

“The Fruit of the Spirit”

Galatians 5:22

June 27, 2010

(show big list)

LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL.

These are called the Fruit of the Spirit . . . and this week in Pastor Ed’s church he needed all of them. Here is Pastor Ed in a small Sunday School room which is serving as the temporary church office where he and the Church Secretary are crowded in with all of the office furniture and equipment. That’s because Uncle Floyd is painting the offices and installing new carpet.

(ring ring, ring ring, ring ring) “I can’t find the phone! Where did you put it!” hollered the Church Secretary. (ring ring, ring ring, ring ring) When Pastor Ed stood up to look for the phone he banged his head on the cabinet piled on the table piled on the bookcase. “Ahhhh!” hollered Pastor Ed as he checked his head with his hoof to see if it was bleeding. It wasn’t.

(ring ring, ring ring, ring ring) Pastor Ed was getting impatient and he was losing self-control. He desperately needed to finish writing his sermon. He wanted to throw up his legs and run home. But he didn’t. He remembered to use PATIENCE and SELF-CONTROL. (check on list) (ring ring, ring ring, ring ring)

Finally the Church Secretary found the phone and answered it, “Pastor Ed’s church. May I help you? . . . yes? . . . yes? . . . ummm . . . I’ll tell him.” The Church Secretary looked at her pastor and announced “You have a surprise visit from the Bishop. He’s coming up now.” But before the Bishop ever arrived in the office, there was a huge crash “somewhere in the building” and then Uncle Floyd came rushing in.

“I reckon THAT one will put us back a few more days Pastor Ed. You don’t mind being in here a week or so longer do you?” Pastor Ed wanted to throw a temper tantrum, he wanted to say “forget the whole project, I liked the old carpet and paint just fine!” Pastor Ed wanted to . . . well, let’s just say that instead Pastor Ed used KINDNESS, GENTLENESS and he showed PEACE. (check list)



By now the Bishop had come into the office. “It’s a bit crowded in here,” he said. “I need to sit down somewhere. Those steps are a bit too much for my old legs.” Pastor Ed lifted down a chair for the Bishop to use, but as he did, a part of the chair tugged a wire which disconnected his computer and he lost all the work he had done on his sermon!

Now, you would think that this would be the ultimate test of the gifts of the spirit. And it was. Pastor Ed looked at the blank screen on his computer, turned it off, looked at the others and taking a deep breath he said "let us rejoice that our Lord is present with us, even if it seems like there is no room for another in this crowded little temporary office." Pastor Ed rummaged around in his desk drawer and brought out some bubble gum from his private, secret stash. There were eight pieces left so he gave two to each of them. And you know what? They all had a grand time seeing who could blow the biggest bubble! It was great fun! And in this way Pastor Ed demonstrated LOVE, JOY, GENEROSITY and FAITHFULNESS! (check list)

Let's close with a prayer.

Dear God, thank you for the abilities your Holy Spirit has given to each of us. Help us all to be guided by the Spirit! Amen