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**AM Bible Study**  
Pastor Sam Young, Jr.

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**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

## **Do You Have What It Takes To Be A Christian?**

### **Introduction**

It takes having the Fruit of the Spirit to become a Christian. Every Christian has been giving the Fruit of the Spirit to live a productive life in the Kingdom of God as he ministers to people. Remember people constantly watch your walk with the Lord. The Fruit of the Spirit shows individuals that we have a relationship with the Lord. Now the Greek word translated “fruit” refers to the natural product of a living thing. The Apostle Paul used “fruit” to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit who lives inside every believer. “The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, not by the Christian and as we grow all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.” [Crosswalk.com]. Those who are in Christ are distinguished from unbelievers in that they have been gifted with the Holy Spirit, enabling them to bear fruit. Their works demonstrate the change of sanctification that is at work in their hearts.

### **What is the Fruit of the Spirit?**

Love ♦ Joy ♦ Peace ♦ Longsuffering ♦ Gentleness ♦ Goodness ♦ Faith ♦ Meekness ♦ Temperance

#### **Love – First John 4:7-8**

Biblical love is a choice, not a feeling. It seeks the welfare of others. It is dependent on the giver’s character, not emotions. Love is self-sacrifice, putting others’ needs before their own, following Jesus’ example humbling ourselves as servants – First Corinthians 13:4-7. It is only through the work of the Holy Spirit that we can set aside our sinfulness and our selfishness. Because God has shown us mercy, we are able to show mercy to others; because He has shown us love, we are able to show love to others – First John 4:19-21.

#### **Joy – Romans 15:13**

One must abide daily in their relationship with Christ Jesus to experience the fullness of joy. Joy is more than a temporary happiness; joy is lasting and based in more than simply an emotional reaction to our circumstances. It is an active choice of attitude. When troubles of this world assail us, we can rest in the comfort that only God can bring and have joy, no matter our circumstances – Psalm 71:23. The reason we can have joy is that we have eternal hope in Christ Jesus.

#### **Peace – Isaiah 26:3**

No matter our circumstance, we can still have the peace of Christ Jesus. Peace comes from our rejoicing in God. Peace comes from bringing all our worries, fears, and concerns to God in prayer. Peace comes from our filling our mind with God’s truth. Peace comes from our thoughts about God. This world is full of strife and division, frustrated by sin and evil. As Christians, we are not spared from sin’s effects on the world, but we are able to take our worries to God through prayer – Philippians 4:6-7. In Christ, we have peace in the knowledge that He is in control and that no matter what struggles we face in this world, we will be granted ultimate eternal peace in Him.



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**Longsuffering/Patience – Ephesians 4:2**

Patient people display endurance, longsuffering and perseverance. Patient people display Christ like character. Patient people helps those who are in need. As Christians, we are called to be patient. Living in peace with those around us can be a challenge, but we must respond in love, not anger, when differences arise between us – Colossians 3:12-13. As we struggle with practicing our longsuffering better known as patience, we look to God who is patient with us as we continue to fall into habits of sin. Though we continually fail, He extends grace and mercy to us; so also should we extend grace to others – First Peter 3:9. We also should be patient as we struggle through the trials, temptations, and persecution of this fallen world. Though the pain and brokenness are very real, this world is temporary, and we have the hope of eternity to sustain us – James 5:7-8.

**Gentleness/Kindness – Saint Luke 6:35-36; Colossians 3:12**

The characteristics of gentleness/kindness pictures one who expresses Christian integrity toward others. Gentleness/Kindness is looking beyond our interest to the interests of others. It often requires going out of our way or setting aside things that may seem important. It also means not being vindictive and returning evil for evil, but instead, turning the other cheek and returning evil with good, whether the recipient deserves it or not. In offering us salvation, God extends to us the greatest kindness of all, one that we could never deserve – Romans 2:3-4. As we know God is kind to us; therefore, we should be kind to others in response to His goodness. We should also reserve judgement, as it is not our place to judge, but God's. We all are undeserving sinners as stated in Ephesians 4:32.

TO BE CONTINUED.....