

What's in YOUR Garden?

"The Fruit of the Spirit: Abiding"

Pastor Bill Bowers

July 10, 2016

Galatians 5:16-26
John 15:1-17

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Galatians 5:22-23

Rate yourself: S=Superior; P=Pretty Good; N=Needs Improvement

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

What we are NOT going to do in this series: We are **not** going to spend the next ten weeks _____ to do a character self-improvement thing.

We are going to go after one single word that Jesus talks about in this passage: **ABIDE/REMAIN**

John 15:4-9

As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Now remain in _____. John 15:9

I have told you these things so that _____ might be in you and _____ might be complete.
John 15:11

_____ *I leave with you;* _____ *I give you. I do not give as the world gives.* John 14:27

Some practical steps I might take:

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**For Personal Reflection or LifeGroup Questions
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"The Fruit of the Spirit: Abiding"
Pastor Bill Bowers / July 10, 2015**

1. We are beginning a series to explore the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). As we enter the series, consider each week how God might be working in your life to "grow" the particular "fruit" (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) in your life. Are you surrendered fully and obedient to God in this process? Where might you identify what and where God is specifically working to form you in this season of your life? Explain.
2. Can you identify, from the various Fruit, where you struggle the most? Can you explain why you struggle? How might you partner with God to grow more gracefully in this particular area? Can you list specific disciplines that might help you in your process? Who can you enlist to help you in the process?
3. Pastor Bill spoke to us about *abiding* in Jesus. What does this mean to you? How do we abide and what does this look like in our day-to-day living (discuss how this works in family, with friends, in the workplace).
4. The passage about "abiding" came from the Gospel of John (John 15:4-11). Read this passage and write down the most prominent thought or word that "jumps" out to you. What is special about this thought or word? What do you think God the Holy Spirit is trying to reveal or speak to you about the word/thought? How would you respond to God about this word/thought?
5. Pastor Bill emphasized two main points in this teaching from John's Gospel. He mentioned thoughts about "joy" and specific thoughts about "peace." How do you think joy and peace were understood by Jesus when He was talking to His disciples in this conversation from John's Gospel? Do you experience the joy and peace that Jesus was describing? He says, He (Jesus) desires our "joy might be complete" and "I leave you peace." If you experience Jesus' joy and peace, how would you describe this "state of being" to a non-Christian friend?

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