



CHRIST CHURCH
CROUCH END HILL
LONDON N8 8AX
CROSSLINKS
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

A MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL



JUNE/JULY 2005 ISSUE 5.64

Vicar's three minute reflection THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Have you noticed that there seems to be an extraordinarily large emphasis on spiritual gifts today? You hardly ever hear anyone talking about spiritual fruit anymore. While I believe spiritual gifts serve an important purpose in the Body of Christ, I want you to be equally (if not more) aware of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and how important it is to understand what God is doing in your very own life.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit manifesting His fruit in us is far more important than any spiritual gift. Many people continue to seek the power and manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit, but they do not place a priority on the call of every believer to a holy life. Our desire should be to earnestly seek "the Giver and not the gifts." Regardless of what anyone says, God still frowns on sin and has called us to be conformed to the image of His dear Son.

**If Christ is in us,
then we should be
Christlike. The fruit
of the Spirit is the
display.**

We must remember that gifts are given, but spiritual fruit is developed. The fruit of the Spirit (also known as our Spiritual Medicine Chest) comes to us when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour; however, it only comes as a small seed which must be nurtured and developed in our lives (or watered) through prayer, by reading the Word, and by putting faith into action. If Christ is in us, then we should be Christlike. The fruit of the Spirit is the display.

One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit is to help us become who God says we are. When a person believes in Jesus Christ and trusts Him to take his sins away by reason of His death and resurrection, then invites Him to his life as Lord and Saviour, he or she becomes saved, born again. He is justified—made just—by Jesus Christ. But we all know that there is no one on this earth who is perfect, who is holy.



But by virtue of the gift we receive from Christ through justification in His blood, we are saints, holy people and God's beloved. And this is where the Holy Spirit continues the work. By working in us, with us, and through us, he constantly changes us to what we are in Christ Jesus. I find it quite fascinating that the Bible both begins and ends talking about fruit. Read ***Genesis 2:15-16 and Revelation 22:1-2.***

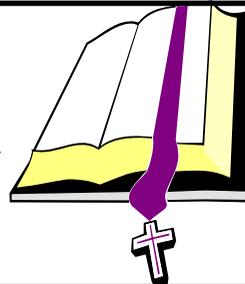
God's divine purpose for your life is for you to bear spiritual fruit. Your relationship to Jesus is described in ***John 15:5:*** "I am the vine; you are the branches. "The book of Galatians identifies the Christ-like qualities that God wants to produce in our lives: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control..." (***Galatians 5:22-23***)

Notice that the "fruit" of the Spirit is singular (not plural), for there is one fruit revealed in nine separate supernatural manifestations. Peter wrote, "For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is short-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. . (***1 Peter 1:8***) The first three fruit focus on your relationship with God, the second three focus on your relationship with others and the final three focus directly on the individual. The fruit of the Spirit is what God desires our lives to show, and with the Holy Spirit's help, it is possible!

Dele Agbelusi

Memory Verse

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control." *Galatians 5:22-23*



PATIENCE IN MARRIAGE



Most of us, before we're married, imagine that love will solve all our problems. But could it be that patience, more than love, is the sum and substance of a great marriage?

Our society rewards problem-solvers. Every challenge is an opportunity to be met quickly. Then comes marriage, and we problem-solvers are suddenly faced with a challenge that taxes the very essence of who we are. We think we're called to fix things when they're broken. To make things work. But then we wake up one morning to find that the person next to us is more complicated than anything we've ever had to deal with.

It is two people who give expression to marital oneness. Two people — usually polar opposites — who commit themselves to building a framework for physical, emotional and spiritual oneness by accepting, respecting and unconditionally loving each other. To do so, however, takes time, which means we have to be patient.

Patience in marriage works a lot like faith. It demonstrates the certainty that what we hope for—physical, emotional, spiritual oneness—is waiting for us, even though we can't yet see it.

Patience in marriage works a lot like faith. It demonstrates the certainty that what we hope for—physical, emotional, spiritual oneness—is waiting for us, even though we can't yet see it. My wife and I have had more than twenty years to practice the power of patience. Of forgiving each other. Of accepting. Of instilling hope. And the longer we're married, the more practice we get. But even after years of practice, we need to be reminded that oneness is an assurance that only those with patience can hold on to—and one day realize.

Harold B. Smith

MARRIAGE BUILDERS

- Identify and describe a time when you tried a "quick" solution for an ongoing problem in your marriage. What happened?
- What are some other areas where patience comes into play in your relationship with each other?

STRONGER THAN FEAR

When we look at the increasing loneliness, inner anguish, hunger, violence and war in this world we should not hesitate to confess that the powers of darkness are very active among us, but we should also dare to face them in the conviction that our Lord has overcome them through his suffering. Look at Jesus quietly, confidently and trustingly, and you will find a joy and peace you did not dare to dream of. Even on the road to the cross you will find that love is stronger than fear, and life—God's life—stronger than death.

I have seen this among the poor Indians of Peru, Bolivia and Guatemala. Their eyes are radiant with light and hope, though they have suffered more than any one of us imagines. If anyone taught me to pray it was these Indians in whom I could see the self-portrait of Jesus come alive.

There is so much dullness among us Christians, so much lukewarm carelessness, so much tiptoeing around the hard places. Do not be afraid of the Father who created you in love, nor of the Son who set you free to journey to the Father's house, nor of the Holy Spirit who gives you the joy and peace of God's dwelling place. Let the jealous God be your God and all will be well.

Henry J.M. Nouwen

Do not be afraid of the Father who created you in love, nor of the Son who set you free to journey to the Father's house... Let the jealous God be your God and all will be well.

MARRIAGE BUILDERS

- When have you experienced supernatural joy and peace, even when surrounded by troubles?
- What things have you been able to share with your spouse simply because you know he or she loves you and is committed to you, no matter what?

When we put our cares in God's hands,
He puts His peace in our heart.

THE ECHO

One day an angry little boy ran around his village shouting, "I hate you! I hate you!" No one knew quite how to respond to him. Eventually the little boy ran to the edge of a steep cliff and shouted into the valley, "I hate you! I hate you!"

Back from the valley came an echo: "I hate you! I hate you!" Startled at this, the boy ran home. With tears in his eyes, he told his mother that there was a mean little boy in the valley who shouted at him, "I hate you! I hate you!" His mother took the boy back to the cliff and told him to shout, "I love you! I love you!"

When he did, back came the reply: "I love you! I love you!" From that day on, the little boy wasn't angry anymore.



Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you...for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). Paul put it this way: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6). This principle has withstood the test of time. What we do and say will come back to us like an echo. If we want to be treated with respect, we must learn to be respectful. If we want to have friends, we must learn to be friendly. Nobody owes you anything. You only get what you give.

Youth Specialities

SHARING

We live in a "Me first" world that is fast paced and competitive. However, God instructs us to do otherwise. In God's kingdom, those who proclaim, "Me first" are last. God loves a cheerful selfless giver. If we seek greatness in God's eyes, we must look our neighbours squarely in the eye and say, "You first." When we do, we will follow in the footsteps of the humble servant who died for our sins: Jesus Christ.

NOTICE BOARD

YOUTH WORKER

The church is looking for a Christian youth worker who loves the Lord passionately and is able to work with the church's team to develop our Youth and Community ministry. The applicant is expected to put in 20 hours a week - two week-days and Sundays. Please contact the vicar for more information.

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## CHRIST CHURCH SUMMER FETE AND BARBEQUE

Sunday 17 July 2005  
12 Noon - 3PM

LOTS OF FUN!!!

MUSIC!            FOOD!        GAMES!        DRAMA!  
QUIZ!                BRIC-A-BRAC!

TICKETS:

ADULTS - £5; SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER 12 - £2.50

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PCC meeting - July 21
PCC Meeting - September 15
Harvest Thanksgiving Service - September 18
Licensing of New Lay Readers - September 24
Confirmation Service - November 20

THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER REQUESTS

This month we pray for members of our church family whose surnames begin with H,J,K,L.

Haggerty Mark; Hawthorne Giles; Haynes Katherine; Horton Betty; Horton Rosemary; Hunt Ruth; Jackson Elizabeth; Jenks Anthony; Jordan Carron; Kafta Lillian; Kasozi Rose; Kirsakye Sydney and Bernadette; Kovar Jan and Elizabeth; Lalobo Caesar; Lawson Eddie; Lebon Brian, Lester Eve; Lines Florence; Liscott Peter; Lukomona Desiree.

HOW TO DEAL WITH DEPRESSION

If you have ever been in the black hole of depression, you can sympathize with Hannah (1 Samuel 1—2:21). She had much in her life to cause her depression. Infertility and inescapable family tensions drove her to the brink of despair.

In the midst of it all, however, Hannah did not lose her grip on God. In bitterness of soul she wept. But she did something else as well. She prayed to the Lord.

Hannah's depression lifted when she took her focus from herself and her situation and put her focus on God. In the midst of her misery she recognized His holiness, which is God at work doing what is right for us.

Not only does God keep Him committed to our best good, His perfect knowledge keeps Him from doing anything that is not perfectly right for us.

God tempers His knowledge with His wisdom. If we think about ourselves, by the way we think about ourselves in relation to a holy, knowledgeable, and powerful God

The upward look takes away our fear. Look to the God of Hannah, the One who dispelled her depression with a new understanding of His love, His knowledge, and His power

God's holiness committed to our best perfect knowledge from doing anything that is not for us.

His great power over depression re-ways we think then it can be lifted think about our- a holy, knowledgeable- who is committed to us.

Robert Browning reminds us that 'looking downward. makes us dizzy.'" Spiritually speaking, the downward look leads to depression. The upward look takes away our fear. Look to the God of Hannah, the One who dispelled her depression with a new understanding of His love, His knowledge, and His power.

Adapted from Ruth & Hannah: Learning To Walk By Faith © 2004, RBC Ministries

QUOTES

- **Strong family ties don't just happen--they take work!**
- **An optimist sees an opportunity in every calamity: A pessimist sees calamity in every opportunity.**
- **We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.**
- **Prejudice is the child of ignorance.**
- **Happiness is not the absence of problems, but the ability to deal with them.**
- **It will be worth it all when we see Jesus, Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ; One glimpse of His dear face all sorrow will erase, so bravely run the race till we see Christ. -**
Rusthoi
- **Serving the Lord is an investment with eternal dividends**
- **Once we've feasted on the goodness of God, nothing else will satisfy.**

READERS' COMMENTS

As I ponder the 3-minute reflection from Rev. Dele Agbelusi - Crosslinks November.2004 – the message was exquisitely humbling. Even Dele gets scared! How brave of him to admit in print that he's as afraid of doing the Lord's work badly as we all ought to be. I found "Lord, help me to understand" in the November issue almost unendurably moving, and eventually uplifting. Here for all the world to know is the humanity of our pastor! We should give thanks to God for His use of His servants and uplift them in our prayers always.

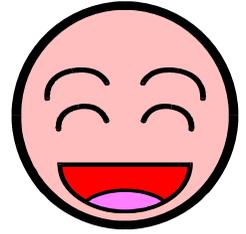
Tess Gregory

LAUGHTER LINES

WHICH?

A man prayed complaining to Almighty God about a neighbour, saying, "O Lord, take away this wicked person." And God said, "Which?"

Stories for preachers



PATIENCE

A woman's car died at a stop sign and wouldn't start. The driver behind her honked his horn incessantly. She helped him regain some patience by walking back to his car and saying, "I can't seem to get my car started. Would you please see if you can start it while I sit here and lean on your horn?"

Rotarian, Oct. 1992, p. 64

LAUGHTER LINES

DON'T KNOW

An expensive car pulled up in a country lane alongside a rustie who was clearing out the ditch. "Which way to the main road", the driver asked. "Don't know," was the reply. "Where's the nearest village?" - "Don't know" "Is there a pub around here?" - "Don't know." "You don't seem to know anything" - "May be not, but is' not me who's lost!"

John Richards (Mail)

LAZINESS

The retired husband was in his usual position--lying on the couch. When he awakened from his nap, he looked at his watch. The second hand was no longer moving, and the time was obviously wrong. He called out to his wife, who was working in the kitchen. He said, "This watch doesn't work anymore." She immediately shot back, "At least it's in good company!"

Houston Post, Feb. 20, 1995, p. D-7

WHO IS DEAF?

After encountering considerable trouble communicating with his wife, the husband concluded the poor old gal was losing her hearing. On a mission to prove his point, he conducted a personal hearing check. While she sat on the other side of the room with her back to him, he quietly asked, "Can you hear me?" There was no response. He then moved a little closer and repeated his question. Again, no response. The self-proclaimed audiologist got even closer and asked the same question. With no reply he took his test to the back of her chair and asked, "Can you hear me now?" To his total surprise, she responded with a twinge of irritation, "For the fourth time, yes!"

Our Daily Bread, Special Edition, Day 24

WORRY WORRY

The doctor finished the exam and talked with his patient, who suffered from an ulcer. The patient was quite concerned, saying, "Doctor, I'm worried about the fact that worrying about my ulcer might make it worse!"

Houston Post, March 17, 1992, p. D-7

NEW EYE GLASSES

"I have learned not to look through the eyes of circumstances but rather look through the eyes of God. It has changed what I see." These words were spoken to me by a friend whose wife had experienced extended and severe medical difficulty. The "eye glasses" we choose will determine what and how clearly we view the circumstances around us.

In our house, a pair of reading glasses can be found in virtually every room. I seem to pick them up and set them down everywhere. However, on occasion, I accidentally pick up my wife's very strong near-sighted glasses, deeply distorting my surroundings. Again, choosing the correct "eye glasses" determines how I see and react to the world.

As I listen to TV or read news articles, I am reminded that what people accept as truth is based on their "belief system eye glasses". Listening to political discussions certainly reinforces this concept. The grid of a belief system yields conclusions of the grid system.

Spiritually, what we "see" is driven by what we believe. Jesus taught this concept to His disciples during the illness, death and raising of Lazarus. In John 11:40 (NIV) Jesus says, "Did I not tell you that if you believed [in Me] you would see the glory of God?" The "eye glasses" of believing and trusting in the reality of Jesus changes what we see and how we respond. Knowing what Jesus taught and what He did brings new sight....."spiritual eye glasses" for eternal perspective.

Let us make sure that we are wearing the correct "eye glasses" as we view others and the circumstances around us.

Lessons Learned on the Journey"
by Bob Snyder M.D.

GOD SPOKE TO ME

Until Dele (our pastor) and I met about three years ago, I had never noticed any messages from the Holy Spirit coming my way. That is not to discount hundreds of attempts God must have made to speak to me and I would not respond. In vain did the Lord rebuke me, humble me, fill me with joy. In vain did he adjure me to “Go forth and tell .” He might just as well not have bothered to remind me to “Seek first the Kingdom of God,” adding that unless I did so, well – nothing further of any value was coming my way.

But He did not abandon me. I received another very simple message from Him: “Do not be afraid to confess the faith of Christ crucified.” And the way I received this message was this: One day, Dele told me that he had come to England to be a minister because he had received a message from the Lord (Holy Spirit) instructing him to do so. It seemed terribly simplistic somehow. One minute you’re sunning yourself in Lagos, the next you receive a message from the Holy Spirit – which incidentally you share with your wife who sees nothing strange in this!

What surprised me of course was our vicar’s complete acceptance of the message and his belief that I would find nothing odd in the fact that he not only received messages from the Holy Spirit , but was quite unabashed at admitting the fact. That night, I too heard a message. It came via some music. It was 3 am. And as I listened to the words of the sacred song by Gounod:

O divine Redeemer,
I pray thee grant me pardon
And remember not my sins
help me, my Saviour.

In vain did the Lord rebuke me, humble me, fill me with joy and adjure me to “Go forth and tell”... But He did not abandon me.

I felt the presence of the Lord beside me, and knew that He would never leave me. That was such a good message, the first I noticed. Since then, I have received many messages from the Holy Spirit and have come to realise that most of them are not so clear cut.

Tess Gregory

PHILOSOPHIES OF CARDINAL RATZINGER now POPE BENEDICT XVI

On Islam

"It is true that the Muslim world is not totally mistaken when it reproaches the Western Christian tradition for moral decadence and the manipulation of human life ... Islam has also had moments of great splendour and decadence in the course of its history."

On Judaism

"That the Jews are connected with God in a special way and that God does not allow that bond to fail is entirely obvious. We wait for the instant in which Israel will say yes to Christ, but we know that it has a special mission in history now ... which is significant for the world."

On faith

"Having a clear faith, based on the creed of the church, is often labelled today as fundamentalism... Whereas relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and 'swept along by every wind of teaching,' looks like the only attitude acceptable to today's standards. We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one's own ego and one's own desires"

On women's ordination

"The fact that the church is convinced of not having the right to confer priestly ordination on women is now considered by some as irreconcilable with the European Constitution."

On homosexuality

"Although the particular inclination of the homosexual person is not a sin, it is a more or less strong tendency ordered to an intrinsic moral evil, and thus the inclination itself must be seen as an objective disorder..." "Above all, we must have great respect for these people who also suffer and who want to find their own way of correct living. On the other hand, to create a legal form of a kind of homosexual marriage, in reality, does not help these people."

(submitted by Vera Freeburne) excerpts from Belfast Telegraph

POETRY FROM SALLY ROBERT

HAPPINESS

Happiness given is happiness gained
It's easily seen, so simply explained.
It's there...in our living, it shows in our deeds,
In the way that we rise to another's needs.

It's seen in a smile, showing, two baby teeth and heard...
When a child calls "Hide and Seek"
It's a gift that is given, to bring "Surprise"
And shown in the sparkle of someone's eyes.

Where there is laughter, Happiness rings
It's joy, that we find in simple things.
It's doing the things that we have done,
In giving and sharing a little fun.

There are so many ways we can express,
The wonderful feeling of "Happiness"
And if ... as we climb the stairs to bed
To rest our bodies and "Pillow our Heads"

We think to ourselves in a quiet way
This really has been "a lovely Day".
Then Blessings from Heaven, surely have rained,
That is Happiness Given, Happiness Gained.

Sally Ruby Roberts (1922– 2005)

Motto /Text for the year
"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES
ME STRENGTH" *PHIL. 4:13*

FINDING OUT ABOUT ...CHRIST CHURCH?

Tel/Fax: 020 8340 1566

We are a family of men and women, boys and girls who are trying to live for God in a world that has largely chosen to ignore Him.

We believe that it is God's world and that He has given the answer to all human problems in Jesus Christ.

As a body of believers, we offer to all who come regular opportunities for worship and service that point the way to God as our strongest resources in all aspects of life.

We will be pleased to welcome you to any of our activities. You will find a warm welcome at Christ Church.

Times of worship and fellowship are shown below:

- Sunday** - **8.00am.** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
- **10.30am.** Main service with Crèche facilities

There is family/parade service once every month– usually the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise indicated.

- **6.00pm.** Evening worship

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

- Monday - Baby n' Toddler Group (**10.00 am to 12 noon**) -Term time only
- Brownies meeting in Church (**5.30 pm**)
- Prayer meeting 20th June, 4th July and 18th July (**8pm**)
Wednesday - Alpha Programme/ Bible Fellowship in the Hall (**7:30pm**)
Wednesday - Home Group 17 Coleridge Road N8 8EH (**10:00 am**)
Friday - Home Group at Flat 10, 3 Waverley Road, N8 (**2.30 pm**)
- Scouts meeting in church and hall (**6.00 pm**)

Enquiry/Counselling - please phone 020 8340 1566

Editorial Board: Iyabo Agbelusi, Grace Macauley, Dele Agbelusi

Vicar: Revd Canon Dele Agbelusi

Church Wardens: Peter Green, Charles Murphy

Reader: Richard Mercer

Organist: Harold Randall

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

**PLEASE WRITE TO THE EDITOR, CROSSLINKS,
THE VICARAGE, 32 CRESCENT ROAD, LONDON, N8 8AX or
E-MAIL : christchurchN8@aol.com**