**OCTOBER 2022**

**“GET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER” (PART III)**

We greet you in the mighty name of King Jesus and want to say Happy September. As we are entering the Fall of the year, I pray that you are experiencing the Lord in a new and fresh way. In August, we started this teaching entitled “**Get Your House In Order**.” This month is part 3 of this teaching. Once again, let me briefly share how the title came about. I was simply walking and praying on my break at work and heard the Holy Spirit say these words to me: **Get Your House In Order**. I immediately knew that this was not just a passing word, but one that got my attention. As I normally do, I jotted this down asking Holy Spirit if He had more to give and sure enough He did, thus we have this teaching.

As I originally mentioned, this word will look different for all of us and may not even pertain to some, but as I said, I believe that it is a universal call. Whatever the Lord may be saying to you in **Getting Your House In Order**, I pray that we will all have ears to hear and obey the voice of the Lord. Let’s give a quick recap of what we covered in parts 1 and 2.

In part 1, we talked about being born again for those that may be reading this devotional and don’t know Jesus as being the first step in **Getting Your House in Order**. Then we talked about seeking the Lord with our whole heart. Being a seeker and a lover of God. Then in part 2 we examined the area of Prayer and the Word of God as areas that the Lord may be speaking to us.

Now in the third part of our teaching on **Get Your House In Order**, we will look at our character and how we are doing in our Christian walk with the Lord, perhaps the Lord is asking you and me to take inventory of our lifestyle. It is one thing to seek the Lord, Pray and Read the Word, but if we are not demonstrating the nature and character of God in our lives; being Christ like, all the other is in vain.

The Holy Spirit may be speaking to us about the fruit of the Spirit and how we are doing with manifesting these characteristics of God in our lives. First, let’s see what these fruit are which are found in **Galatians 5:22-25** **(KJV)** ***22****But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,****23****Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* ***24****And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* ***25****If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

I love different versions of this verse, but I like the way the **KJV** says it for this teaching. It clearly spells out the fruit that should be demonstrated and flowing out of us as believers in Jesus Christ. I found the below information on Christianity.com and thought it would go well in understanding the fruit that we carry as believers in Jesus.

*The Greek word καρπός that we translate “fruit” usually means fruit in the sense of edible fruits and vegetables,* ***but it can also be translated as offspring, deed, action, result, or profit****. In an agrarian society, fruit is a good thing; it is the result of hard work and careful tending. Today, we might use the word “fruit” in a phrase such as the “fruit of our labor” to communicate the results of our effort. Even if we don’t harvest strawberries or apples, we can have “fruit,” something to show for our work, in a paycheck, a finished project, or even a baby. Understanding that “fruit” in this verse can mean “deed, action, or result” helps make this verse more personal.* ***The result of the work of the Spirit in a believer’s life is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control****. (Christianity.com)*

So, if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you in the area of your character as it relates to the fruit of the Spirit, let’s take note and ask for His help in producing these fruit from our lives. The fruit of the Spirit are imparted into us by the Holy Spirit and worked out of us by that same Holy Spirit as we cooperate with Him by yielding to Him and obeying the Word of God. Before we close this part 3 of our teaching, let’s look at these nine fruit with other scripture references.

**Love** is the first fruit mentioned, and I am not surprised why. Because everything else hinges on Love. (**1Corinthians 13:1**). There are so many scriptures in the Word of God that we can look at, but we will look at **John 15:9-11 (AMP)** ***9****I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love [and do not doubt My love for you].****10****If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.****11****I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.* Just as we are loved, we should manifest that same love to God and others. Because we have the Love giver on the inside of us, we can **Love**.

**Joy**- **Philippians 4:4 (TLB)** *Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice!* Because we have this amazing fruit on the inside of us, as a believer in Jesus, we can Always be Full Of **Joy**!

**Peace - Romans 8:6 (ESV)** *For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.* When we allow this amazing fruit to operate in us, this scripture says we can have life and **peace** (the Shalom of God)

**Longsuffering - Ephesians 4:1-2 KJV** 1*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;* Paul is encouraging the Ephesian church to walk worthy of the calling of God and one way do to that is to allow the fruit of the Spirit to be seen in us. **Longsuffering** is one of the ones that he is highlighting here.

**Gentleness** - **1 Timothy 6:11 (ESV)** *But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.* Paul was writing to Timothy admonishing him to pursue the fruit of the Spirit and in this scripture in 1 Timothy, one of those fruit is **gentleness** (being kind, tenderhearted, mild manner, etc.) This same admonishment is for us in the Body of Christ today.

**Goodness** - **Romans 15:14 (KJV)** *And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.* Paul was writing to the Roman church letting them know that he was confident that they were filled with **Goodness** and knowledge, able and ready to teach other. Let us allow Holy Spirit to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in us, making us able and ready to do all that God has called us to do in the Kingdom.

**Faith** (**Being Faithful** as some translations states it) - **Proverbs 20:6 (KJV)** *Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find*? [**Hebrews 11:6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011%3A6&version=AMP) **(AMP)** *But****without******faith****it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.* As we look at the fruit called **Faith** or Faithfulness, we see from these (2) scriptures that it is sometimes hard to find those that will be Faithful, and we know that without Faith, we can’t walk with Him and please Him.

**Meekness - Colossians 3:12 (ESV)** *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.* This scripture tells us to put on some of the fruit of the spirit, and **Meekness** is listed here in this scripture as well. I love the way this scripture says it, *Put on*. So just as we put on clothes, etc. daily, let us do this as it relates to the fruit of the Spirit. Even though we don’t have to put the fruit on, because they are already in us, we should be making it a daily routine to allow them to flow out of our lives much like we put on our daily clothes.

**Temperance (Self-Control) - 2 Peter 1:6 (KJV**) *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.* **2 Peter 1:6 (AMPC**)*And in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control, and in [exercising] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety).* In closing,this will be the last of the nine fruit that we will look at as we are examining our lives, taking heed to the Word of the Lord to **Get Our House In Order**.

The **KJV** of this scripture tells us to add knowledge, patience and godliness to our temperance. Then the **AMP** translation admonishes us to exercise (make it a routine, practice these Godly traits in our lives). As we have examined so many ways from a spiritual standpoint that Holy Spirit may be speaking to us, let us take heed to anything that He may be saying to us and with His help, get those areas in **Order**.

Next month we will continue with part 4 of this timely teaching. We will look at some practical ways that God may be speaking to us and see how we are doing in those areas. I pray that you have been blessed and encouraged by this teaching. Please visit our site next month as we continue with our next part. Please remember that God has **Blessed You To Be A Blessing!** Walk in that blessing by **Getting Your House In Order** in whatever way the Holy Spirit may be speaking to you.