

**Rooted and
Grounded in
Christ and
His Love**

By

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Rooted and Grounded In Christ and His Love

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Introduction

There are four roots mentioned in the New Testament. Two of these roots are negative and will destroy the life of a person. Two of these roots are positive and will change and transform the life of a person so that the person will have a life with meaning and purpose. Are you a Christian who is struggling in your life or do you know another Christian who is struggling? The purpose of this manual is to help you grow in your understanding so that you can experience the peace of God and learn how to help others who may also be struggling.

In Matthew 22:36, a lawyer asked Christ the question, “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?” Jesus answered this question from two passages from the Old Testament. Deuteronomy 6:5 says, ““You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”” Leviticus 19:18b says, ““...you shall love your neighbor as yourself...”” As a result, the complete answer in Matthew 22:37-40 says, “Jesus said to him, ““You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”” Then, after His resurrection Christ said in Luke 24:44-45, ““These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.””

Then, in Galatians 6:2, we read, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Christ told the eleven (Judas had already left the upper room - John 13:30) in John 13:34-35, “““A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.””” Christ fulfilled all three of these commands. Because He has fulfilled these commands, if we are in Christ, the Holy Spirit can give us His strength to fulfill each of these commands at any time that we are yielding to Him:

Love God

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Love other Christians

“You shall love one another as I have loved you.”

Love all people

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

I. The Four Roots Mentioned in the New Testament

A. The two negative roots - Bitterness and the Love of Money

1. Taking Root in Bitterness

a. defined by Scripture

Hebrews 12:14-17

“Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.”

**a root of bitterness cannot bring peace
a root of bitterness cannot bring holy living
a root of bitterness can cause a person to fall short of the grace of God
a root of bitterness springs up (brings forth) - Luke 8:6, 8
a root of bitterness causes trouble (to disturb or annoy)
a root of bitterness causes many to be defiled**

b. a root of bitterness illustrated by Cain

Genesis 4:3-8

“And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.”

**Cain brought a sacrifice based on his own works
Cain did not have his own works accepted by the Lord
Cain became very angry and his face even changed
Cain was made aware he was making a choice
Cain made the choice to take out his bitterness on his brother
Cain then killed his brother (because of his own bitterness)**

c. a root of bitterness illustrated by Esau

Genesis 25:29-34

“Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.’ Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright as of this day.’ And Esau said, ‘Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?’ Then Jacob said, ‘Swear to me as of this day.’ So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.”

Esau was tired and hungry when he came from the field
Esau saw the red stew that Jacob had made
Esau said immediate food was more important than the birthright
Esau sold the birthright for a bowl of stew
Esau got what he wanted for that day and went his way
Esau despised his birthright (the birthright gave spiritual leadership)
(to view the Lord and spiritual leadership with contempt)
the birthright included a double inheritance - Deuteronomy 21:17
Esau later wanted the double inheritance - Genesis 27:1-41

Hebrews 12:16-17

“lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.”

Esau became a fornicator (immoral) person
Esau became a profane (godless) person
Esau considered a bowl of stew worth more than spiritual leadership
Esau wanted to inherit the blessing
(he wanted the double inheritance, but he did not want God)
Esau was rejected because he rejected spiritual life
Esau did not repent and turn to the Lord

a dead or rotten root will bear rotten fruit

Matthew 7:16-18

“You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit.”

2. Taking Root in the Love of Money

a. defined by Scripture

1 Timothy 6:9-10

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

**those who desire to get rich fall into temptation
those who desire to get rich get caught in a trap
those who desire to get rich fall into many foolish lusts
those who desire to get rich fall into many harmful lusts
those who desire to get rich drown in destruction
those who desire to get rich drown in perdition**

**the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil
the love of money causes some to stray from the faith
the love of money causes people to be controlled by greed
the love of money causes people to torture their souls with sorrow**

b. the love of money illustrated by the rich young ruler

Mark 10:17-22

“Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’ So Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ And he answered and said to Him, ‘Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.’ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ‘One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.’ But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

1) this young man had a desire for eternal life

**he came running to Christ
he knelt before Christ
he recognized Christ as “Good Teacher”
he wanted to know how to inherit eternal life**

2) this young man had lived a moral life

**Christ listed the commandments that deal with man's relationship to man
the young man said that he had obeyed those commands from his youth
Christ knew his heart and knew what was his god - his riches**

Repentance

Christ told the young man to turn from his god

Faith

Christ told the young man to take up the cross

Christ told the young man "Follow me"

Christ saw the young man turn and leave in great sorrow

c. the love of money illustrated by Judas

1) Judas could not hide his true character from Christ

John 6:70-71

“Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?’ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.”

**Christ chose Judas to be one of the Twelve
Christ knew that Judas was a deceiver
Christ knew Judas would betray Him
Christ had Judas carry the money box
Christ helped Judas know his own character
Christ knew that Judas was a thief**

2) Judas pretended to care for the poor

John 12:4-6

“But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who would betray Him, said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?’ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”

**Judas complained when Mary put expensive ointment on the feet of Christ
Judas said the ointment could have been sold and given to the poor
Judas secretly did not even care for the poor
Judas was a thief and would take part of the money from the money box**

3) Judas secretly agreed to betray Christ

Matthew 26:14-16

“Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?’ And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.”

**Judas went to the chief priests
Judas offered to betray Christ to get more money
Judas accepted their offer of thirty pieces of silver
Judas looked for the opportunity to betray Christ**

4) Judas betrayed Christ with a kiss

Matthew 26:48-50

“Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, ‘Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.’ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him. But Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, why have you come?’ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.”

**Judas said he would betray Christ with a kiss
Judas told the men to seize Christ after he kissed Him
Judas gave Christ a greeting and kissed Him
Judas was called “Friend” by Christ
Jesus was seized by the group with Judas**

5) Judas confessed his sin to the wrong people

Matthew 27:3-5

“Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What is that to us? You see to it!’ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

**Judas experienced great remorse (guilt)
Judas returned to the chief priests and elders
Judas confessed his sin to the chief priests
Judas heard that was not their problem
Judas was told the guilt was his problem
Judas threw down the pieces of money
Judas went out and hanged himself**

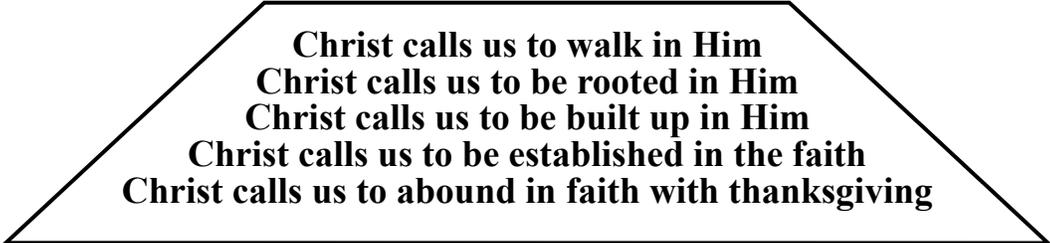
B. The two positive roots - Christ and the love of Christ

1. Taking root in Christ

a. defined by Scripture

Colossians 2:6-7

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”



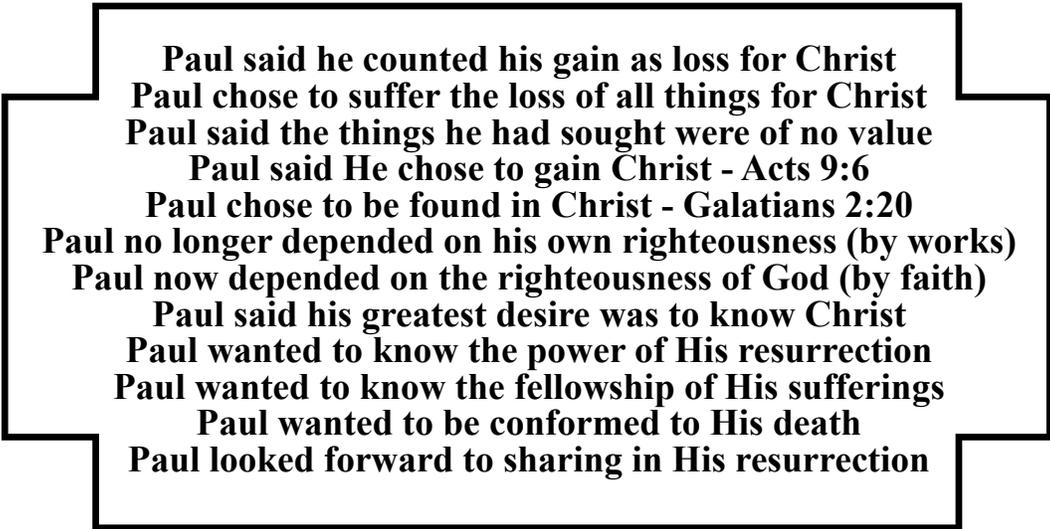
**Christ calls us to walk in Him
Christ calls us to be rooted in Him
Christ calls us to be built up in Him
Christ calls us to be established in the faith
Christ calls us to abound in faith with thanksgiving**

b. taking root in Christ illustrated by Paul

Philippians 3:7-11

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Paul counted his personal gain loss for Christ



**Paul said he counted his gain as loss for Christ
Paul chose to suffer the loss of all things for Christ
Paul said the things he had sought were of no value
Paul said He chose to gain Christ - Acts 9:6
Paul chose to be found in Christ - Galatians 2:20
Paul no longer depended on his own righteousness (by works)
Paul now depended on the righteousness of God (by faith)
Paul said his greatest desire was to know Christ
Paul wanted to know the power of His resurrection
Paul wanted to know the fellowship of His sufferings
Paul wanted to be conformed to His death
Paul looked forward to sharing in His resurrection**

2. Taking root in the love of Christ

a. defined by Scripture

Ephesians 3:17-19

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Christ comes in our hearts at the moment of salvation

(this is the result of personal repentance and faith)

Christ rooted us in His love

Christ grounded us in His love

Christ makes it possible for us to know His love

Christ calls us to decisive understanding of His love

(this love has four dimensions and not just three)

(three dimensions can be seen width, length and height)

(depth is unseen because we grow deeper in learning to comprehend –understand - the love of Christ)

(human comprehension cannot understand -

1 Corinthians 2:14)

b. taking root in the love of Christ illustrated by John

John 13:23

“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.”

John knew that Christ loved him at the Last Supper

John 19:26

“When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’”

John knew Christ loved him when He told him to care of his mother

John 21:7

“Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.”

John knew Christ loved him after the Resurrection

II. What will happen to those controlled by bitterness or love of money?

A. Bitterness is one of the consequences of original sin

Psalm 10:3

“For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord.”

wickedness comes from the desires of the heart

Psalm 10:7

“His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue *is* trouble and iniquity.”

wickedness causes cursing, deceit and oppression

Romans 3:14

“Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.”

Romans 3:19

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

**the thoughts of the heart are shown by the words of the mouth
the thoughts of the heart and words of the mouth silence every person
the thoughts of the heart make all guilty before God**

Romans 3:20

“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.”

**the deeds of the law can never justify a person
the deeds of the law only show a person his or her sin**

Galatians 3:24-25

“Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

**the purpose of the law was to bring us to Christ
we are no longer under the law once we come to Christ**

B. The love of money is one of the consequences of original sin

Psalm 10:3

“For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord.”

**wickedness comes from the desires of the heart
a wicked person blesses the greedy**

The love of money comes from a desire to be rich

1 Timothy 6:9

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

**those who desire to be rich fall into temptation
those who desire to be rich fall into a snare (trap)
those who desire to be rich fall into many foolish lusts
those who desire to be rich fall into many harmful lusts
those who desire to be rich drown in destruction
those who desire to be rich drown in perdition (judgment)**

The love of money leads to all kinds of evil

1 Timothy 6:10

“For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

**the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil
the love of money causes some to stray from the faith
the love of money is rooted in greediness (to desire something)
the love of money causes a person to torture their own soul
the love of money results in many sorrows (pain or grief)**

The love of money is idolatry

Ephesians 5:5

“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

a covetous man is an idolater

Roots of bitterness and the love of money lead to eternal judgment

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

**wide is the gate that leads to destruction
broad is the way that leads to destruction
many go the way that leads to destruction**

Bitterness poisons and keeps a person in bondage

Acts 8:22-23

“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

**a person is poisoned by bitterness
a person is bound by iniquity**

Covetousness gives a worldly focus instead of an eternal focus

Luke 12:15-21

“And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

**life is not based on what we possess
life is not based on bigger barns
life is not based on greater possessions
life is not based on living for self
a person who leaves God out of his thinking is a fool
a person who lays up treasure for self is not rich toward God
a person takes nothing with him when he dies**

III. The Way Roots Grow and Develop

A. The two negative roots are like tares

Matthew 13:24-30

“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, “Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?” He said to them, “An enemy has done this.” The servants said to him, “Do you want us then to go and gather them up?” But he said, “No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”””

Matthew 13:36-43

“Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.’ He answered and said to them: ‘He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”

tares are a weed that looks very much like wheat
(the field is the world and the enemy who sows tares is the devil)
tares represent all the people who follow the wicked one
tares and the good seed are both growing together
the angels will be the reapers at the end of the age
the angels will gather all who offend
tares will be burned with fire at the end of the age
tares are all the people who practice lawlessness
tares will be cast into the furnace of fire
(there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth)

B. The two positive roots are like wheat

Matthew 13:43

“Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**the righteous will shine forth in the kingdom of their Father
the righteous are those who have ears to hear**

1. The way a grain of wheat becomes fruitful

John 12:24

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

**a grain of wheat must fall into the ground
a grain of wheat must die
a grain of wheat remains alone unless it dies
a grain of wheat that dies produces much fruit**

2. The way the Lord produces that fruit

Mark 4:26-29

“And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”

**the Lord gives people the opportunity to scatter seed
the Lord works what man can never work
the Lord causes the seed to sprout
the Lord causes the seed to grow
the Lord causes the seed to develop in an orderly fashion
first, the blade
second, the ear
third, the full grain in the head
the Lord causes the grain to ripen
the Lord gives people the opportunity to harvest the fruit
the Lord is the One who is the Lord of the harvest**

3. The transformation when a person takes root in Christ

a. the condition of the heart without Christ

Genesis 6:5

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.”

**the wickedness of mankind is great
this wickedness affects every intent of the heart
this wickedness is in the thoughts of the heart
these thoughts of the heart are only evil
these thoughts of the heart are continuous**

b. the way such a heart functions

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

**such a heart is deceitful in all things
such a heart is desperately wicked
such a heart cannot be fully known**

c. the way that heart is changed at the moment of salvation

Romans 5:5

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

**the Holy Spirit came into our hearts at the moment of
salvation - Romans 8:9
the Holy Spirit poured the love of God in our hearts at the
moment of salvation**

d. the transformation that results

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

**the Lord created us into something new
(our sins were blotted out at the moment of salvation)
the Lord gave us a new and spiritual understanding**

C. We take root in Christ as we grow in our understanding of Him

1. Our roots begin to grow in Christ as we walk in fellowship with Him

a. this involves learning to walk in the light

1 John 1:6-7

“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

**we cannot have fellowship with Christ and walk in darkness
we will have fellowship with Christ as we walk in the light
we will also have fellowship with one another
we experience cleansing as we walk in the light**

b. this involves learning to love our brothers and sisters in Christ

1 John 2:8-11

“Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

the new commandment

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

**he who hates his brother is in darkness
he who loves his brother abides in the light
he who loves his brother has no cause of stumbling in him
he who hates his brother walks in darkness
he who hates his brother does not know where he is going
he who hates his brother has his eyes blinded by darkness
the new commandment is to love one another
the new commandment is to love as Christ loved us
obedience causes the world to know we are Christ's disciples**

c. this involves learning to fellowship with Christ as we grow toward spiritual maturity

1) spiritual newborn babes

1 Peter 2:2

“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...”

**a new Christian has no understanding of fellowship
a new Christian has a desire to know the milk of the Word
a new Christian begins to understand fellowship as he or she grows**

2) spiritually immature children (toddlers)

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like *mere* men?”

(in physical life, a toddler is one who cannot yet speak clearly)
**a spiritual toddler is not mature spiritually
a spiritual toddler is one who is still carnal (fleshly)
a spiritual toddler can only understand the milk of the Word
a spiritual toddler is not yet able to eat solid food
a spiritual toddler continues to have envy, strife and divisions
a spiritual toddler acts like one who is not yet a Christian**

1 Corinthians 13:11

“When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

**a toddler thinks and speaks like a young child
the speech of a toddler is limited
the understanding of a toddler is limited
the thinking of a toddler is limited
the childish things are put away as a person matures**

Ephesians 4:14

“that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting...”

**the goal is to see spiritual toddlers grow and mature
the spiritual toddler does not know what he believes
the spiritual toddler is easily deceived by false teachers
the spiritual toddler is often not aware of false teachers**

Hebrews 5:11-14

“of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

**the writer of Hebrews had much to teach the Jews about Christ
the writer knew that would be hard to explain to many
the writer warned that a toddler can become dull of hearing
Christians should reach a point where they can teach newer Christians**

**Christians who remain as toddlers can be very immature after many years
long-term toddlers need someone who can reteach them
long-term toddlers need to relearn the first principles of the Word of God
long-term toddlers still need the milk of the Word of God
long-term toddlers cannot understand the Word that is like solid food
long-term toddlers only want the milk of the Word
long-term toddlers are unskillful in the word of righteousness
long-term toddlers have remained that way for years**

Growing Christians

1 John 2:12-14

“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”

Spiritual Children

1 John 2:12-13

“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake...I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father.”

spiritual children know that their sins are forgiven

spiritual children understand their sins are blotted out - Acts 3:19

spiritual children have come to know the Father

spiritual children enjoy fellowship with the Father - 1 John 1:3-4

Spiritual Young Adults (young men and young women)

1 John 2:13-14

“I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one...I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”

spiritual young adults are strong

spiritual young adults are strong in Christ - 2 Corinthians 12:10

spiritual young adults have the Word of God abiding in them

spiritual young adults study the Word of God - 2 Timothy 2:15

spiritual young adults memorize the Word of God - Psalm 119:11

spiritual young adults meditate on the Word of God - Joshua 1:8

spiritual young adults obey the Word of God - James 1:22

spiritual young adults have consistent victory over Satan

spiritual young adults are not easily deceived - Ephesians 4:14

Spiritual Parents (fathers and mothers)

1 John 2:13-14; 1 Corinthians 4:16-17

“I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning...I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning.” “Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

spiritual parents have a deep understanding of God

spiritual parents seek to know God more fully - Philippians 3:13-14

spiritual parents invite others to imitate them

spiritual parents seek to glorify God in all things - 1 Corinthians 10:31

spiritual parents have one or more spiritual children

Aquila and Priscilla were spiritual parents to Apollos - Acts 18:26

d. this involves letting go of the things of the world

1) love for the world shows that we do not have the love of God in us

1 John 2:15

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Christians are not to love the world

this world is the spiritual world controlled by Satan - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

this includes any knowledge that exalts itself against God

Christians are not to love the things of the world

most people love the world

most people do not have the love of the Father in them

2) love for the world gives us a love for sin

1 John 2:16

“For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”

the world is controlled by three things

this gives Satan three ways to tempt people

the lust (strong desires) of the flesh

the lust (strong desires) of the eyes

the pride (the desire to impress people) of life

these things are not from the Father

these things are from the world

3) the world is passing away

1 John 2:17

“And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

the world is passing away

the strong desires of the world are passing away

those who do the will of the Father will not pass away

those who do the will of God will abide forever

2. Our roots become stronger as we are strengthened

a. we need strengthening by other Christians

Acts 14:32

“strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

Acts 15:32

“Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.”

**new disciples need strengthening in their souls
new disciples need to be exhorted to continue in the faith
new disciples need to be prepared for tribulation
new disciples are strengthened through the Word of God**

b. we need strengthening as churches

Acts 15:41

“...but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

Acts 16:5

“So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

**Paul recognized the need to strengthen churches
Paul had started churches in both Syria and Cilicia
Paul had ministered in this area for ten years - Galatians 1:21
Paul revisited these churches to strengthen them
Paul strengthened churches in the faith
Paul saw churches were increasing in number daily
reproduction happens as disciples mature - Acts 8:4, 9:31**

c. we need to strengthen all disciples

Acts 18:23

“After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

**Paul continued to strengthen disciples in Galatia
Paul continued to strengthen disciples in Phrygia
Paul strengthened disciples wherever he went
Paul was concerned to strengthen all disciples**

D. We take root in the love of Christ as we grow in our understanding of His love

1. Christ chose to love us first

1 John 4:19

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

**our love is our response to the love that Christ has shown for us
Christ loved us when we had no love for Him**

2. Christ chose to love us while we were still sinners

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**God, the Father, also showed His love for us
Christ showed His love for us while we were still sinners
Christ died for us while we were still sinners**

3. Christ chose to love us in four dimensions

Ephesians 3:17-18

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height...”

**Christ dwells in our hearts through faith
Christ wants us to become rooted in His love
Christ wants us to become grounded in His love
Christ wants us to understand the width of His love
Christ wants us to understand the length of His love
Christ wants us to understand the depth of His love
Christ wants us to understand the height of His love**

4. Christ chose to love us with a love that passes knowledge

Ephesians 3:19

“to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

the love of Christ is beyond our human understanding

5. Christ wants us to understand what it means to be rooted and grounded in His love - Ephesians 3:17

a. understanding what it means to be rooted in His love

Colossians 2:6-7

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

**to be rooted in the love of Christ we must be rooted in Him
to be rooted in Christ means we will be built up in Him
to be rooted in the love of Christ we will be established in the faith**

those who are not rooted in Christ will fall away

Mark 4:16-17

“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.”

**they may be happy to hear the Word of God
they do not take root in Christ
they endure only for a time**

those who are not rooted in Christ will not bear good fruit

Luke 3:9

“And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**they will be like a tree with rotten roots
they will be cut down and thrown into the fire**

those who are rooted in Christ are holy

Romans 11:16, 18

“For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches...Do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, *remember that* you do not support the root, but the root *supports* you.”

**we are holy because Christ, the root, is holy
we are supported and held up by Christ because He is the root**

b. understanding what it means to be grounded in His love
(the word translated “grounded” is most often translated “foundation”)

Colossians 1:21-23

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

**we were formerly enemies and alienated from God
we were reconciled to God through the death of Christ
Christ is now able to present us holy and blameless to the Father
we will continue in the faith because our foundation is Christ
we will not be moved away from that foundation**

Christ compares those who are grounded in Him to those who are wise
Matthew 7:24-25

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

**Christ describes those who are like wise men
Christ says we hear His sayings (teachings)
Christ says we obey His sayings (teachings)
Christ says we will not fall when the storms come
Christ says that is because we are founded on the Rock**

Christ says those who build on this foundation will receive rewards
1 Corinthians 3:11-14

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.”

**Christ is our foundation
works that have eternal value are like gold, silver and precious stones
works that are just for this earth are like wood, hay and straw**

6. Christ wants us to understand what it means that He loves us in four dimensions - Ephesians 3:18-19a

“may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...”

**most things only have three dimensions
breadth (width), length and height
Christ says that His love has four dimensions**

a. before we became Christians, we could not understand the fullness of the love of God because we were spiritually dead

spiritual death meant that we had no spiritual life

Ephesians 2:1

“And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins...”

spiritual death meant that our hearts were filled with evil

Genesis 6:5

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.”

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?”

**every intent of the thoughts of our heart was evil
our heart was deceitful and desperately wicked**

spiritual death meant that we were separated from God

Genesis 2:16-17

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:8

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

**Adam was warned about spiritual death (separation from God)
Adam experienced spiritual death the very day he sinned**

**b. the moment we became Christians the love of God was poured out
in our hearts**

Romans 5:5

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

**we received the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation - Romans 8:9
the Holy Spirit poured out the love of God into our hearts at that moment**

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

“But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more...”

**God taught us to love one another when He poured out His love on us
God shows that His love causes Christians to love one another
God wants us to increase more and more in our love for one another**

c. the love of God made us the children of God

1 John 3:1-2

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

**God showed us His love for us by calling us His children
God says that is why the world no longer knows us
God says the attitude of the world is due to not knowing Him
God says we do not fully understand what we will be like
God says that at the coming of Christ we will be like Him**

d. the love of God gave us a desire to purify ourselves

1 John 3:3

“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

**Christians who have this hope in Him want to become like Christ
Christians have an example to follow because Christ is pure**

IV. Good roots cause our lives to become fruitful

A. The types of branches

1. Those branches that bear no fruit

John 15:2

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

those branches bear no fruit
Satan takes away the seed that is sown in their hearts - Mark 4:15
the time to respond to Christ will one day come to an end - Mark 4:24-25

those branches are burned

John 15:6

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.”

those branches do not abide in Christ
there was never any repentance from the sin of unbelief - John 16:9
those branches are cut off from the vine
those branches are withered
those branches are gathered for destruction
those branches are thrown into the fire
those branches are burned
those branches will experience eternal judgment - Revelation 20:11-15

2. Those branches that bear fruit

John 15:2

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

2 Timothy 2:21

“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

every branch that bears fruit must be pruned - 1 Cor. 11:28; 31-32
this pruning is to make it possible for the branch to bear more fruit
cleansing is for the purpose of making us more fruitful - 1 Cor. 6:19-20
cleansing prepares us for every good work - Galatians 5:13

3. Those branches that want to bear more fruit

John 15:4-5

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

**those branches realize that they cannot bear fruit by themselves
those branches realize that they must abide in the vine (Christ)
those branches understand they can do nothing in their own strength**

4. Those branches that bear much fruit

John 15:5; 15:7-8

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing...If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

**those branches focus on abiding in Christ
those branches focus on the fact that Christ is in them
those branches see their lives bear much fruit
those branches have the Word of God abiding in them
those branches focus on prayer
those branches see Christ answer their prayers
those branches focus on bringing glory to God
those branches bear much fruit as they bring glory to God**

branches that bear much fruit are disciple makers

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

**those branches warn but do not shame
those branches become spiritual parents
those branches provide an example that can be imitated
those branches bear faithful children who become disciple makers**

B. The Holy Spirit bears the fruit of the Spirit in our lives as we are led by the Spirit and walk in the Spirit

1. We are to be led by the Spirit and to walk in the Spirit

a. we are to be led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:18

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Galatians 3:24-25

“Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”

Christians are to be led by the Spirit since we are no longer under the law

(the law could only condemn and make us aware of our guilt)

Christians were not brought to Christ by the law

(the law showed us we were guilty but could never justify us)

Christians are justified by faith and not by the law

Once faith has come, we are no longer under the law

b. we are to walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

**Christians are now able to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit
Christians who walk in the Spirit will not fulfill the lust of the flesh**

2. Failure to walk in the Spirit results in the works of the flesh

a. liberty is not an opportunity to walk in the flesh

Galatians 5:1

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Galatians 5:13

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

**Christians have been set free from the bondage of the law
Christians are not to become entangled in bondage again
Christian are able to use this liberty, through love, to serve one another**

b. liberty is not practicing the works of the flesh

the deeds of the flesh and the Spirit are in conflict with one another

Galatians 5:17

“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

the flesh lusts for the things that are against the Spirit
(the flesh includes the mind, emotions, will and physical body)
the Spirit has set us free from the control of the flesh
the flesh is against the Spirit and wants us back in bondage

the deeds of the flesh are very easy to see in the world around us

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

the works of the flesh are clearly seen in the world around us
the works of the flesh are the pattern of life of the world
those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God

Christians who continue to do these things live with tremendous guilt

Romans 7:15-25

“For what **I** am doing, **I** do not understand. For what **I** will to do, that **I** do not practice; but what **I** hate, that **I** do. If, then, **I** do what **I** will not to do, **I** agree with the law that *it is* good. But now, *it is* no longer **I** who do it, but sin that dwells in **me**. For I know that in **me** (that is, in **my flesh**) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with **me**, but *how* to perform what is good **I** do not find. **For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** I find then a law, that evil is present with **me**, the one who wills to do good. For **I** delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But **I** see another law in my members, warring against the law of **my** mind, and bringing **me** into captivity to the law of sin which is in **my** members. **O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I** thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind **I myself** serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

c. liberty is the result of presenting ourselves to God

we are to present ourselves to God

Romans 6:13

“And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.”

to “...not present your members...” is a decision of the will
(at the moment of salvation, we are no longer slaves to sin)
we used to be slaves to sin and so we used our bodies to sin
we died to the control of sin at the moment of salvation - Romans 6:1-3
we were raised to new life at the moment of salvation - Romans 6:4-7
presenting ourselves to God is also a decision of the will
we present ourselves to God because we are alive from the dead
we present the parts of our body as instruments of righteousness to God

we are to walk in obedience to God

Romans 6:16

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”

we are either slaves of sin or slaves of God
we are slaves of the one we obey
if we obey sin, it leads to death - Romans 7:24; Galatians 5:13-15
we are to present ourselves as slaves to God
if we obey God, it leads to righteousness

Romans 6:19

“I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.”

Paul understood the weakness of our flesh
Paul knew that, in the past, sin led to more sin
Paul says we are now able to present ourselves to God
(the Holy Spirit gives us both the desire and the power to do right)
“slaves of righteousness” leads to progress in holy living - Romans 6:22

3. Walking in the Spirit we will not fulfill the works of the flesh

the flesh and the Spirit are contrary to one another

Galatians 5:16-17

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

**those who walk in the Spirit do not fulfill the lust of the flesh
the flesh lusts against the Spirit so it tries to lead us to sin
the Spirit is against the flesh and the works of the flesh
the Spirit and the flesh are against one another
we wish to do good but can only do good as we walk in the Spirit
“For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do.” - Romans 7:19a**

the flesh bears the works of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

**the flesh wants us to commit sexual sins
the flesh wants us to commit religious sins
the flesh wants us to commit sins against others
those who practice the works of the flesh are unbelievers
no unbeliever will inherit the kingdom of God**

those who belong to Christ have crucified the works of the flesh

Galatians 5:24

“And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

**those who belong to Christ have crucified the works of the flesh
those works were nailed to the cross - Colossians 2:14
those sinful passions of the flesh were nailed to the cross
those desires of the flesh were nailed to the cross**

**4. Walking in the Spirit will cause our lives to bear the Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

a. the fruit of the Spirit is love...

**the Spirit bestowed the love of God on us
1 John 3:1-3**

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God. Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

**God chose to call us the children of God
God says that is why the world no longer knows us
God said they do not know us because they do not know Him
God has not yet revealed what we will be like in the future
God says He will reveal Himself in the future
God says we will be like Him when we see Him
God reveals that our hope is in Christ and we will be like Him
God says this is why we want to purify ourselves**

**the Spirit is transforming us into the image of God
2 Corinthians 3:16-18**

“Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

**the Lord takes away the veil of spiritual blindness
the Spirit of the Lord gives liberty when we turn to the Lord
the Lord removes the veil from every true believer
the Lord allows us to see the glory of the Lord
the Lord is transforming us so we become like Him
the Lord is revealing this glory as we grow in Him**

the Holy Spirit poured out the love of God in our hearts

Romans 5:5

“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

God poured out His love when He gave us the Holy Spirit
Christ asked the Father to send us another Helper - John 14:16-17
we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation - Romans 8:9

the Holy Spirit gave us liberty from the yoke of bondage of the Law

Galatians 5:1

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Christ set us free from the law - Galatians 3:24-25
Christ does not want us entangled in a yoke of bondage again

the Holy Spirit gave us liberty so our faith could be worked out through love

Galatians 5:5-6

“For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

we are able to eagerly wait for heaven by faith
faith shows that it is genuine by works of love

the Holy Spirit gave us liberty to serve one another in love

Galatians 5:13-14

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

we have been called to live a life of liberty
we are not to use that liberty to serve the flesh
we are to use that liberty to serve one another in love
we fulfill the Law by loving our neighbor as we love self
“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:
I *am* the LORD.” - Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37-40

b. the fruit of the Spirit is joy...

the Holy Spirit gives us a joy that is inexpressible

1 Peter 1:8

“whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory...”

**we were given a great love for Christ
we were given a joy that is inexpressible**

the Holy Spirit makes this joy full as we have fellowship with God

1 John 1:3-4

“that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

**we are able to have fellowship with other Christians
we have this fellowship when we have fellowship with God
we have this fellowship when we have fellowship with His Son
we experience full joy as we have fellowship with God and others**

the Holy Spirit makes our lives good examples as we have this joy

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.”

joy in suffering causes our lives to be an example to others

the Holy Spirit gives us joy as we serve others

Romans 14:16-17

“Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

**good causes us to stop judging others - Romans 14:13
good causes us to seek the kingdom of God
good causes us to practice the righteousness of God
good causes us to experience the peace of God
good causes us to have joy in the Holy Spirit**

c. the fruit of the Spirit is peace...

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Romans 5:1

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”

the Holy Spirit gives us this peace

Romans 14:16-17

“Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

**we have peace with God because Christ paid the penalty for our sin
the Holy Spirit fills us with this peace as we believe**

the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to abound in hope

Romans 15:13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

**the God of hope fills us with all joy and peace
the Holy Spirit makes us abound in hope and peace by His power**

the Holy Spirit makes it possible for the God of peace to be seen in us

Philippians 4:6-9

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

**as Christians, we are to bring our requests to God with thanksgiving
the peace of God guards our hearts and minds through Christ
the peace of God will give us a desire to meditate
the peace of God can be seen in the lives of others
the peace of God will be seen in our lives as we do (obey God)**

d. the fruit of the Spirit is patience (longsuffering)...

growing in love causes us to become more patient

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

“Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

**love is patient (suffers long)
love is kind
love has eight things it does not do
love has five things that it does
love never fails**

growing in patience is a walk worthy of our calling

Ephesians 4:1-3

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

**we show the longsuffering of God by a humble attitude
we were called to show the longsuffering of God to sinners
we were called to bear with one another in love as Christians
we are called to keep the unity of the Spirit**

growing in patience was illustrated by the prophets and by Job

James 5:10-11

“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”

**we have the Old Testament prophets as example of those who suffered
we have the Old Testament prophets as examples of how to show patience
we were shown how to be longsuffering by the prophets
we were shown how to be longsuffering by Job
our example shows that the Lord is compassionate and merciful**

e. the fruit of the Spirit is kindness...

growing in love causes us to show more kindness

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

“Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”

**love is patient (suffers long)
love is kind
love has eight things it does not do
love has five things that it does
love never fails**

we are to put on kindness

Colossians 3:12

“Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.”

**the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to put on kindness
the Holy Spirit gives us the power to show kindness and forgive**

we can show this kindness because of what God has done for us

Ephesians 2:4-7

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

**God showed the greatness of His love for us
God made us alive because we are in Christ
God raised us from the dead because we are in Christ
God has seated us in heavenly places
God will show the exceeding riches of His grace to us
God will do this because of His kindness toward us**

f. the fruit of the Spirit is goodness...

the Spirit helps us to understand all goodness

Ephesians 5:8-10

“For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

**we were formerly in darkness
we are now light in the Lord
we are able to walk as children of Light
we are able to do goodness as we walk in the Light
we are able to practice righteous living as we walk in the Light
we are able to practice truth as we walk in the Light**

the Spirit makes it possible for us to be full of goodness

Romans 15:14

“Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”

**we are able to be full of goodness
we are able to be filled with all knowledge
we are able to admonish one another when filled with goodness**

the Spirit makes it possible for us to fulfill the goodness of God

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**God wants to count us worthy of His calling
God chose us to bear the image of His Son - Ephesians 1:5
God revealed to us the mystery of His will - Ephesians 1:9
God is working in us to do His good pleasure - Philippians 2:13
God wants us to share this goodness with others
God wants us to show powerful works of faith
God wants Christ to be glorified in our lives
God wants us to be glorified in Christ
God makes this possible through His grace**

g. the fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness...

God gave us an example of what it means to be faithful

1 Corinthians 1:9

“God *is* faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**God was faithful to us and called us
God called us into the fellowship of His Son
God called us into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord**

the Holy Spirit gives us His strength to be faithful

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

**Christians are to be servants of Christ
Christians are to be stewards of the mysteries of Christ
(a steward is one who manages what belongs to another)
Stewards are those who are found faithful**

the Holy Spirit gives us His power to practice faithfulness

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

**we know that we have been crucified with Christ
we no longer live for ourselves
we know that Christ now lives in us
we are able to practice His faithfulness
we know Christ loved us and gave Himself for us**

the Holy Spirit gives us His power to become fruitful Christians

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

**faithful Christians receive the Word of God from others
faithful Christians are then able to teach others also**

h. the fruit of the Spirit is gentleness...

God has chosen us to put on a heart of gentleness

Colossians 3:12-14

“Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”

**the Lord calls us to put on tender mercies
the Lord calls us to put on kindness
the Lord calls us to put on humility
the Lord calls us to put on longsuffering
the Lord calls us to bear with one another
the Lord calls us to forgive one another
above all, the Lord calls us to put on love**

the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to restore in gentleness

Galatians 6:1

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

**we will see other Christians commit a trespass
the spiritual are called to restore such a person
the spiritual are to do this in a spirit of gentleness
otherwise, even the spiritual will be tempted to sin**

the Holy Spirit gives us gentleness to correct those who oppose

2 Timothy 2:24-26

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.”

**servants of the Lord are to be gentle with all
servants of the Lord are to be able to teach
servants of the Lord are to be patient
servants of the Lord are to correct with humility**

i. the fruit of the Spirit is self-control...

Peter explained how we grow in self-control

2 Peter 1:2-8

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Christ has given us all things that relate to life and godliness
Christ gave us His precious promises so we partake of the divine nature
Christ gave us faith so that we can grow in moral excellence
Christ gives us moral excellence so we can understand and apply truth
Christ gives us that understanding so we can exercise self-control
Christ gives us that self-control so we can develop patience to do right
Christ gives us that patience so we can grow in godliness
Christ gives us godliness so we can practice brotherly love
Christ gives us brotherly loves so that we can grow in godly love**

Peter explained why these qualities are so important in our lives

2 Peter 1:9-11

“For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**without these qualities, we have no assurance of salvation
without these qualities, we need to make sure we are truly Christians
as we practice these qualities, we will never stumble
as we practice these qualities, we will have fruitful lives
as we practice these qualities, we eagerly look forward to eternal life**