

Zoe Life Christian Faith Center

Monthly Feature: Walking in the Fruit of the Spirit – Love Part 1 – Jesus is Your Messiah!

By Pastor Chris

Paul in his letter to the church at Galatia, writes in Galatians 5:16,17,22,25 ‘I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall **not** fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another; so that you do not do the things that you wish. But the **fruit** of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*. If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk in the Spirit**.

Our focus in this article is the first attribute of the fruit of the Spirit – Love. Every born again believer in Jesus Christ has been given all 9 attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. Even though we have been given all these attributes, these attributes will not automatically manifest in our lives. We must make a conscious decision to walk in the Spirit. We must choose to walk in Love. Love is a decision and not an emotion. In order to walk in agape or unconditional love, we must walk in the Spirit that is on the inside of us. It is only when we choose to walk in the Spirit that we will not walk in the flesh (the natural tendencies, the things that we do not wish to do). Walking in Love has to be intentional. Love will not automatically flow out of us. In fact if we do not daily renew our minds on the Word of God, then the flesh or natural man is going to take over. The Spirit of God is a gentleman; He leads us as long as we invite Him to lead us. He will not overpower us.

1. Jesus in the greatest example of walking in the Spirit. Let’s look at Him walking in Love. Love is always concerned about the needs of others.

In the story of the woman at the well in *John 4:5-30*, we see a great example of Jesus revealing Himself to this Samaritan woman that He is the Messiah. As the woman points out in her conversation with Jesus, Samaritans did not associate with Jews. However love compelled Jesus to reach out to this woman. Love is not concerned about manmade boundaries, denominations, distinctions. Love is more concerned about the person that the person’s position.

In order for us to make the impact that Jesus wants us to make here on earth, we need to have that same mind set. Jesus told us that we are to do greater (more in number) works than He did. In order to do so, we must come out of our comfort zone and follow the leading of the Spirit and not the confines on the comfortable, the flesh. There are people in **your** sphere of influence that do not know Jesus as their Messiah. There are those around us who are hurting and need to be shown love in the way Jesus demonstrated in His discourse with this Samaritan woman.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus' own disciples criticize Him for talking to this woman. Know that when you follow the Spirit and share the love of Christ, not everyone will agree or support what you are doing. That does not mean that you are not doing the right thing. In fact it is usually the ones that are **not** doing any outreach to others that are the biggest critics.

He wants us to know today that He is our Messiah. He is the One who has saved us and set us free. We need to acknowledge that truth everyday in order for it to impact our daily life.

2. Jesus knew the need of the woman at the well and gave her the opportunity to have her need met.

In verse 7 & 9 it states, 'A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me a drink.' 'Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?"

Jesus knew that this woman had a deep spiritual need and did not embarrass her. He asked her to meet a physical need for him. Jesus was respectful and did not seek to make her feel ashamed. Asking her for a drink was a set up for her to receive from Jesus. God always wants us to receive from Him. He does not want us to languish and be in pain. He does not take pleasure in any of our suffering or pain. God does not bring pain into our lives to teach us anything. Pain, sickness and lack are from the devil and not from God. In John 10:10 Jesus states, 'the thief (the devil) came to kill, steal and destroy, but I came that you might have life and have it more abundantly.' Whatever is good is from God; whatever is bad is from the devil.

In verse 10, Jesus answered and said to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living** water.' Jesus saw her need and yet opens the door for her to receive living water; water that **brings life**.

3. Drinking Jesus' water will cause us never to thirst again.

In verse 13, Jesus answered and said to her, 'whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'

This is an awesome declaration of Jesus! His water will become in **us** a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman came to get water from a well a natural water source. Instead Jesus offers a fountain of water that springs up from **inside** that springs up into everlasting life.

Notice that what the natural had to offer is not lasting. Jesus knew that this woman had been in empty relationships that did not last. He was showing her that what He has to offer is fulfilling and not empty and shallow. Jesus was offering her a real relationship that does not end.

When you are in a real relationship with Jesus, you will never thirst again. You will not need another person to validate who you are. Jesus is the One who satisfies our inner needs. No person can do it. No mate, no relationship can quench a spiritual thirst. Notice He told her that she will NEVER thirst again. If you are thirsting in your life, go back to Jesus, not another person. Jesus is the only One who can quench your thirst.

4. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Jesus told the woman the heart's desire of God the Father. He told her what God wants from us. In verse 23, Jesus 'But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.' Jesus is letting this woman know that she is not condemned for having all these empty relationships. She could not find love in her relationships. Jesus let's her know that she can worship the Father in spirit and truth. She can be intimate with God the Father.

This is awesome! Jesus did not tell her that she was not qualified. In fact He told her that she could get intimate with God the Father.

5. I who speak to you am He.

After Jesus told her that God wants her worship, He reveals to her that He is her Messiah. He is the One who qualifies her to worship the Father in spirit and in truth. This is powerful! She did not have to rely on her worthiness. She accepted Jesus as her Messiah. Every other religion cannot guarantee eternal life much less intimacy with God the Father. Every other religion tells you that you are not worthy to know God. You have to do this and that in order that He might accept you. Not so with Christianity! Jesus qualified her. Hallelujah! Jesus qualified us!

Because she accepted Jesus as her Messiah, her life was transformed. When Jesus is our Messiah, our life is transformed. Her life was not the same. She said in verse 29, 'Come, and see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?' Even though she asked the question, her life had dramatically changed. I believe that the people of Samaria saw a dramatic, definite change in her life. Otherwise they would not have listened to her. When our conversion experience is real, others will take note. We will talk different. We will have an undeniable experience that we will want to tell others about.

If Jesus is your Messiah, who have told recently about Him? When you are drinking from His water, you will talk about Him. If you have not accepted Him as your Messiah, now is the time to do so. He will give you are real relationship, one that you will never thirst from again as long as you daily choose to Walk in the Spirit. In fact you will be a source of living waters for others to drink from.

Continue to drink from the well on the inside of you. God bless!

Pastor Chris

www.zoelifecfc.org

**Upcoming Events – The Bible Miniseries continues on the History Channel
on Sunday at 8:00 pm.**