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# Walking In The Spirit, Part VII (The Divine Relationship)

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## The Walk of Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part VII (The Divine Relationship)***

***Lesson Text***

Galatians 5:22–26 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

***Introduction***

In our last three messages we looked at overcoming the plots of the “Three Trick Pony” in 1 John 2:16-17; the Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life.

In Galatians 5:19-21 we learned that these tricks prey on our propensity for sins against the body (i.e. fornication), sins against God (i.e. Idolatry), and sins against each other (i.e. hatred).

To overcome the Lust of Flesh, we must Resist, Flee, and Defeat. To overcome the Lust of the Eyes, we must Change what we See, Desire, and Worship. And finally, to overcome the Pride of Life, we must Submit to Each Other, to God, and to God's Promotion.

Now we will look at the weapons God gives us to defeat these three tricks of the enemy. These weapons are the fruit of the Spirit we looked at earlier this year. And just like sin, they are divided into three categories:

- The Divine Fruit from our Relationship with God
- The Brotherly Fruit from our Relationship with Each Other
- The Personal Fruit from our Relationship with Self

The next verses of our lesson text teach us how to use our weapons of fruit to defeat our flesh.

Galatians 5:24 (NLT)<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

The fruit of the Spirit are nails that crucify our flesh to the cross.

Galatians 5:25–26 (NLT)<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

And since we have accepted Christ and allowed the Holy Spirit to come into our lives, let's now allow Him to develop these nails, these weapons, this fruit so that we can overcome the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes and the Pride of Life.

Today we will study the first set of fruit that is produced as a result of our relationship with God

***Series and Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking In The Spirit, Part VII (The Divine Relationship)***

“Walking in Divine Love, Divine Joy, Divine Peace, and Divine Relationship with God”

***I. Walking in Divine Love***

Galatians 5:22 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace

The first fruit that is developed as a result of our Divine Relationship with God is Love.

Although love is what we use in our relationships with people, we get divine love from our relationship with God.

There are three forms of Love:

1. Eros Love: A deep passionate and sexual love
2. Phileo Love: Brotherly love, deep friendship, or best friends
3. Agape Love: A Divine or Godly Love

The first two loves are powerful but are imperfect. Why? Because they require reciprocation from imperfect beings; ourselves!

Isaiah 64:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

We fall out of love with our lovers (Eros) and we are betrayed by our best friends (Phileo). But Divine Love never fails because God never fails.

- **God Never Fails:** Psalm 73:26 (NLT)<sup>26</sup> My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.
- **God’s Love Never Fails:** 1 Corinthians 13: <sup>8</sup>Charity (Love) never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

And so, because we are walking in divine perfect love that comes from a divine perfect God, we have a love that we cover our lovers and our friends when our human love fails us!

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)<sup>8</sup> Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

***II. Walking in Divine Joy***

Galatians 5:22 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace

Most people think of joy as happiness, but true joy is an element of the fruit of the Spirit, and happiness is not.

People become happy when things “happen” to go well in their lives: Getting a job or promoted, receiving money or an increase, finding love or getting married, and so on.

Ecclesiastes 3:<sup>1</sup> To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Season’s change, and therefore happiness changes. But since God never changes, his Joy always remains.

Life will turn on you, depress you, oppress you, devastate you, betray you; and so, you can't let life dictate to you how to live.

2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (AV)<sup>8</sup> *We are* troubled on every side, yet not distressed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

The reason we are not distressed, not in despair, not forsaken, and not destroyed is because our divine relationship with God gives us Joy.

Nehemiah 8:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this day is* holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Since the world, people, and life don’t give you Joy, then none of these things can take it away!

Psalms 30:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

### ***III. Walking in Divine Peace***

Galatians 5:22 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, *peace*

The third fruit that is developed as a result of our Divine Relationship with God is Peace.

Worry, Stress, and Depression are forms of fears in the mind that produce Anxiety. And right now our world anxiety level is on 100. (Disease, Economics, Unrest, Politics, Relationships...)

This worry and stress impacts our worship because it attacks our heart.

Matthew 22:37 (AV)<sup>37</sup> Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

And we can’t keep this commandment when our heart is filled with worry and stress.

The answer is we have to Guard and Protect our Heart through our Relationship with God

Take your Mind and Heart off your Worries:

- Philippians 4:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Allow your Mind and Heart to be filled with God’s Peace:

- Philippians 4:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Fill your Mind and Heart with God's Truth:

- Philippians 4:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

#### ***IV. Walking in Divine Relationship with God***

Galatians 5: <sup>24</sup> And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

In other words, if we are going to accept Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to Live in Us, let us Walk in the Holy Spirit so that He can produce His Fruit.

Walk in Divine Relationship by Knowing God

- Psalm 119:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Walk in Divine Relationship by Obeying God

- Deuteronomy 28:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Walk in Divine Relationship by Crucifying your Flesh for God

- Luke 9:23 (AV)<sup>23</sup> And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.
- Romans 12:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Know God's Love, Obey God's Joy, Sacrifice for God's Peace

**Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Walking In The Spirit, Part VII (The Divine Relationship))**

**Lesson Text**

- Galatians 5:22–26

**Sermon Outline (Notes)**

**I. *Walking in Divine Love***

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**II. *Walking in Diving Joy***

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**III. *Walking in Divine Peace***

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**IV. *Walking in Divine Relationship with God***

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**Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)**

**I. Getting to Know “Me”**

1. What is one thing you are passionate about?
2. Which game show would you most want to be a contestant on (choose one)  
Jeopardy; The Price is Right; The Family Feud; Wheel of Fortune; or Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

**II. Into the Bible - Fruit Study**

1. **Love:** I John 4:19 → How important is it for us to understand God’s love for us? Can we truly love God without a revelation of His love for us?
2. **Joy:** Nehemiah 8:10 → Is it our joy about God’s goodness that is our strength or is it understanding God’s Fatherly joy towards us that is our strength? Or is it both?
3. **Peace:** Philippians 4:7 → “To keep” means to guard or garrison; to keep things from getting in and to keep things from getting out. What does peace help to keep in and what does peace help to keep out?

**III. Life Application**

1. Every relationship, including our personal relationship with the Lord, has a beginning. Share the story of how your relationship with the Lord began when you were first introduced to the Lord.
2. Make a Divine Relationship Plan. What are the practical steps you will take to develop and maintain your personal relationship with the Lord?