

Week of Meetings 03

by Morgan Bartlett

Morgan Bartlett's sermon emphasizes the centrality of love and the fruit of the Spirit in the life of a believer.

Duration: 51:46

Scripture: Galatians 5:16, Galatians 5:22

Topics: "Bible Conference"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares a story about a missionary and his wife who were feeling discouraged in their difficult field of work. They heard birds chirping, seemingly telling them to give up. However, the wife suggests they go and hear an evangelistic message again, which they had heard many times before. The preacher also mentions Gipsy Smith, a great sinner turned preacher, who sang a song about passing on kindness before he died. The sermon emphasizes the importance of goodness and doing good, as exemplified by Jesus and Barnabas. The preacher encourages believers to not grow weary in doing good and to never lose sight of Jesus. The sermon concludes with a prayer for believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to be men and women on fire for Jesus, with a character that reflects Christ.

Transcript

Another one, the man that was greatly used with God in the First Revival, was Adam Blossom. Not that he preached much at all, as I showed you, but his very purpose there, in any county, was to finish. He didn't preach much, but he was a great man of prayer.

And you know, that's the secret. Every time, that is the secret of a spiritual life. That is the secret of a life of peace.

He was a great man of prayer. And you know, he was remembered as the home of David Blossom. Now, you know David Blossom.

David and I met him, we worked together for seven years before anybody came to see him. He was a great boy, David. He walked through the garden of Jerusalem.

Well, this man, Adam Blossom, was actually heard over the Egyptians, the very town where David lived. And you know that he was famous. David really knew him, where he was.

And he was singing. He was singing a Welsh chorus. And they wanted a different message from him.

But he would have nothing at all to do with Christ. He would give them no message, none would tell it to you. He never believed in advertisement of the press, or the servant of God.

But he kept on singing this chorus. His cousin's name was Isaac. The English translation, no sight of Jesus.

He kept on singing and singing. Well, the press people went away. The next morning, he was there, front page news in the press.

Evan Roberts' message to Wales. Evan Roberts, his junior, message to Wales. Never lose sight of Jesus.

Well, that was the message that was. He never lost sight of Jesus. Now, David, he was very slow.

He kept exactly as Evan Roberts would have sung it. And he was quite good at it. We'll turn to the word of God this evening.

And to the Ephesians to the Corinthians, first of all. The first Ephesians to the Corinthians, and the thirtieth chapter. First Corinthians, thirtieth.

Though I speak for the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become a sounding-brass, or a tingling cymbal. Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, though I give my body to be burnt, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind to them. Charity envious not. Charity haunteth not itself, is not such stuff, does not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily forgot, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Charity never fails. Or, if you like, love. That's the word.

Love never fails. Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail. Whether there be tongues, they shall speak.

Whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, that when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I fought as a child, that when I became a man, I for the race I reached in.

For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.

Now the Galatians in this book. The Crystal to the Galatians. In the fifth chapter, and verse 17.

The fifth chapter of the Galatians we will read at verse 16. The 16th verse of the fifth chapter of the Galatians. For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh.

And these are contrary to one to the other, so that he cannot do the things that he would. But if ye be led of the spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which of these adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife,

sedition, heresy, avian, murder, drunkenness, violence, such like of the witch I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past.

The day which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God, but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.

Let us not be desirous of any law, provoking one another, ending one another. The passage that I have just read to you now from the Galatian epistle is the passage that we want to look up this evening by the help of God. And I trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

O God, as we look at Thy Word together now we pray Thee to endure in the state of pain. Prepare our hearts, we pray Thee, may we hear Thy voice and Thy voice alone and we pray that the Word may be mixed with faith, that it may profit those of us who hear. That with all the glory and the praise to be with Christ our Lord.

Amen. Verse 22 again, But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law.

So we're going to look at this evening together what is meant here by the fruit of the Spirit. This has nothing to do at all with the flesh. It's exclusively the fruit of the Spirit.

It's not the material life. It's not natural life. It's entirely to do with my spiritual life.

Every believer, as we know, has two natures. And the fact that he has a new nature within him does not mean that the old is improved. The only way to victory is recorded here in the 24th verse.

They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust. That's the way to victory. You couple that with what we read in the Roman Ecclesiasticals in chapter 6 and verse 11.

Likewise, reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. This then, in this chapter that we're going to look at this evening, is what God can produce in the life of every believer. There are nine graces, or nine manifestations, of Christian character as produced by the Spirit of God as revealed here in these words that we will read together.

The first tree would characterize as an inward state of the believer love, joy, and peace. The second tree would characterize in expression toward man outside. Long-suffering, gentleness, and goodness.

And the third triplet, the character in expression towards God. Thus, the character in myself, when I know and enjoy myself. And the second tree, to those who are outside.

And the third triplet, character in expression towards God. Faith, meekness, temperance. So here we read of the fruit of the Spirit.

The fruit of the Spirit is love. You can stop then, pause if you like, and say it over to yourself. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

Therefore, God can produce in the life and character of the believer. And there are eight other graces. All the eight other graces are characteristics or manifestations or attributes of the one thing, love.

Joy is the ecstasy of love. Peace is the tranquility of love. Long-suffering is the patience of love.

Gentleness is the kindness of love. Goodness is the essence of love. Faith is the fidelity of love.

Meekness is the humility of love. Temperance is the discipline of love. And all these are exemplified in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All is a portrait of himself. Now let us look at the first one. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

God is love. Divine love. And the amazing part is this, that God has shed abroad his love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.

Isn't that amazing? The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. We have read together just now faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Let me read to you these words that are recorded in the twelfth chapter of Mark and verse thirty. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This, we read, is the first commandment.

And the second is likened to it, namely this. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than this.

Love then is actually an activity of the whole personality. Of the heart, of the emotions, of the mind, of the will, of the intellect, and of the soul. The greatest thing in the world is love.

And this love can be produced in my life by the Holy Spirit. Love of the hand to its garments that reaches the very dust. It can reach to the stains in the streets and the lanes.

And because it can, it must. It's the greatest thing in the world. Love.

Now, are we progressing in love? As I read to you just now, though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love, I have become a sounding brass and tingling steel. Love is a language that deaf can hear, that dumb can understand, and that blind can see. All love of Christ comes from love.

In fact, the only real progress is progress in love. The fruit of the Spirit is love. And if we haven't got love, we haven't got anything.

The fruit of the Spirit is love. Now look at the second thing. Joy.

Joy is the ecstasy of love. We read that we joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Now joy is something more than happiness that we know of.

Happiness depends largely on what happens. That's really the meaning of the word, happiness. Happiness, I repeat it again, depends on circumstances.

If circumstances go well, you're happy. If they go against you, you're not happy. But joy is a different thing then.

Joy is the fruit of the Spirit. It doesn't depend on outward circumstances. The joy of the Lord, as you read right back in the 8th chapter of the book of Nehemiah, verse 10, the joy of the Lord is your strength.

And in his presence, he reveals this fullness of joy. Don't mistake, don't take yourself up to heaven for that praise. You can have that presence here or now, right in this very minute.

In his presence, right here, is fullness of joy. The joy of prayer, the joy of communion, the joy of worship, the joy of fellowship. Is there any joy in the world compatible to it? The joy of soul saving, the joy of ministry, the joy of preaching the gospel.

Is there any joy compatible with it? The joy of knowing that your sins are all forgiven. That the Lord Jesus Christ is your strength. The Holy Ghost, your comforter.

And God, your heart. There is no joy comparable to this. And yet the psalmist, in Psalm 51, prays this prayer.

Restore, he said unto me, the joy of thy salvation. Have you lost the joy? Not your salvation. This is the joy of your salvation.

Have you lost the joy of your salvation? Is there anything in the life that is robbing you of this joy? Anything? Anything unconfessed? Any unholy alliance? Any departure from God? Any unfaithfulness? Any neglect of your prayer life? Any neglect of reading the Bible? All this can rob you of the joy of your salvation. But you can pray like David. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.

But before he prayed that prayer, he prayed this prayer. Wash me truly from my iniquity. And cleanse me from my sin.

He prayed that prayer first. When you come to the language of the New Testament. If we confess our sins.

He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins. And to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We can have the joy restored.

And in 1 Peter 1.8, you read these lovely words. We rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of joy. The world knows nothing about joy like this.

The Christian religion is not a joy killer. It's a joy giver. Now let us look at the third thing.

Peace. The tranquility of life. It is the ability to keep calm.

Freedom from being over anxious. From agitation. From worry.

Even when the unexpected crosses. You don't panic. Even when satellites have launched into orbit.

You don't panic. You know something about the tranquility of life. God will give him the perfect peace.

Whose mind is stayed on thee. And this is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit. Perfect love.

Cast it out. All fear. Peace.

Oh what peace we often offer. Don't we sing it sometimes? Oh what needless pain we bear. All because we do not carry everything to God.

Our brothers playing on the organ just now. And the words that we sing to that lovely refrain. At home are these words.

Drop thy still dews of quietness. Till all our striving cease. Take from our soul the strain and stress.
And then our ordinary lives confess the beauty of life. The tranquility of life. Then long-suffering.
Long-suffering. The patience of love. The patience of love.
Long-suffering. I read to you from 1 Corinthians 13. Love.
Suffering. Love. Is not easily provoked.
Is not touchy. How touchy some people are. You can specially open your mouth.
But love is not that. Long-suffering. The patience of love.
Is not easily provoked. Bear it. All things.
Endure it. All things. The patience of love.
To wait. And he who endures. Suffering.
When hemmed in. With perplexities. And beaten down.
With a devastating blow. The patience of love. Will give you power.
To hope. And rise again. God will lead you.
Is long-suffering. Not willing. But any should.
And that is reproduced. In the believer. Long-suffering.
Is the work. Of the Holy Spirit. And then.
Gentleness. Gentleness but kindness. Of love.
What does it mean to be gentle? Not aggressive. Not cruel. Not riding roughshod.
Over other people. Why gentleness we read in the Psalms. Hath made me great.
These are God's gentleness. How gentle God is. Listen to these words.
Like as a father. Pityeth. Gifts to.
That's how gentle he is. Like as a mother. Comfortous.
As a nurse. Cherishing. Gentleness.
But kindness. Of love. Some of you have heard the name.
Of Gypsy Smith. He was a great evangelist. We know to mistake.
Many many many times. For evangelistic campaigns. He was a great sinner.
And a great preacher. Thousands have been brought to Christ. Through his ministry.

I was reading some time ago. That just before he died. He sang.
And the last song. That Gypsy Smith ever sang. He'd been singing for years.
He had sang thousands of songs. But the last song he ever sang was this. If you had me.
I'd kindly show you. Pass it on. It was not written.
For you alone. Pass it on. Let it travel.
Down the years. Let it wipe. Another's tears.
Till in heaven. There'd be appeal. Pass it on.
The gentleness. Of the character. Of Christian.
Believers. Is the work. Of the Holy Spirit.
Next. Witness. Goodness.
Is the essence. Of life. He will be.
Our Lord himself. Went about. Doing good.
Goodness. In extra. Goodness.
Expressed in itself. In words. And in deed.
In grace. In tenderness. In compassion.
That was the very life. Of our Lord. He went about.
Doing good. Barnabas we are told. Was a good man.
Be not weary. In wealth. Or if you like.
Be not weary. In doing good. There's a delightful little story.
Of a missionary. And his wife. Relating.
To him. In the distant part of the earth. In a very difficult field.
And they were getting. Very discouraged. There was very little food.
For their labour. Very little to be seen. For many years.
Of labour. And the missionary himself was in the garden. One day sitting down.
Under the shade of one of the trees. And there were some birds. In the branches.
And as he sat there. In the quiet. The birds.
Seemed to speak to him. The chirping. Of the birds.

Seemed to say to him. And he got off. His seat.
And he went indoors. And he asked the people. Well he said.
It's no good. We shall have to give it up. And go back.
The very birds. On the tree. Tell us then.
Give it up. She says where? She says just there. Underneath that tree where I was sitting.
Well she says let's go again. Let's go and hear it again. She went back.
And they sat together. Under the tree. And the birds were chirping.
And she listened. Oh. You've got it all wrong.
You've got it all wrong. It isn't difficult. Keep it up.
Keep it up. Keep up. Keep up.
She had it all wrong. And you know. In this world.
That so badly needs. Your service. And mine.
Let us keep it up. Be not weary. In doing good.
Goodness. Is the very essence. Of love.
And the next. Faith. Is the fidelity of love.
Love. Will always be. That faith.
Love. Never dies. Love will trust.
Even. When it cannot face. Love.
Is always. Loyal. That's exactly the meaning of this word.
Faith. The fidelity. Of love.
Someone has written these lovely words. So on I go. Not knowing.
I would not. If I might. I'd rather walk in the dark.
With God. Than walk alone in the light. I'd rather walk.
By faith. With him. Than walk alone.
By sight. That's faith. Faith.
The fidelity. Of love. Then.
The next. Richness. Is the humility.

Of love. And this is most important. This is one of the key.
Virtues. Of the Christian faith. Meekness.
Is humility. Of love. Notice.
It's meekness. And not meekness. We read the man Moses.
Was very. Meek. The man Moses.
Was very. Meek. The Lord is going.
Even to suggest. That there were very. Tricks.
Of meekness. In the character. Of Moses.
Meekness. Is not meekness. It's humility.
The very opposite. To the proud. To pride.
The proud. We believe. We know it.
Are far off. And we can have pride. You can have pride.
Of space. You can have pride of race. You can have pride.
Even of grace. And you can have pride. Of space.
Our Lord himself. Said these lovely words. Come unto me.
All ye that labour. And are heavy laden. And I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you. And learn of me. For I. Am meek.
And lowly. In heart. And you shall find rest.
Unto your soul. Listen to these words. The sacrifices.
Of God. Are a broken. And a. Conflict.
A broken. And a conflict heart. O God.
Thou will not be sorry. Abraham. Said his words.
I have taken. Upon myself. To speak.
Unto the Lord. Who am. But dust.
And ashes. That's humility. To the great man.
You scarcely find a greater man. In the Old Testament. Than Abraham.
I have taken. Upon myself. To speak unto the Lord.

But I am but dust. And ashes. That's humility.
If we are proud. And arrogant. It is because.
We have never. Been broken. The sacrifices of God.
Are a broken. And a conflict. We take a lot of.
Smash in some of us. We do. But you know.
When God. Takes you into hand. And breaks you up.
And pulls you down. Brings us right down. To his feet.
And we learn something of the meaning. Of these words. The sacrifices.
Of God. Are a broken. And a conflict heart.
What does the Lord believe. Require of thee. Three things.
To do justice. To love mercy. And to walk.
Humbly. With eyes broad. I repeat it again.
One of the key virtues. Of Christian character. Is humility.
And it can be produced. By the spirit of God. Now we come to the last one.
Temperance. Or self control. The discipline.
Of love. Temperance. Self control.
Or the discipline. Of love. This.
Is salvation. From self indulgence. This.
Is deliverance. From ecstasy. This is self control.
In an age. Of luxury. This.
Is the ability. To exercise. This spirit.
In what an age. Of luxury. We are living.
You've never thought. About sitting down. And making a total.
Of what we spend on ourselves. Or on our homes. The age.
Of luxury. For this. The temperance.
Of self. Control. Or the discipline.
Of love. Will teach us. Where to draw the line.

God only knows. Some of us. Need this lesson today.
We lose. What on ourselves. We spend.
We have. A special. Without end.
Whatever law. To the evil men. Who give us all.
Listen to these words. If any man follow me. Let him say.
No. To self. That's exactly what he meant.
If any man follow me. Let him. Deny.
Self. Or I repeat it again. Let him say no.
To self. And that's the hardest thing. That the master.
Ever asked. Of anyone. It's easy not to say no.
To other people. But it's hard. To say no.
To self. But it can be done. Not in the energy.
Of the flesh. But by the spirit. And by the power.
Of God. And every. Virtue we possess.
If we have the whole. Nine of them. Every virtue we possess.
And every. Victory won. And every.
Every thought. Of holiness. Are his.
Alone. Not mine. But his.
His alone. And the last word is this. There are three keys.
In this chapter. That will open the door. Into this new life.
And it can be a new life. This experience. As revealed.
In this book. Of the Galatians. Can be a new experience.
For some Christian people. Day to night. And these are the three keys.
That will open the door. Into this new experience. Live.
In the spirit. That's all. Walk.
In the spirit. And be led. Of the spirit.
Those are the three keys. If we live in the spirit. If we walk in the spirit.

If we are led by the spirit. Then the spirit of God. Will reproduce.
These virtues. In our very lives. And this is the purpose of God.
This is the Christian life. As revealed. In the New Testament.
And as exemplified. In the life. And ministry.
Of our Lord. Jesus. O God.
Our Father in heaven. We have been reading and meditating. Together.
In thy truth. Thou hast revealed to us. What thou consumed.
In us. And through us. O God.
We pray. Make us willing. Make us willing in the day of thy power.
Send us out into this world. We pray. Men and women.
Alive. Unto God. On fire.
For Jesus Christ. Men and women. In the character.
Of Christ. Stand before us. So that people shall not fail.
To recognize. These men. And women.
Have been. With Jesus. May the grace.
Of the Lord be with us. And the love of God. Our heavenly Father.
And the fellowship. Of the Holy Spirit of God. Be with us.
Tonight and always.

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