

“Come, Holy Spirit” – Week Seven
Spirit of Love ~ The Fruit of the Spirit

- A. The Freedom of a Christian – we are saved by grace through faith for love
1. the gift of Jesus Christ – justification, *dikaio*, “generally *make right* or *just*” (BDAG), *imputed* righteousness (John 11:20-27, Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 3:21-28, 5:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, 1 John 4:7-11) – Christ makes us right with God, reconciles us, saves us – Martin Luther, *simul iustus et peccator* (saint and sinner)
 2. the gift of the Holy Spirit – sanctification, *haggiozo*, “*make holy, consecrate, sanctify*” (BDAG), *imparted* righteousness (John 17:20-21, 1 Corinthians 6:11-20, 2 Corinthians 3:12-18, Ephesians 4:1-7, 2 Peter 1:1-7) – the Holy Spirit empowers us to live holy lives – John Wesley, Christian perfection
 3. “fruits worthy of repentance” – our response (Luke 3:7-18, Matthew 7:15-27, 1 John 2:1-6) – Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*, “good works do not make a person good, but a good person will do good works”
- B. The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:1-5, Matthew 13:18-23, Colossians 1:9-10, Rev 22:1-2) – in contrast to the works of the law and the works of the flesh
1. Love, *agape* – “(1) especially as an attitude of appreciation resulting from a conscious evaluation and choice; used of divine and human love, *love, devotion*” – divine relationship (1 John 4:7-8, John 13:34-35) – greatest commandment (Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-28) – most excellent way (1 Corinthians 13) – “understanding goodwill for all humans,” Martin Luther King, Jr (thekingcenter.org) – “unconditional positive regard,” Carl Rogers, *On Becoming a Person*
 2. joy – “(1) as a feeling of inner happiness *rejoicing, gladness, delight*” – Nehemiah 8:8-10, Isaiah 62:1-5, Luke 2:8-14 John 16:21-24, Hebrews 12:1-2) – “Joy is the serious business of heaven,” C.S. Lewis, *Letters to Malcolm*
 3. peace, *eirene* – “(1) literally, as a state of *peace*, figuratively, as an agreement between persons (2) greeting, *shalom* (3) as a religious disposition characterized by inner rest and harmony *peace, freedom from anxiety* (4) as a state of reconciliation with God (5) of an end-time condition, as the salvation of humankind brought about through Christ's reign – Isaiah 9:6-7, Psalm 34:11-14, John 14:27, 20:19-23, Romans 15:13, Philippians 4:4-8 – “The church is the movement launched into the life of the world to bear in its own life God's gift of peace for the life of the world,” Lesslie Newbigin, *The Open Secret*

4. patience (longsuffering), *makrothymia* – “as a state of emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances *patience, long-suffering*” – Romans 2:1-4, 1 Corinthians 13:4
1 Timothy 1:15-16
5. kindness (gentleness), *chrestotes* – “(1) as a gracious attitude *goodness, kindness*, (2) as moral integrity *uprightness, honesty*” – Psalm 37:1-6, 2 Corinthians 6.1-10, Colossians 3:12-17
6. goodness (generosity), *agathosyne* – “(1) as a quality of moral excellence *being good, goodness, uprightness*, (2) as a quality of relationship with others *willingness to give or share, generosity, goodness* – Psalm 31:14-24, Romans 15:14, Ephesians 5:8-9
7. faithfulness (faith), *πιστις* – “(1) active, as belief directed toward a person or thing *confidence, faith, trust, reliance on...*(3) passive; (a) of what brings trust and confidence from others *faithfulness, fidelity, reliability* – Psalm 143:1-21, Acts 11:22-30, Hebrews 11
8. gentleness (meekness), *πραυτες* – “as a quality of gentle friendliness *gentleness, meekness* (as strength that accommodates to another's weakness), *consideration* – Ephesians 4:1-7, James 3:13, 2 Timothy 2:24-26
9. self-control (temperance), *enkrateia* – “self-control, especially in matters related to sex” – Proverbs 16:32, Titus 1:7-9, 2 Peter 1:5-7

C. *Practice* – Reflection

Richard Rohr, *Participation*, CAC blog Aug 11, 2019

The foundational spiritual question is this: Does one's life give any evidence of an encounter with God? When we've experienced union and intimacy with the divine, what is our response? Does the encounter bring about what Paul described as the “fruits” of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22)? This is what authentic conversion or *metanoia* means. We should keep asking ourselves: are we different from our surroundings, or do we continue reflecting the predictable cultural values and biases of our group?