

“The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy and Gentleness”
by Pastor Parrish Lee
Sunday, July 15th, 2018

It's wonderful to be in the House of the Lord today. Welcome, any of our visitors here for the first, second, third time. And, some of you may not be a visitor, but visiting. I want to welcome, in particular, Brother Jim Bailey. Well, you're not a visitor, bro. All of us—most of us have somewhat of a rapport with you; we kind of understand what this whole thing—and, don't—he knows what this thing is about. I never do anything to scare him, and he said, if anything, “You're kind of holding back a little bit.” Brother Jim, it's wonderful, wonderful to be in the house in the Lord. It was a wonderful month, last month, being able to talk about different things from the Lord. And, it was—we tried to have men's month, but it was different questions of the disciples, and it was only fitting the Pastor Paine had come during the last Sunday, or the first Sunday of the month, and that left brother Chris to bring forth the message that he was waiting for to bring. Just waiting to bring it, and he patiently waited. He didn't come up here and beg, and fight, and punch, and scream, or any of that, he just gave me a look, like, “Is it going to happen? Is it going to happen?” and it was all about—the month was, “Why Reason Ye with Him?” The month was, “Why Reason Ye with Him?” But, the message, was, “Why could not we cast him out?” What a message! What a message! That thing was revival, it was reverberating on me, all week. I couldn't—I could barely keep myself in my seat. That answered so many questions, and started so many others that I had in myself. As we gather here today, we're looking forward to the theme for the month, the theme for this month is going to be from the Book of Galatians. And, it's going to be chapter five, and we're going to be talking about the fruits of the spirit this month. Several of the preaching team will be coming; they will be bringing messages specifically about this, important messages.

Before I go on, I need to step back and I do need to give homage, I do need to give honor to where it belongs, and that, first, is giving honor to our Lord, our Lord and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Master, our Redeemer, our Lover, our bridge-maker, our way-maker, our deliverer, who is so many things to us, so many times. We never thank Him enough. We just continue to thank Him, because He, continually is blessing us, or, as the Bible says, daily loading us, loading us with benefits.” We give honor, and glory and thanks to Him. And, honor to all of those who have come on and gone before us. It would be imprudent for Christians to think that they got to where they have gotten to all by themselves. That would be a fallacy. That would cheat us of the knowledge to know that God had this plan going on long before we ever came on this planet. In our lives, He's been working a work with us, like He has done with so many others and they have all contributed. So, giving honor to all those who have come on and gone before us, those who are mentioned in the Scriptures, those who are faithful down through the ages, and all those who have come and done the same in this ministry, from our founding pastor, to Pastor Paine and his family, and the others who have come and stood in the gap to make up the hedge, giving honor to all of them. The mantle is a precious thing. I'll just have to mention that. The mantle of the Lord is a precious thing. Giving honor to all of you who name the name of Christ. You come, and present yourselves that God might minister to your lives, accordingly, because you expect something from that one true, and that wise God. You expect something from Him. Giving honor to all of y'all.

And, now, back to our theme. I'd ask Brother Rick Matczak, if he could come, and he's going to read our theme for the month, which also was going to be our theme for today. And, that is from the Book of Galatians, it's going to be chapter five, verses twenty-two through twenty-three.

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Thank you, Brother Rick. If we could just bow our heads for just a moment. Almighty God, we come before You again, this day, Your day, and we have already homaged it out. We've already set ourselves before You. We've already given You some worship, because You, alone, are worthy. And, God, as we present ourselves to You, this day, I've just got to say, we can't thank You enough for how You have been to us. There isn't a single problem we face, that You don't have it all in Your hands. There ain't nothing that shows up our way, that You aren't the God over it and us. I just want to say, thank You for all of that. I thank You for Your precious will, and sometimes it's that we would endure, that we can learn a lesson as we go through it. And, this morning, God, this morning we expect You to visit us. We expect Your Word to become open to our hearts, and our lives. We expect You to bless us accordingly, as we've offered You. And, we expect you, God, to show up, Your way. So, Lord, we present ourselves to You, that Your Word would do exactly as it said, and that is not return unto You void, but accomplish that to which You sent it in our lives. We do claim that, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And, everyone said, amen.

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen. I've got to say something, Saints. I, I feel different from the way I felt when I first got saved. When I first got saved, I was excited. I was excited because I had finally found the Lord Jesus Christ in a real way. I'd heard about Him, people had talked about Him, but, finally, I had found Him. I am excited; I was excited then, but, something has been happening. Something has been happening, and I asked—however, I don't think I'm alone—but I asked God to open me up, open me up, finally. “God, there's some things that I need to be accomplishing in my life, I have not even given to you. Matter of fact, matter of fact, I've been running on some of them. Running from what You want me to do, God. Everybody else, they don't know, they don't know how You deal with us, God. There's some things that I do, and I say, ‘Yeah, I've been doing the will of God,’ but there's other things that I say, ‘Well, I don't know about that one, God. You know, maybe when I get older.’” I'm over fifty-five years old; what in the world could I be waiting on? Because, God only, only, only the end of all of this, is supposed to be a blessing. Then, if everything that God has for us is supposed to be a blessing, it's supposed to be something that we didn't have before. Something to make us richer in Him. That's all this is. That's all this is about, is being able to have more of God in our hearts and in our lives. So, as we talk, this month, about the fruit of the spirit, the fruit of the spirit, we want to talk about its importance, its significance, and take a little time, not too much time—matter of fact, when I went through this, I was down to twenty minutes. So, let's see if that still happens this morning. Parrish Lee, giving a twenty-minute sermon. Do you think it's possible?

Well, the fruit of the spirit—this, this particular message, verses, this particular verses is so important because it tells, it tells the way that somebody else, anybody else, and even us ourselves can tell what kind of plant, vine, tree, minister, Christian, we really are. It can tell what we are by what we bring forth., What we bring forth. And, to start this off, starting with the title of the message today is, “The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy and Gentleness,” that is the title of the message.

Part 1: A Foundation of Trees

And I need you to stay with me for just a minute, I need you to stay with me for just this first minute. A foundation of trees. “Trees” is an amazing Bible study. Yes. “Trees” is an amazing Bible study. Anybody ever do a Bible study on trees? It's amazing! It's amazing! That might be a Bible study that we cover some time. We'll just touch on it a little today. So, a foundation of trees. And, as we talk about this foundation of trees. Trees have a lot of benefits, a

lot of benefits. Please stay with me. It gets to a point. Trees provide shade, shelter, and refuge. Tree's do. Shade, shelter, and refuge. Trees also provide oxygen, that is, they, therefore, provide a life giving substance. Trees also prevent soil erosion. And, therefore, they provide stability. So, so far, shade, shelter, and refuge, oxygen, and therefore, life, and stability. Trees also provide food, and, therefore, nutrition. Food, and therefore, nutrition. And, trees, by their very appearance, providing a calming tranquility. You ever go out and just see a vastness of forest or trees going up on a mountain, or out in a meadow, or over a long distance. Man, it just makes you have to take a second and behold the beauty. And, it kind of puts that calming essence about you. And, you see how animals run, and then they run, and they get to the forest, or the meadow, or whatever, they run to get there, and once to get there, they start slowing down. Because, of what it provides for them: A calming tranquility. They also reduce depression, and, by their very essence, they change the landscape by their presence. They changed the landscape, or the environment, by their very presence. Trees. Trees do all this. So, they have many benefits. They give provision, they give protection, and they change things by their presence. Provision, protection, and their presence. Provision, protection and their presence. These are just a few of the benefits of trees. But, it is essential to this message. Trees are always planted for a specific purpose. They always are. To bring forth a specific result. All trees have a purpose. All trees are good for something. Trees are not designed to move from where they have been planted, but they are designed to grow where they have been planted. They're not designed to do their own thing, go the wrong way, but they are designed to, wherever they have been planted, to grow, to grow.

In the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar had this dream—I'm not going to go to it, because I don't want to interrupt my twenty minutes—in the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and this dream, it troubled him greatly, because he saw the huge tree, this huge tree, and the tree was so big, he said it reached up nearly to Heaven. And, David came to give the interpretation of it. "That tree that you saw that was so big and grew up so tall and that tree were you sell the fowls of the air came and they lodged in it, and they were protected by it, and how it stood there and it provided such an essence by its very presence, that tree, Nebuchadnezzar, is you. That tree is you." And as Nebuchadnezzar heard the dream, yes, it began to talk to him a little bit, because that tree was hewn down, and it went on to be a big significance that there's one thing greater than that great tree and that is the Almighty. The Almighty was greater than that tree. But it started something, it started something that Daniel gave God the revelation that Nebuchadnezzar, that dream had about this tree, he was that tree, that started something, and that's not the only reference in the Old Testament about men and trees (Daniel 4:1-26). It wasn't the only reference. But, it was important.

In the Book of Mark, chapter eight, verses twenty-two to twenty-four, if Brother Rick could come up and read that. Again, Mark, chapter eight, verses twenty-two to twenty-four:

Mark 8:22-24 *And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. And, he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And, he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.*

Thank you, Brother Rick. So, He came to this blind man, everybody wanted Him to take that blind man and heal him, but, the Lord Jesus took that blind man out of the town, away from these people, and He took him out and He had spat on, He had spat on his eyes, and He put His hands on his eyes after He had done that, and then He asked him, "What do you see? What do you see?" And, the blind man said, "I see men as trees walking." I see men as trees walking (Mark 8:22-25). Yeah, this is all coming to a specific purpose. And, so, the Lord chose a blind man to reveal to everybody—that's why it's in the Bible, because it's revealed to everybody—to reveal to him that in the sight, in the sight of God, that we have something in common with

trees. That we do. He chose a blind man to show him that in the sight of God we have something in common with trees. Now, sometimes, sometimes, how many know? Sometimes we want God to make you free. Amen? Sometimes we were bound with something, attacked with something, challenged with something, and you ask God to make you free. Anybody? Anybody here? Sometimes, you just ask God to make you see. Sometimes you tell God, "I don't know, I need you to make me see." Sometimes we want to, "God, make me free!" and, sometimes, "God, make me see." So, before we go in to talk more about the fruit of the spirit, as we're about to start, we've got one more thing to go—we've got to talk about the source. Before we talk about the fruit of the spirit, we need to talk a little bit about the source. Brother Rick, one more time, John, chapter fifteen, from John, chapter fifteen, verses one through five:

John 15:1-5 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Thank you, Brother Rick. "I am the vine," the Lord Jesus says, "I am the vine." So, He is the vine, and we are the branches. He is the source; we are the extensions. It is, when we talk about the fruit of the spirit, it is His Spirit. From the Book of Second Corinthians, chapter three, and verse seventeen, it is His Spirit that we are talking about. The Book of Second Corinthians, chapter three, and verse number seventeen:

2 Corinthians 3:17 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: [The Lord is that Spirit] and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

There is liberty. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Part 2: The Fruit of Joy

Of the nine fruit of the spirit that it mentions in Galatians, today we're going to talk about joy and gentleness. Once again, from the book of Galatians chapter 5, verse 22:

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

And verse twenty-three:

Galatians 5:23 *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Against such there is no law. And, there is a reason, even a purpose that the Bible is so descriptive in talking about the fruit of the spirit. And, there is a reason for fruit from any tree, any tree at all, there's a reason for that, there's a reason for fruit from any tree. You go past a tree, and you see it, it has fruit on it, Well, whatever it does, whether it's a nutty fruit, that's acorns and walnuts, I don't know, do almonds grow on trees? They do? I don't know a whole lot about trees, I had to study up, I had to study up. I'm a city boy; what can I say? And the same thing with pecans, pecans grow on trees don't they? Yeah, I love pecans. We can do something with that. I don't know that I've ever seen one, but I likes them. I like pecans. So, there's a

reason for any fruit from any tree, the reason for the fruit from any tree, is, the fruit is supposed to come forth and it's supposed to fall, or get connected to the ground, and then start the process all over, and make more trees which can bear more fruit. That is the purpose of the fruit of any tree, that is the purpose. To make more trees just like the one it came from. We would call this, if we are trees, and we are supposed to have that same spirit of God, He is the vine and we are the branches, we would call this fruit, the purpose, the purpose of the fruit that God wants to bring forth in our life, we would say, it is seeing other people get saved. Just like these trees here. That is the purpose of the fruit. That it could fall on other ground in other people's lives, spring up and grow into other trees that are saved. That is the purpose of the fruit from the spirit of God! That is its purpose. We would be a little misguided if we were to say that one fruit, or somebody's fruit is better than somebody else's fruit. That is not God! It is one Vine. Our interpretation, our opinion of somebody's fruit is unjust. We might be able to help, but if a fruit comes from God, the fruit came from Almighty God. It came from the vine. And, all these fruit have a purpose.

So, today, we want to talk about Joy, the fruit of Joy. Now, Joy is termed as cheerfulness, even a calm delight. I like that description, but, it's right out there: calm delight. A calm delight, meaning that its source, its source is greater than surface deep. Calm is the exterior; that's what people notice, a calmness. But the light, the light is the interior. The light is what reaches, that is bigger than surface deep. And, the word for joy that it uses here in Galatians is the same word that it uses for joy in the Book of Luke, chapter fifteen, and verse number ten. And, actually we're going to go through a few Scriptures a little quick, here. So, we see the fruit of the spirit, one of them was joy. The Book of Luke, chapter fifteen, verse number ten:

Luke 15:10 *Likewise, [the Bible says] I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

This joy is in the presence of the angels of God over one! That is the same joy from the spirit, the fruit. That is the same joy. It also is that same joy that we can look at in the Book of Luke, chapter one, verse forty-four. Joy, joy, and, from the book of Luke, chapter one, and verse forty-four, same joy. This joy, it was in John the Baptist, and, it was in him before he ever got born! That kind of joy. And, it made him, according to the Scripture, here:

Luke 1:44 *For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation [when Mary went to visit Elisabeth, Elisabeth said, as soon as the voice of thy salutation] sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.*

Ha! The same joy! That fruit of the spirit. Having it before you ever even came out and saw the world. That same joy. It is the same joy that it talks about in the Book of Matthew, chapter two, and verse number ten. The joy that the wise men had when they saw that the hope—they found the star which was the hope for all mankind of salvation. The Book of Matthew, chapter two, and verse number ten:

Matthew 2:10 *When they saw the star, [when they saw the star, the wise men] they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

That same joy, that fruit of the spirit, the joy of John the Baptist, the joy of the Wise men, the same joy it talks about in Matthew, chapter twenty-eight, verse number eight. This joy that the women had when the angel told them, as they went to the tomb, and it told them, "Why do you look for the dead among the living? He is that dead, but He has risen."

Matthew 28:8 *And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.*

Because they found out that, they were going to anoint a body, but they found out He wasn't there. They found out that death couldn't hold Him. The same joy it talks about in Luke, chapter twenty-four, fifty-one through fifty-two. The joy that the disciples had after the women who went to the sepulcher talked to them. The joy that they had then chapter twenty-four, versus fifty-one and fifty-two:

Luke 24:51-52 *And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And, they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:*

Joy that they saw that not only couldn't death hold Him, but even Earth couldn't hold Him. That kind of joy. Knowing that this God, that they believed in, wasn't just victorious over death, but He didn't even have to walk the Earth. He resided in the heavens. That kind of joy. Joy that they had in the Book of Matthew, chapter twenty-five, first number twenty-one. Joy that is prepared, the joy that is prepared and waiting for His Saints when they finish their course. In the Book of Matthew, chapter twenty-five, and verse number twenty-one:

Matthew 25:21 *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

Joy is so incredible. Joy is so incredible, it defies description. It goes beyond description. From the Book of First Peter, chapter one, and verse number eight. First Peter, chapter one, and verse number eight:

1 Peter 1:8 *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

Yes, Joy, Joy, Joy. If I could be a little honest, it is the joy that is able to keep you when you've got tumors in your eyes. If I could be a little honest, it is the joy that is able to keep you when you feel like nobody else is with you. If I could be honest, it is the joy that when you are challenged in your faith, when your challenged in your home, when you were challenged from the very core of your being, it is the joy that you can turn around and look to, and say, "God, I need you," and God restores you. If I could be honest, it is the joy that comes from God, alone. Now, if we find ourselves not having this joy, there is a reason for that. There is a reason we could find ourselves not having—if we don't have it, there's a reason for not having it. Number one—what would be the reason for not having this joy? Number one: We don't ask for it. Yeah, it's that simple. We don't ask for it. It's that simple. David said, in the Book of Psalms, chapter fifty-one, and verse number twelve:

Psalms 51:12 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

He didn't ask to restore unto me salvation, "God, I know you, God, and all that, but, God, I need your joy, again. I need it." He asked for, "Restore it unto me." Do you know why he didn't ask for—he didn't say, "For my salvation." I used to wonder about that, sometimes I used to wonder, why is he saying, "Thy salvation," instead of, "My salvation?" Because, David didn't save himself. The salvation that he had, came from God Almighty. It was still saving him. It was God's salvation. David just wanted the joy. " God, I know you saved me, how about You lift me

up and encourage me? How about You give me a little blessing? And, I don't need a blessing of mighty—well, maybe I do, but that ain't what I'm asking for right now. You know, maybe a little later I might ask for a blessing, but for right now, I just need a blessing of Your presence. A blessing of Your Spirit. Warm it up in me, God! Warm it up.” Number two, what could be another reason why we don't have the joy? Number two: We don't receive it when it is given. Number one, we don't ask for it. Number two, when God gives it, we don't receive it. What is another reason we wouldn't have the joy that God gives. What is another reason? Number three: We don't put ourselves in a place to get it. We don't put ourselves in a place to get it. You ever notice someone not giving God His worship? Did you ever notice, and you might, I don't know, maybe one or two of you have found yourself not giving God His worship? You see, we might think that it's our worship to God, but, the fact of the matter is, all creation worships God. And, so, we were defined, created, made to worship God. And, when we hold that back, we hold back the blessing that comes from worship. Holding back worship is cutting off our blessing, our joy. He is an awesome God. And, He is—make no mistake about this—He is a God that not only is worthy of praise, but He will *have* His praise. You know, the Bible says, if you don't praise Him now, if you don't bow your knees now, you don't have to worry about it, because, according to the Bible, every knee will bow (Philippians 2:10-11). You can either bow now, or wait till you get before Him. But, that time, you're going to bow because judgment is coming. So, you either bow your knees now, or you bow your knees then. Every tongue will confess. We either confess Him now, or we will confess Him, then. But, when we confess Him then, it's too late to receive the blessing. We only get the award for not blessing Him when we had time down here. You ever know somebody that complains about so many things? They don't just complain about one thing, but they complain over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over, anybody know anybody like that? Anybody ever been somebody like that? You don't have to raise your hand. If we put ourselves in a place where we complain all the time, then, when Joy comes along, we've already said no, we've already said no to that blessing. These things are things that cut off our joy. I want to go and prove something right now. I want to go and prove something. For anybody that knows what I'm talking about, for anybody who knows what I'm talking about, anybody who's with me, just say, “God, You've been good to me.” And, if He's been good to you and you think He's still being good to you, then say, “God, you're still being good to me.” And, if your faith is there, He's been good to you, and He's good to you right now, if your faith is in God, say, “ God, I believe You will continue being good to me.” Oh, say it like you mean it. Yeah. You can already feel it starting, can't you? You can already feel that starting. “God, You've been good to me. God, You're good to me still. I believe You're still going to be good to me. I believe You, You're going to continue to be good.” You can feel it welling up. That is a praise that goes to God, and God only. He is the giver of all good and perfect gifts. And, somebody might say, “What about those persons who, you know, they found God real and true, they had that, they had that goodness. They had joy. And, all of the sudden, they looked at other things in the world, and they left the joy that God gives, and they went to whatever the world had to offer, as though it were comparable to the joy of God. What about those people, Brother Parrish? Do you hear what I'm saying?” Yes, yes, if God has the greatest joy, and the world doesn't, and somebody chooses the lesser joy, as though you could even compare the two, you know what we call that? Being deceived. Being deceived. Allowing ourselves to be cheated. Getting the old—what do you call that?—the old shell game on us, when we already won. Playing cards with a marked deck. That's what it seems, if you think anything could compare to the greatness and the wonderfulness of God. That's being deceived.

Part 3: The Fruit of Gentleness.

The fruit of gentleness. Gentleness is defined as, "moral goodness." It's also defined as, "an integrity, or an adherence of moral and ethical principles." And, it's also defined as, "a kindness." So, then, how important is gentleness? What is its real purpose? Where Joy is a personal fruit, and, you have joy and it's almost an individual thing, gentleness, gentleness is a fruit that is given to others. Gentleness is a fruit specifically given to others. And, it's easily seen in The Lord's interaction with us, both, while on Earth, and with us still today. It was seen when He rode into Jerusalem on the ass's colt. Gentleness. He didn't ride in on a great horse with honor and a sword, and just calling down evils and wiping them out; He didn't do that. He rode in on an ass's colt (Matthew 21:1-8), showing them He was coming in peace; He was coming in a gentle way. It is seen when He was in the garden and the high priest's servant had his ear cut off, and He went over and said, "Suffer us this far," and He healed that high priest's servant's ear (Luke 22:50-51). When they were coming to take Him away, it was seen there. It was seen when He talked to the woman at the well (John 4:5-30). And, when He talked to the woman that was caught in the act, it was seen (John 8:2-11). He sent the disciples away so that they could have a kind of gentleness, because He wanted to approach in a way that they could receive it. It was seen when He met with the children, and He called the children to Him, and when people went to rebuke them, He rebuked them. He said, "Suffer these little children to come unto Me for of such as the Kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:13-15) It was seen in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). And, then He said, "Go, and do likewise." Gentleness, moral goodness, integrity, and kindness. I need to—in closing—I need to a last word here. I need to speak a word to everybody who feels that you've gotten to the places and the times where Joy has leaked all out of your vessel, and you feel that you've run out of compassion, and you've run out of joy in your life, and you've run out of long-suffering, and you've run out of patience, whatever God has given to sustain you has seemed to run out of your life. I need to speak a word to this, the Lord has a word, and that word is, "No, it hasn't. No it hasn't." As long as you have the Lord Jesus, you have that joy. You can reach deep into the wells and draw, the Bible says joy from the wells of salvation. It has not run out, as long as you have the Lord Jesus. Run out of compassion, run out of anything of the fruit of the spirit? no, no, not as long as you have the Lord Jesus. He is, He is our rock. And, our strength. He is our horn of salvation. He is our present help. He is our present help in time of need. He is our Lily of the valley. He is the rose of Sharon. We just have to let Him be. He is the fairest of ten-thousand. He is. He is my sword, my shield, my high place, my tower, He is my bridge over troubled water, He is my way when there is no way, He is my light in darkness, He is that for all of us. He is. There's a song that I love to hear, it says, "God is," and that's the name of the song, "God is." Because you can just fill that blank in, and never run out. He is the door. He is the Wonderful Counselor. He is the great, high priest. He is the Almighty God. He is My honor.

So, the last one that we need to go to: the power of choice. That's it. The power of choice. Did you know that the Lord has given us that power to make the tree good or evil? He has given us—if you were to hold your hand out, you couldn't even signify all the power that He's given you on that. Matthew, chapter twelve, verse thirty-three, the Bible says:

Matthew 12:33 *Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: [because] for the tree is known by his fruit.*

We have the power, the Lord said either make it one way or the other. Either make the tree good, or make the tree evil. You can do it. I give it unto you, I give you the power to do it. I used to think this whole fruit of the spirit thing was pick and choose, because, "Can't nobody do all that." You know? "We ain't got all them fruit in there. Who gonna do all that? I can hold on to

one or two.” That’s about as far as my mind—I forget about all the rest of them. And, then, as brother Chris said, he said something last week, he said, “It’s not optional.” And, for Christians, there is only one option. There’s only one. Seek the fruit of the spirit. And, this whole fruit of the spirit thing doesn’t end here, Saints. Last Scripture, the Book of Revelation, chapter twenty-two, verses one through six:

Revelation 22:1-2 *And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, [twelve manner of fruits] and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

The leaves are precious, how precious that is. Verse number three:

Revelation 22:3-5 *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And, there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

Verse number 6:

Revelation 22:6 *And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.*

Can we give the Lord a praise?