



**2 – 8 Dec, 2018**

**Fruit of the Holy Spirit, part 2**

**‘My soul glorifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior’**

**Luke 1:46-47**

**The Holy Spirit in action (Gen 16, 21:8-21; 37, 39, 41-43)**

- † The work of the Spirit within the believer is to transform us to become Christ-like**
- † For the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, we must join our lives to the life of Jesus. *‘Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing’ (Joh 15:4-5)***
- † The starting point is to live love and then all the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit will follow and strengthen each other**

**Joy**

- † True joy is the joy of the Spirit, of being in the Lord’s presence and in having a relationship with Him**
  - The joy of salvation: *‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior’, said Mary (Luk 1:46-47)***
  - The joy of repentance and overcoming sin: *‘Let the bones you have crushed rejoice’, said David (Psa 50 (51):8)***
  - The joy of leading others to be reconciled with God (*Jam 5:20*)**
  - The joy of giving to others with a cheerful heart (*2 Cor 8:7*)**
  - The joy of serving others like John the Baptist who rejoiced in the Bridegroom Jesus**
  - The joy of meeting Jesus in Eternal Life and to long for it the way Paul did (*Phil 1:23*)**
- † The joy in the Lord Himself and not just the joy about His blessings**

**Peace**

- † *‘Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ’ (Rom 5:1)***

- † **Peace comes from God: *'And the peace of God that transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' (Phi 4:7)***
- † **Live in Holy Peace with others according to the gifts God has given you. *'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone' (Rom 12:18)***
- † **However, beware of those who try to negatively influence your faith**
- † **Jesus gives us His peace and asks us not to let our hearts be troubled *(Joh 14:27)***
- † **Belief in divine providence and surrender to the will of the Lord brings both, internal and eternal peace**

### **Patience**

- † **God has been patient from the day of creation; patient with the transgressions of His people and even with the people who did not know Him or worship Him**
- † **The most illustrious example is perhaps His patience with Paul who was persecuting the Christians and later God made him His 'chosen vessel' to bear His Name and who will suffer for the sake of the name of the Lord *(Act 9:15-16)***
- † **Be patient like the Lord in all situations of your life, *'Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all' (1 The 5:14)***
- † **Be patient in your prayers and do not opt for human wisdom when God does not seem to answer; He has His own timing**

### **Kindness**

- † ***'The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities' (Psa 103: 8,10)***
- † **The Lord's kindness led many to repentance as the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the adulteress woman... *(Rom 2:4)***
- † **Peter and Paul call us to be kind like Jesus in everything that we do, in service, in teaching, in helping *(1 Pet 3:8-9; 2 Cor 6:3-6)***

### **Goodness**

- † **Our good works will not save us, nor will they make us good. *'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast' (Eph 2:8-9)***

- † At the same time, we are asked to put our faith into action, '*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*' *Jam 2:26*

### Faithfulness (Heb 2)

- † The Lord is faithful to His promises (*Psa 145:13*), even when we are faithless (*Tim 2:13*)
- † Being faithful to God is manifested in our being faithful to each other

### Gentleness

- † '*Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart*', said Jesus (*Mat 11:29*) and it will give our souls rest
- † If we find that someone is sinning, let us try to restore them through the spirit of gentleness (*Gal 6:1*). Our gentleness with others is very precious in the eyes of God (*1 Pet 3:4*)
- † Jesus was gentle with Nicodemus who secretly came to see Him in the dark. His gentleness led Nicodemus to overcome his fear of the Pharisees and to help Joseph of Arimathea in the proper burial of Jesus
- † However, being gentle should not stop us from testifying to the truth

### Self-Control

- † Self-control is a wall of defense against our sinful desires that keep on tempting us to do things that harm our souls (*Jam 1:14; 1 Pet 2:11*)
- † Self-control leads us to live our lives in such a way as to reach the finish line, which is Heaven (*1 Cor 9:24-25*)

### Bibliography

- † Jerry Bridges. *The Fruitful Life: The Overflow of God's Love Through You* (Colorado: NavPress, 2006)
- † Pope Shenouda III. *The Fruit of the Spirit* (Cairo, 1996)
- † Thomas E. Trask and Wayde I. Goodall. *The Fruit of the Spirit: Becoming the Person God wants You to Be* (Michigan: Zondervan, 2000)

### Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

### Verse to memorize

'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit' Galatians 5:25

## During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

## During this coming week, we will lift the Maronite Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية	قانون الايمان
أبانا الذي في السموات	نؤمن بإله واحد
ليتقدس اسمك	أب ضابط الكل
ليات ملكوتك	خالق السماء والأرض
ليتك مشيئتك	كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
كما في السماء	وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
كذلك على الأرض	ابن الله الوحيد
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا	المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
وأغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا	إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
كما نحن نغفر	مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
لمن خطئنا إلينا	الذي به كان كل شيء
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب	الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
لكن نجنا من الشرير	نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد	وصار إنساناً وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
إلى أبد الأبدين	تألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
أمين	وصعد إلى السماء وجلس عن يمين الله الأب
	وأيضاً يأتي بمجدٍ عظيم ليدين الأحياء والأموات
	الذي لا فناء لمملكه ونؤمن بالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
	المُنْبِث من الأب والابن، الذي هو مع الأب والابن
	يُسجد له ويُمجد، الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
	وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
	ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
	ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة الجديدة في الدهر الآتي
	أمين