Fruits of the Spirit/Love February 10

Everyday Love

We should show our love in action – My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action. 1 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 – Dear friends, let us love one another because love comes from God. 1 John 4:7a.

As we go day to day our love must be shown, freely, not expecting something in return – Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good. Romans 12:9

VERSE FOR TODAY: Share your belongings with your needy fellow-Christians, and open your home to strangers. 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.

Fruits of the Spirit/Love February 11

Love Your Enemies

-If someone has done you wrong, do not repay with a wrong. Romans 12:17a.

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 – “Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God’s anger do it. For the scripture says, “I will take revenge, I will pay back says the Lord.” Romans 12:19.

Solomon gives a perfect way to pay back” our enemies – If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink.  You will make them burn with shame, and the Lord will reward you.

Proverbs 25:21-22.

Paul gives us something to think about – Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good. 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: Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody. Romans 12:18.

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

Fruits of the Spirit February 12

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, 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 – Be under obligation to no one – the only obligation you have is to love one another. 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 - Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Ephesians 4:2.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope and love; the greatest of these is love. 1 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.

Fruits of the Spirit February 13

Joy

Joy is mirth and gladness, which is given by the Holy Spirit – for God’s Kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives Romans 14:17.

We should serve the Lord with joy – Worship the Lord with joy; come before him with happy songs! 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 – He and his family were filled with joy, because they now believed in God. 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 – In all our troubles I am still full of courage; I am running over with joy! 2 Corinthians 7:4b.

VERSE FOR TODAY: May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice! 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.

Valentine’s Day February 14

Romantic Love

1 Corinthians 13 is referred to as the “Love Chapter” – Love is patient and kind – Love never gives up. 1 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 – That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife, and they become one. 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 – Men ought to love their wives just as they love their own bodies. A man who loves his wife loves himself. (People never hate their own bodies. Instead, they feed them and take care of them) Ephesians 5:28-29a. That also goes for women – and every wife must respect her husband. 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: Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for Christ. 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.

Fruits of the Spirit February 15

Peace

Peace comes from God and it is useful to us as believers – The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. 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 – And God’s peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7.

We receive this peace through our knowing Jesus – May grace and peace be your in full measure through your knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 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: To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. 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.

Fruits of the Spirit February 16

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 – You need to be patient, in order to do the will of God and receive what he promises. 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 – You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord’s coming is near. James 5:8.

God is the source of our patience – And may God, the source of patience . . . Romans 15:5a. Rely on the Lord when patience seems impossible!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Give yourself to the Lord; trust in him, and he will help you;

Be patient and wait for the Lord to act; Psalm 37:5, 7a.

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

Fruits of the Spirit February 17

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 – Remember this, my dear brothers and sisters! Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry. 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 – Human anger does not achieve God's righteous purpose.  James 1:20. We must pray for strength in controlling our anger.

VERSE FOR TODAY: If you cannot control your anger, you are as helpless as a city without walls, open to attack.

Proverbs 25:28.

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