



WHAT GOES IN COMES OUT

This week we will examine together the Fruits of the Spirit and how they need to be a part of our lives. When we fill our lives with these attributes, they will be manifest in how we live our daily lives. The more we take advantage of these Fruits of spiritual maturity, the more our lives will reflect them wherever we are on and off the field. God wants us to grow in our maturity, to let Him and His attributes flow from us like a mighty river. It is all about what we put into our lives. This week as we study the Fruits of the Spirit may we see the need to spend time incorporating each of these into our daily lives. What we put into our lives will flow from us to others. God has placed each of you where you are not only to make a difference in your baseball, but also to make a difference for Him. The more we fill ourselves with the Fruits of the Spirit the more of a difference we can make for Him!!

Let's get to filling ourselves with the Fruits of the Spirit!.

Sunday: Read 1Corinthians 13:1-13

This chapter commonly referred to as the Love Chapter, speaks volumes about the importance of love. This passage of Scripture is probably read at more weddings than any other. Paul writes almost the perfect description of what true love God's way looks like. As we read these words, take your time, let them sink into your heart. Understand that without love, nothing else really matters. As we strive to grow into more mature Christians this is indeed the place to start!

- 1. Paul talks about the absence of love, what happens when we go through life without His love as our motivating factor in living?**
- 2. List all the things that love is. Is that how we love? Why or Why not?**
- 3. How can we love our teammates and coaches, our families and friends, and that special someone God may have blessed us with like Paul writes?**

Monday: Read Psalms 4:5-8

Today we will examine the fruits of joy and peace. The key to both is found in the last part of verse 5. When we trust in the Lord we can find the joy and peace that comes from a faith walk with Him.

- 1. How does God fill our lives with greater joy?**
- 2. Can people around us see the joy of the Lord in the way we live? Why or why not?**
- 3. How can we find peace in God? How can that kind of peace help us through the ups and downs of the game of baseball?**

Tuesday: Read 1Timothy 1:15-17

In these verses Paul gives his young apprentice Timothy the idea of what the patience of the Lord is all about. Paul spent his early years persecuting the church. He wanted to wipe Christianity from the face of the earth. But Christ never gave up on him, in fact Jesus commissioned Paul on the Damascus road to serve Him by spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles.

- 1. How can patience help us in the game of baseball and the game of life?**
- 2. How did Christ show patience with Paul? How does Christ show patience with us?**
- 3. Who in our lives do we need to be more patient with? Why?**

Wednesday: Read Galatians 5:16-25

In our Scripture lesson this week we will examine the battle that rages in each of us, the battle of the Spirit vs the Sinful nature. It is a battle that we must constantly be aware of in our lives. Paul begins by telling us to live by the Spirit, when we do so we will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. We must realize that the Spirit wants us to live for God while the sinful nature wants us to live for Satan. The conflict that goes on in each of us sometimes makes us do things we wish we had never done at all. Have you ever made a fundamental mistake on the field and knew immediately what you had done was wrong? Isn't the same true when we have done things in our lives we knew were wrong? Pay close attention to Paul's description of the sinful nature and what it looks like. The hope for us is the Fruits of the Spirit. Verse 24 tells us that when we belong to Jesus we crucify the sinful nature, we put it to death! If we are living by the Spirit we need to be in step with the Spirit. Baseball is built on good fundamentals. Paul is building for us good faith by the fundamentals of the Fruits of the Spirit.

- 1. How does the battle between sin and the Spirit manifest itself in our lives?**
- 2. List the acts of the sinful nature. Are any of those a part of our lives now? What is the warning given in verse 21?**
- 3. List the Fruits of the Spirit. Are any of those a part of our lives now?**
- 4. Who is winning the battle in our lives sin or the Spirit? We cannot win this battle alone. That is why we must rely on the Spirit to lead guide and direct us in our daily living. And when we mess up (we all will) be grateful God's forgiveness and restoration is only a prayer away.**

Thursday: Read 2Peter 1:5-9

Peter gives us in these verses a building plan for the Christian life. If we put the following things in our lives we will be able to be productive for Christ and His kingdom. Notice that kindness, goodness, and self-control each play a part in the total development of the Christian life. At the very beginning of this passage, Peter tells us it is up to each of us to make the effort to have the following in our lives. God is not going to automatically fill us to the brim with these things. We have to make a conscious effort to incorporate each of these in our daily living.

- 1. How can we make the effort to add each of these to our lives?**
- 2. How can kindness, goodness, and self-control bring glory to God and help us to be productive for Him?**
- 3. How is God doing with His building plan for our lives found in these verses? What improvements should we make?**

Friday: Read Psalm 89:1-18

The psalmist is overcome by the faithfulness of God. This Psalm describes the magnificent faithfulness of God. It is almost impossible to describe. Read these verses today with a sense of the awesomeness of God and his faithfulness to each one of us!

- 1. How will the psalmist make known the faithfulness of God? Do we have the same responsibility to do so?**

- 2. Why did the psalmist say there is none like God? How can we have the same sense of His faithfulness?**
- 3. According to the Psalm, how are we blessed? Are those attributes a part of our daily lives?**

Saturday: Read 1Peter 3:15

Today we look at the importance of gentleness in our lives. Peter wants us to be ready to share why we have hope in our lives through Christ Jesus. He cautions us however to tell the story of what Christ has done for us with gentleness and respect. Gentleness is not a sign of weakness. Gentleness enables us to take into account the feelings of others.

- 1. How are some ways for us to set apart in our hearts Christ as Lord on and off the field?**
- 2. Why is it important to be ready to give a witness for Christ? How has God given you the opportunity to tell someone about Him this summer?**
- 3. How can a gentle spirit help draw someone closer to Christ?**