



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT (Part 2)

Be Filled to Reflect God's Love

« Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. » (1John 4:8)

It is in difficult times that our real character is brought to the surface. If a son is at the image of his father, what the universe is waiting to see is the manifestation of God's character in His children in times of world greatest adversities (Romans 8:19; Jeremiah 30:7). «When the character of Christ will be perfectly reproduced in His children, He will come to claim them for Himself» (Ellen White, COL 69). Jesus manifested this type of love in the most difficult times of His life to show the whole universe that God is love in every aspect. In return, committed believers will be able and ready to portray God's character of love, in the darkest hours of earth history before the return of Jesus. At that time, heaven would have found some true witnesses. So, it is for a reason that we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit; only this infilling will empower us to behold God's character of love in the end times when everything is falling apart, when disaster surrounded the world; and will enable us to stand on the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30) for the glory of God.

The definition of God's character is love. How is this love of God manifested in a practical way?

1 Corinthians 4: 11-13 gives us the answer:

- Love is patient
- Love is kind
- Love does not envy
- Love does not boast
- Love is not proud
- Love does not dishonor others
- Love is not self-seeking
- Love is not easily angered
- Love keeps no record of wrongs
- Love does not delight in evil, but love rejoices with the truth.
- Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

After the fall of Adam, Man no longer naturally carries in himself this love of God and its attributes; under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he has to learn them through life experiences in order to produce “the fruit of the Holy Spirit”. When we walk in the Spirit, we will produce fruits worthy of our walk with God. The fruits are the evidences of what the Spirit of God is doing in our life. In real life, God will lead us through situations where we will be given the opportunity to develop His character by developing those attributes through life experiences. The Psalm 23 is a wonderful picture of how God leads us in life from one situation to the other; green pastures, the still waters, the valley of shadow of death, the way of righteousness; various life situations to train, build and strengthen us, until we become fully His; then He anoints us and our cup overflows for the sake of dwelling in His presence forever. Isn’t it beautiful? In the next part, we will see how God develop in us these fruit of the Spirit’s attributes «love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness» (Galatians 5:22), so we might come to the maturity of His character of love.

Until then, ~

**Little note for mothers: Since character formation begins at home, in these last days, we mothers have a very important work to do. We are the queens of our households, Ellen White said. While collaborating with the Holy Spirit to build our own Character, God has entrusted to us as well the task of molding the character of our children’s “that they may be fitted for the higher, immortal life”. May God help us to be mindful of our sacred duty.*