

Wednesday, July 1, 2020 Bible Study Notes
Cedarville United Presbyterian Church Facebook Live
Fruit of the Spirit Series: Patience
Text: Romans 12:9-21

Summer Series: Fruit of the Spirit

- Love – nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ our Lord. What does it mean to love God, love our neighbor, love our enemy, love ourselves?
- Joy – “rejoice always”; “the joy of the Lord is my strength”
- Peace – seek peace and pursue it...we need to dig around for it because it doesn't come naturally
- Sunday – how do we become satisfied with what Christ offers so that we do become more patient, loving, joyful people?
- Tonight: “*be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*”

Romans 12:9-21

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. **20** On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Short commands:

- Almost feels like the book of Proverbs – “magnet” sayings
- Could do a study on each verse
- A series of short commands – reminders of how to live a Christian life
- Begins by talking about love – that we should be devoted to one another and honor one another
- Then our verse for today: *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*

Be Joyful in Hope

- The Living Bible translation: "Be glad for all God is planning for you."
- We resist instruction about feelings—"how dare you tell me to be joyful when all of this bad stuff is going on in my life?"
- Not commanded to be happy, but to have the right perspective on our situation. We can always be joyful in the hope of Christ – that he died for our sins, that he is coming back, that we will be united with him forever once we die here on earth
- When our hope is in the Lord and His goodness, we will experience the supernatural joy that is our inheritance in Christ.

Be Patient in Affliction/Tribulation/Suffering

- Those who pray to the Father will have an easier time being patient during hardship
- Paul is not downplaying the genuine pain of those experiences
- When we become impatient in a situation, we tend to act unwisely. We forget to listen to the Holy Spirit, and things can derail quickly.
- There are blessings we can never receive until we have patiently waited on God for them
- Hebrews 6:12 (NKJV) instructs us to, *"Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

Be Faithful in Prayer

- We're commanded to be constant in prayer, or to keep praying continually
- During any time of suffering, while waiting for what we're hoping in, we should pray
- Prayer brings a connection with our Father through the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26–27). He hears, understands, and helps in response to our prayers.
- Too often, we miss out on seeing God show up in a situation in a mighty way because we fail to pray about it, or we stop praying about it too soon. Scripture says: *"One day Jesus told His disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must keep praying until the answer comes."* (Luke 18:1 TLB)
- We live in an "instant" generation. We want instant results. But that's not God's way. He tells us, *"Be unceasing in prayer [praying perseveringly]."* (1 Thess 5:17)
- One way that will help us to determine God's will is to see how it aligns with God's Word:
 - The Bible says that we can be confident that God will answer our prayers when they are in harmony with His will – we can pray all we want for a red convertible to magically appear in our driveway, but is that really God's will?
 - Is there a peace when we are praying – sometimes when we are praying for something we know is NOT God's will, it feels like fingernails on a chalkboard. It just doesn't sit right.
 - We can always pray for healing, for miracles in people's lives, for growth
 - We can pray scripture over someone (see notes from 3/22/20 on the website under "Bulletins and Bible Study Notes")
 - It doesn't say WHEN He will answer them