, 19.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “The greatest in the kingdom of heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child.” Matthew 18:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me have a healthy amount of self pride, but not to the point of arrogance, help me to humble myself before you to accept what you have in store for me.

Fruits of the Spirit February 19

Goodness and Kindness

If you let it – Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. Philippians 2:1.

To show kindness to others is sometimes very hard, there are personality conflicts, because we are all different. That is where comes in, a quick silent prayer for tolerance will bring forth the kindness needed in such situations. A change of attitude toward a difficult person will be continuous if we keep that person in our prayers.

What a wonder thing to know – the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Psalm 33:5b. KJV. We know this goodness through knowing the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Surely goodness and mercy shall fallow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Psalm 23:6. KJV.

PRAYER THOUGHT: The kindness in my heart, O Lord, comes from you and help me to show it to others.

Temptation February 20

A Way Out

Temptation is as much a part of life as faith is – My brothers and sisters, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, **3**for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure. James 1:2, 3.

The Lord will not allow us to be tempted too much for us to bear – Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give the strength to endure it, and so provide you eth a way out. 1 Corinthians 10:13. Depend on the Lord during the times of temptation.

Being tempted is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin – And so the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials. 2 Peter 2:9a. Our strength and guidance comes only from the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Their (temptations) purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. 1 Peter 1:7a, b.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my faith, O Lord, be the enduring type of faith that does not fall to temptation, but will last through eternity.

New Life February 21

Backsliding

Just because we’ve found Jesus, we are not immune from backsliding – Those who think they are standing firm had better be careful that they do not fall.1 Corinthians 10:12.

The two factions, the Spirit of God and our human nature are always at war within us – What human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions;  in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups. Galatians 5:19, 20. In warning – I warn you now as I have before: Those who do these things will not possess the Kingdom of God. Galatians 5:21b. The other faction – And those who belong to Christ Jesus have put to death their human nature with all its passions and desires. The Spirit has given us life; he must also control our lives. Galatians 5:24, 25.

With these two foes pulling within us all the time we must be on our guard and keep our hearts and minds on the things of God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “No one can be a slave of two masters; he will hate one and love the other; he will be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, guide me with your Spirit so I can always remain in accordance with your will.

Backsliding February 22

Forgiveness

How many times can I expect to be forgiven for backsliding? – Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?”

“No, not seven times,” answered Jesus, “but seventy times seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this.

Matthew 18: 21-23a.

We have unlimited forgiveness, but we shouldn’t go on sinning with the attitude that we forgiven anyway. Instead – Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17.

The grand thing about all this forgiveness is that God keeps no record of our sins or how many times He has forgiven us – If you kept a record of our sins, who could escape being condemned? But you forgive us, so that we should stand in awe of you. Psalm 130:3, 4.

VERSE FOR TODAY: You are merciful and forgiving, although we have rebelled against you. Daniel 9:9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to be in constant need of your forgiveness, but I know I can never be perfect and am thankful you are always there to forgive and forget my sins, help me to always be as willing to forgive those who sin against me.

New Life February 23

Forgiving One Another

We have now been forgiven of our sins, now we must learn to forgive others – Get rid of all bitterness, passion and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ. Ephesians 4:31, 32.

Forgiveness is a two way street, God has forgiven us, so we can forgive others, to be forgiven on our walk through life – forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Luke 6:37c. KJV.

We must learn to – Be tolerant with one another and forgive on another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as Lord has forgiven you. Colossians 3:13.

Forgiving sometimes is the easiest part; the forgetting is the hard part.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done.” Mark 11:25.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, to forgive others with my heart and forget with my mind the wrongs they have done.

New Life February 24

Suffering

Nobody said our new life in Christ would be easy, you’ll receive such remarks as “How can you believe that stuff?” to downright indignant remarks, but the suffering we put up with is of no comparison to what Christ suffered on the cross for us – Rather be glad that you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may be full of joy when his glory is revealed. Happy are you if you are insulted because you are Christ’s followers this means that the glorious Spirit, the Spirit of God, is resting on you. 1 Peter 4:13-14.

We tend to become complacent with our Christianity here in America because of our religious freedom, it wasn’t always that way, the Mormons, for instance, had to keep moving because of their beliefs. America got its start because of religious persecution in Europe.

We should not only welcome suffering but glory in it – We also boast of our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God’s approval, and his approve creates hope. This hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God’s gift to us. Romans 5:3-5. We must use the suffering that comes our way to show others Christ living in us to strengthen our faith.

VERSE FOR TODAY: However, if you suffer because you are a Christian, don’t be ashamed of it, but thank God that you bear Christ’s name. 1 Peter 4:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I truly turn my suffering into love and strength through your name.

New Life February 25

Shift of Burden

We all seem to be guilty of not letting the Lord help us with everything – “Come to me, all of you who are tired of carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest…” Matthew 11:28. We wrestle with all the cares of everyday life and usually don’t think of asking God for help. We must learn to remember that God is ready, willing and able to help us, much better than we can ever help ourselves.

We shouldn’t worry about our daily needs, God takes care of them – “So do not start worrying: ‘Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?’  Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things.”  Matthew 6:31&32b. If we are faithful servants God will provide – But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33 KJV.

All we need to do is ask – “Ask, and you will receive…” Matthew 7:7a. For God has said, “I will never abandon you.” Hebrews 13:5b.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Honour the Lord, all his people; those who obey him have all they need.Even lions go hungry for lack of food, but those who obey the Lord lack nothing good. Psalm 34:9, 10.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, thank-you for providing for my daily needs, help me to know your will and have the faith to put you first and follow your guidance so all the daily needs will be added unto us.