

Wk3 – The Fruit of The Spirit – Peace

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Things to understand about The Fruit...

- **The Fruit is something that God desires for us all to produce.**
- **Producing this Fruit only happens through the Holy Spirit.**
- **The Spirit is God's Presence.**

Question:

Why does God desire for us to have this fruit?

- It's how He knows we are His; it's how He recognizes us!

Luke 6:43-44 NIVUK

No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. **Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.**

- Jesus tells us that if we belong to God, then the identifying markers will be there!

Discuss the component of The Fruit...PEACE

Question:

What tends to cause chaos in your life? or What makes you feel chaotic?

- Chaos is described as anything out of order causing confusion.

A Word of encouragement in moments of chaos...

Luke 1:78-79 NLT

Because of God's tender mercy, **the morning light from heaven [Jesus] is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.**

- Paraphrased: ***Jesus will shine upon you to guide you to the path of peace.***

Question:

What does that statement mean to you? Does it strengthen your faith and bring you peace?

That verse also says "path to peace"

Question:

What does this "path" look like to you? What does it mean for Jesus to guide you on it?

We need to understand this about when peace is missing in our life...

- **The absence of peace is always linked with the absence of faith.**
 - When your faith is weak, or even gone, it's easy for chaos to set in!
 - Your faith is the factor that determines your peace.

- ***...your faith is the soil that The Spirit grows fruit in!***

Take a look at a teaching Jesus gave on this in Luke 8 when He talks about the seed and the soil.

- As you read, keep in mind that when He's talking about seed, He's talking about The Word of God; and when He's talking about soil, He's talking about the condition of the person receiving the seed.

Luke 8:5-8 NLT

"A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Now, let's look at how Jesus explains this parable to His disciples...

Luke 8:11-15 NLT

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people **who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.**

- This shows us that when our faith is weak, we won't produce a harvest of fruit.

Questions:

What causes God's Word to be trampled out of your life?

What causes God's Word to not be taken to heart in your life?

What causes God's Word to get choked out in your life?

What causes God's Word to take root in your life?

Discussion:

Discuss how to get your soil, your faith, right.

How can you turn faith into an action?

- *"I faithed my way through!"*

Stories where the disciple's "faith" action was challenged...

IN A BOAT ON THE RAGING SEA

Luke 8:24b NIVUK

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

Question:

Do you view things according to the spiritual, or do you tend to only see things in the natural?

The disciples had a shift in their view as you can see in...

Luke 8:25b NIVUK

In fear and amazement, they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him."

- Because the very presence of God was with them, they saw how He was the one who could produce the fruit of peace in the midst of their chaos!
- God wants you to know, this is why He has given you His Spirit, so you wouldn't live under the umbrella of chaos, identified by the things of this world; but could live under the umbrella of God, identified as His very own!

JESUS WALKING ON WATER

Matthew 14:28-29 NLT

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So, Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

- Seeing Jesus above the water that represented chaos, Peter too, in faith, knew he could rise above chaos!

Question:

What is it about Jesus that tells you that you too can rise above the chaos in your life?

But something happened to Peter...

Matthew 14:30 NLT

When he [Peter] saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

- Peter looked at the chaos around him, it instilled fear, and diminished his faith.
 - A diminished faith taints Spiritual fruit!
 - **A lack of faith breeds a lack of peace!**

But praise God...the story didn't end here!

Matthew 14:31 NLT

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

Question:

Can you reach for Jesus’ hand in the midst of your chaos?

- If so, how do you do it?
- If not, what keeps you from reaching out?

Pray for...

- the soil of faith to be enriched in each person's life;
- and to have practical ways to reach for Jesus’ hand when chaos presents.