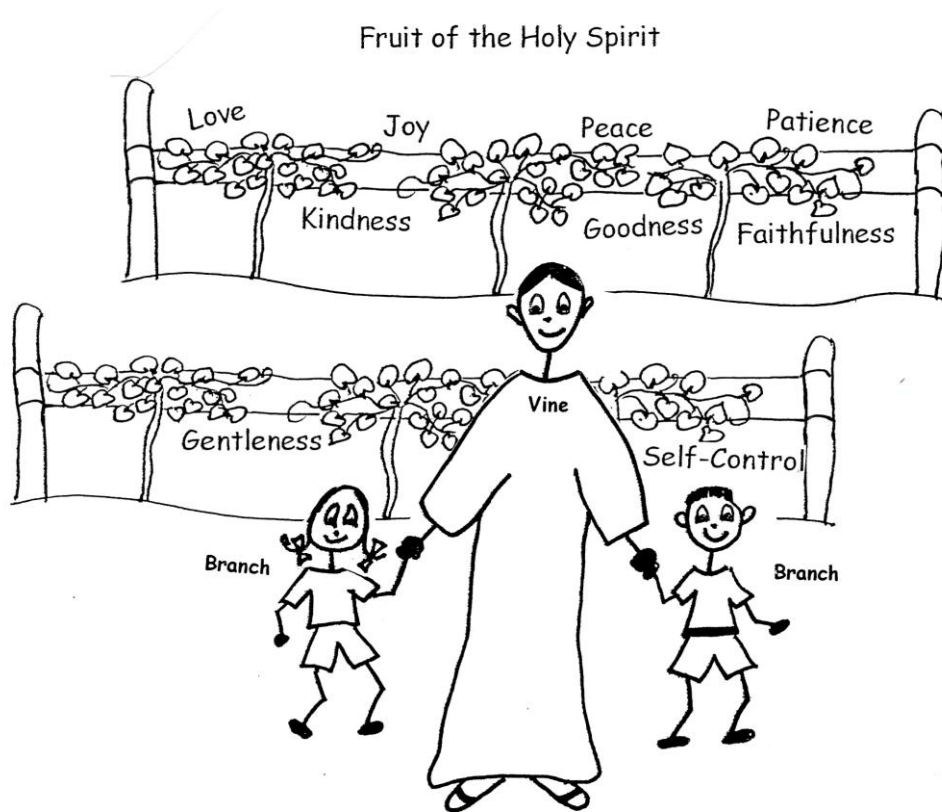


Fruit of the Spirit

LOVE

8-12-2013

Revised 1-27-2015

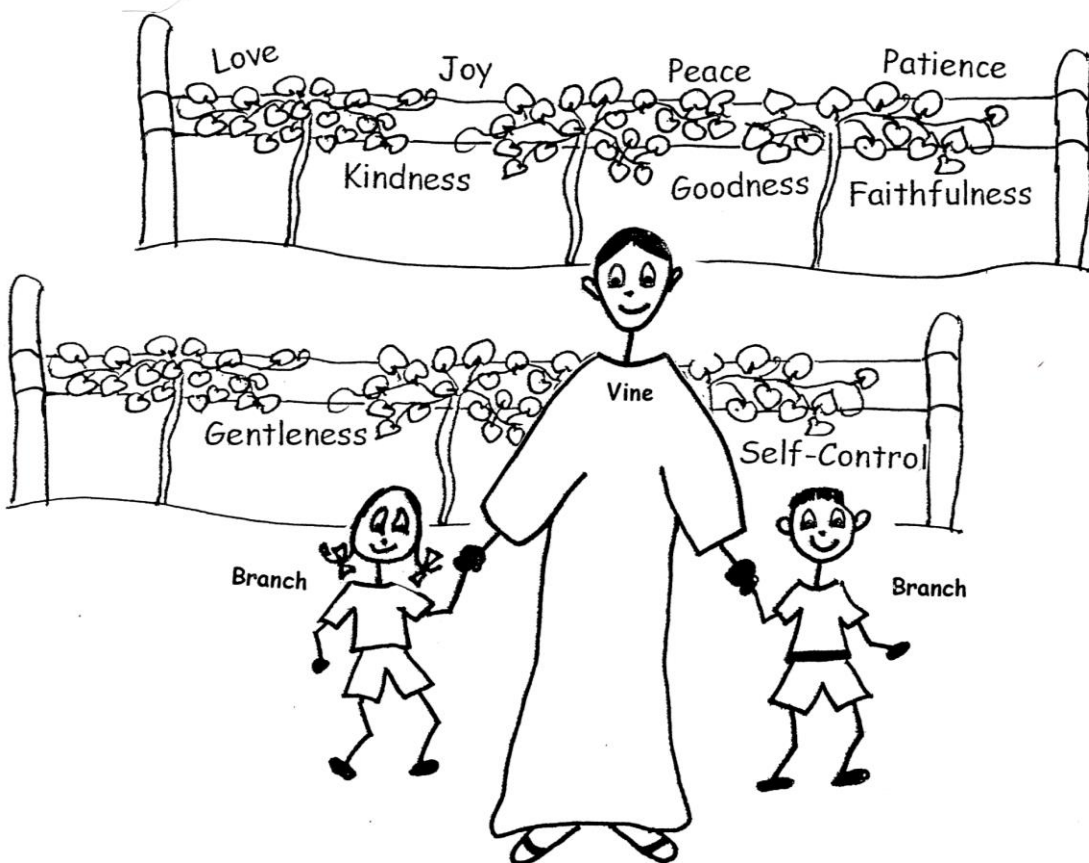


Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law [we can't do works to gain them; we study and the Holy Spirit changes us].

Why did God bother to rescue a fallen race? Why did He send His Son to be our Redeemer? LOVE! God created us so He could share His love with us. His love is infinite with no boundaries. He has unlimited love! We have a God Who loves us more than anyone is able! He wants to show us His love. The more we learn about Him through His word and the more we see Him come through for us time after time after time, the more we will see and understand His love. We will learn to love Him. There is nothing unlovable about God! The more we love Him, the more thankful we will be to Him for all that He is and does. This LOVE is part of the fruit of the Spirit and God wants us to understand and experience it abundantly!

1 John 4:19 We **love**, because He first loved us.

Fruit of the Holy Spirit

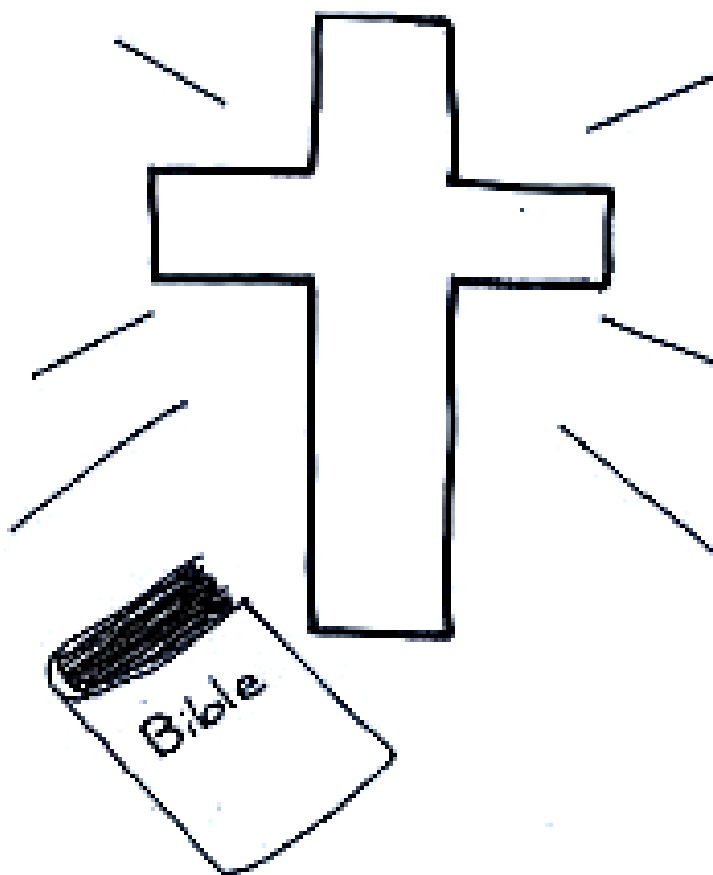


1 John 4:10 In this is **love**, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides* in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

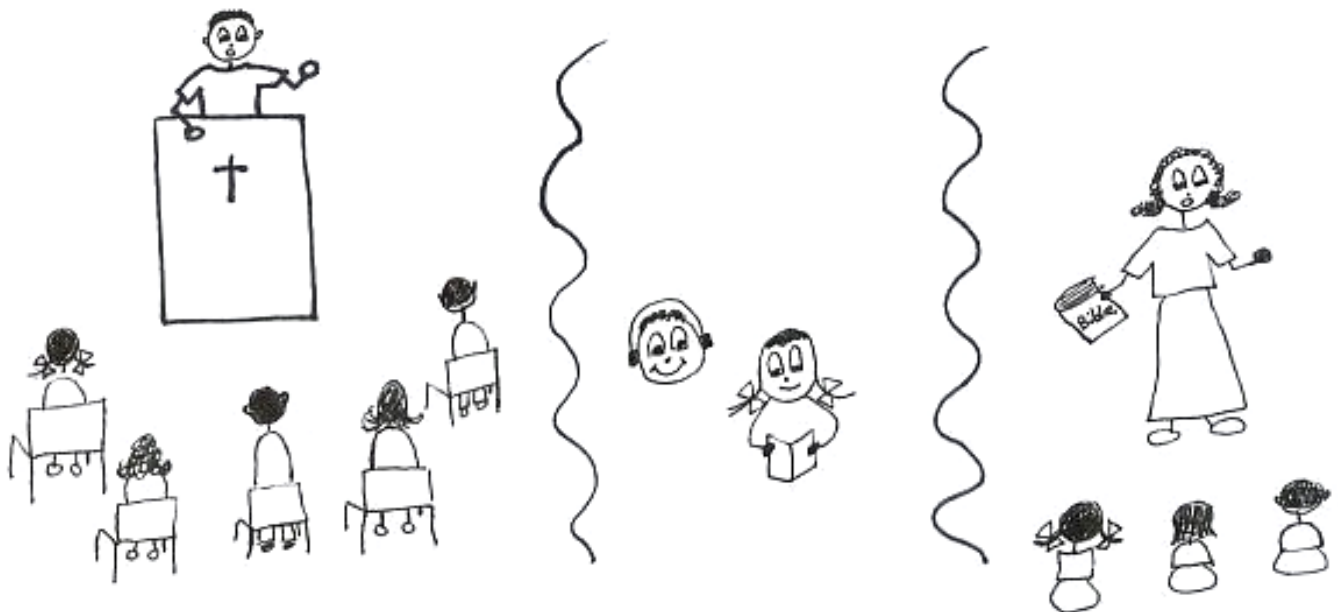
God wants us to know and have faith in the love He has for us. He gave the most precious thing He had - His Son - to be our Savior! When we became believers, we were put in union with Jesus Christ. God the Father has infinite love for Jesus Christ and since we are in union with Him, the Father has infinite love for us! We are His children! He wants us to learn about Him and live in His abundant love!

*Abide: to remain in a place; stay.



God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. It is a divine characteristic; it can't be produced by human efforts or works. It takes time for us to understand this love. We are to learn the word of God - the thinking of Jesus Christ - and relax, knowing that the Holy Spirit is teaching us about God's love, part of the fruit of the Spirit. He will give us the word of God we need to know; then He will test our faith through suffering or trials. He wants to see if we really trust in His love. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will always be with us to encourage us! God wants us to experience His love abundantly!

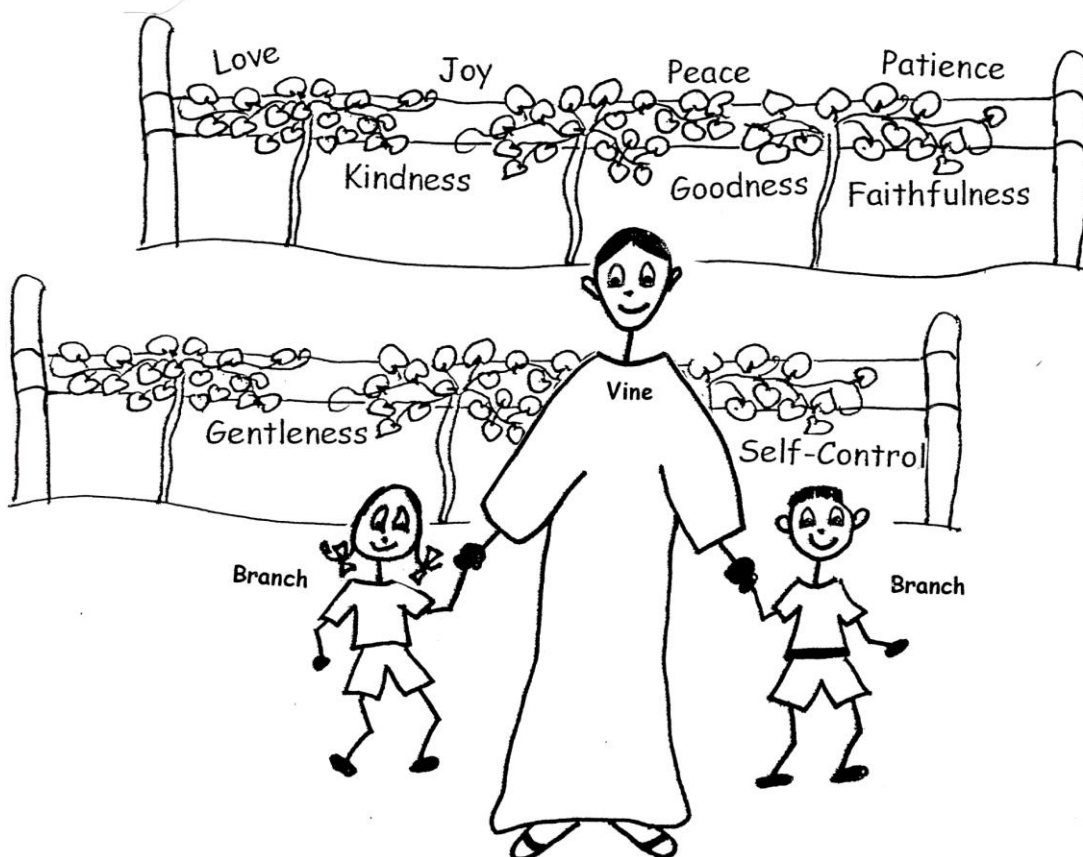
Romans 5:3b-5 Knowing that tribulation [suffering or trials] brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His **love** into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, Whom He has given us.



1 John 4:11 -13 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

We are to love one other. "What?" you say. "It's impossible to love some people!" That's true when we use our human power; not true when we use the power of God the Holy Spirit. He is the One responsible for pouring God's love into our hearts. Through the word of God, He teaches us how to love. This love He teaches us does not depend on what we think of other people or what they think of us. We may like them or dislike them; they may like us or dislike us. It does not depend on how they act or treat us. **It does depend on us abiding in the Vine - using the power of the Holy Spirit and the thinking of the Lord Jesus Christ!**

Fruit of the Holy Spirit





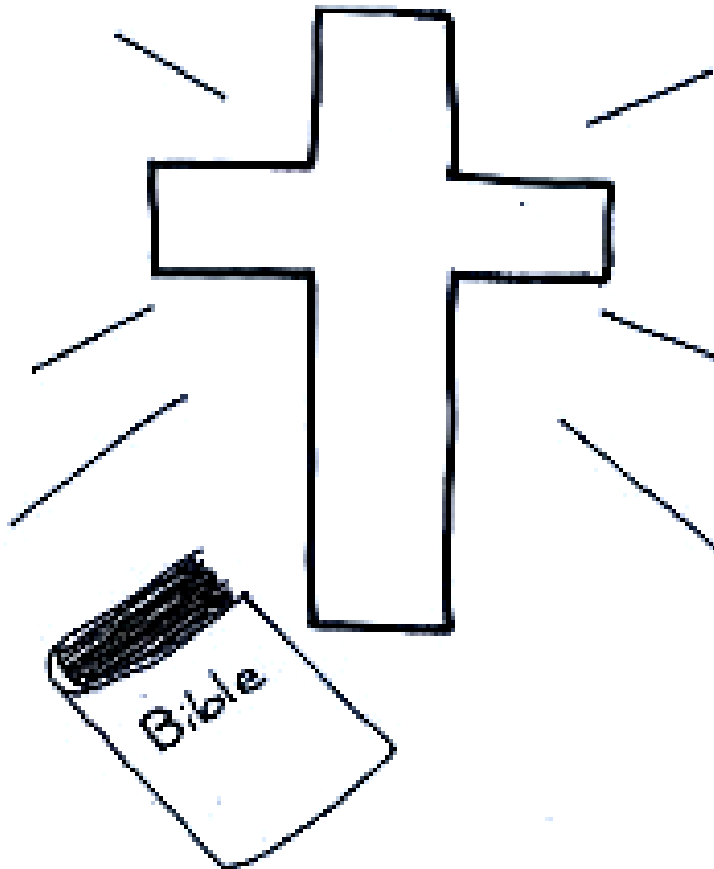
1 Corinthians 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

When we use the love which the Holy Spirit pours in us, we stay away from mental attitude sins. Mental attitude sins are thoughts which don't line up with the thinking of Christ. An example would be getting angry with someone and wanting to get even. Instead, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to be thoughtful of others, and avoid sins of the tongue. We are to relax and not judge others. We are to accept people as we find them - not put them down, but build them up and encourage them. This LOVE is part of the fruit of the Spirit and is the thinking of Christ. **Remember, it takes time for the Holy Spirit to grow in us understanding of this supernatural love.** He will give us the understanding of it and the power to use it!



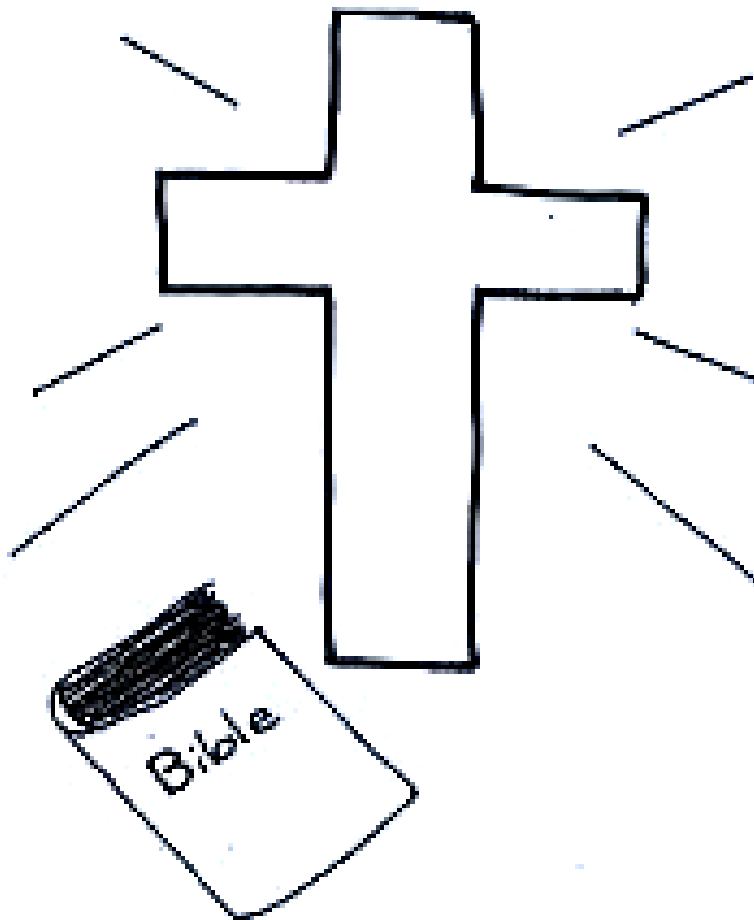
1 John 4:15 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses [believes, agrees with God] that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

One of the biggest forms of love is giving up your life for another. That is what Jesus Christ willingly did for us. In love, He came to save and serve mankind. God wants us to serve others in love - His love. Remember, this is a supernatural characteristic so we need supernatural power to do it. We need the power of the Holy Spirit! Anytime you think, "I can't love and serve that person", just turn it over to the Holy Spirit and you'll be amazed what He will do! He may bring just the right Scripture to mind; He may have another believer give you some encouraging words; **God the Holy Spirit will help you!**



When we are hurting, sometimes the only thing that helps us is thinking about the love God has for us. Satan campaigns against this love! He doesn't want us to know it or share it with others. God wants us to know it and show others His love and the love of Jesus Christ. He wants us to show others the way to salvation - belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. When we believe in Jesus Christ, we have God's love forever!! We will learn about it forever! That's a lot of love and learning! God's love is awesome!

John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you **love** one another, just as I have **loved** you. Greater **love** has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

