

FBTN 9 Fruits of the Spirit - Peace

Love vs. Self Love

“*Agape*” = the willing sacrificial giving of oneself for the benefit of others without thought of return.

(1 Cor 13:1-3) everything is worthless without love.

Joy vs. Frustration

Joy= *A cheerful, calm delight in all the circumstances of life.*

Peace vs. Worry

Transform before you can Conform: (Rom 12:1-2)

To change the way we Act, we must first change how we Think

Peace: *to be safe from harm of spirit, mind, and body.*

By yielding to the Fruit of Spirit, Peace, does not mean there will not be dark days.

(2 Tim 3:10-12) *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

Paul told Timothy that if he lived a godly life under the influence of the Spirit, then he could expect to suffer persecution.

Persecution is not just beheadings & concentration camp style jails.

Def~Persecution = a pursuit, for the purpose of oppression.

Previous study showed the demonic force of *Oppression*. Once a christian is oppressed, the light of God is restricted.

The devil uses it to get us to step away from the Spirit’s leading and to walk after the flesh.

Paul had been persecuted in 3 places.

at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra;

(Acts 13:44-45) *And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.*

Here, Paul had been contradicted and blasphemed.

The leaders were jealous.

Paul referred to this as persecution.

Paul yielded to the fruit of the Spirit-Peace and the next verse says they waxed bold, grew in courage.

(Acts 13:46) *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye putting it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.*

What if Paul had not loved, with joy, those to whom he ministered, experiencing great peace as a result?

Paul would have selfishly focused on his own benefit and responded with frustration, missing God's plan for his life.

Paul, instead, lived godly in Christ Jesus, and under His influence, he suffered a non-physical pursuit of oppression by jealous religious legalists.

Persecution in Iconium

(Acts 14:1-7)

Acts 14:1

And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

Acts 14:2

But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

Acts 14:3

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 14:4

But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

Acts 14:5

And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

Acts 14:6

They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

Acts 14:7

And there they preached the gospel.

They experienced a “*Stirring Up*” of the Gentiles.

Their success at reaching the Jews and Gentiles caused the unbelieving Jews to poison the minds of the Gentiles by criticizing Paul and Barnabas.

Again, Persecution is a pursuit of oppression against these Spirit-led believers.

Vs 3, Their response?

“*Therefore*” they not only decided to stay, but to speak in Boldness.

They again responded to these mild, critical attacks with the fruit of the Spirit-Peace.

vs 4 The city becomes divided as believers and non-believers.

Their mild, critical attacks against Paul and Barnabus became a mob action of lost people coming to inflict bodily harm.
“*use them despitefully*”

Before the stoning started, they retreated to diffuse the situation.

God orchestrated this, because when they retreated to Derbe and Lystra, They met Timothy.
What a blessing he turned out to be.

Persecution in Lystra

The troublemakers from Antioch and Iconium finally caught up with them.

(Acts 14:19-21)

Acts 14:19

And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Acts 14:20

Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Acts 14:21

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

This time they stoned Paul and left him for dead.

He revived, and returned to the city to preach the gospel.

He had no fear at all.

He went back to all three places and preached with boldness!

Acts 14:21

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

They went right back into the fire.

(2 TIM 3:11-14) *Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*

Paul opens our eyes about living godly under the influence of Christ.

As Christians, we will suffer “Pursuits of Oppression” from people you try to help.

It may be verbal to your face, and or behind your back. If we respond properly, God’s power will be on your life.

We may be attacked physically, but do not worry and do not retaliate.

Plunge into God’s perfect peace and boldly continue to do what God leads you to do, and you will be delivered.

The Devil’s Counterfeit: WORRY

Illus: There is nothing more attractive to a lost person than someone who loves unconditionally, expresses Joy in Life’s Adversities, and exhibits Peace that surpasses understanding in the face of opposition.

Also: There is nothing as hypocritical to a lost person than self-centered, frustrated people that call themselves Christians.

Christians, Real Christians can act this way when we allow ourselves to be under the influence of our flesh.

Worry~ to live in fear of harm in your spirit, mind, AND body

When we are persecuted, we must remember to look at our circumstances *"In Christ Jesus"*.

We must view our perceived trouble under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

He will always lead us to to be at peace, to trust Him, and to have faith in Him and His Word.

What are you afraid will happen to you?

What are you afraid God will allow to be taken from you?
Spouse, Child, House, Job, etc?

Congratulations, You are Human!!!!

These would be terrible from our point of view.
But from God's point of view, He allowed them, NOT for our HARM, but for our GOOD!

These 1st 3 fruits of the Spirit, LOVE, JOY, PEACE are Inner-being Transformation.

If a person does not have these 3, they can go undetected because they are an INSIDE Transformation.
(Rom 12:1-2)

Before God can change our outside, HE has to Transform our Inside.

God offers these three fruits of the Spirit to be our Inner Man's response to Adversity.