

PRAYER BULLETIN #131, 31JUL2021

“IT’S THE PROCESS!”

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
Galatians 5:22,23*

REFLECTION

One of the first issues that I face when I share and reflect “the fruit of the Spirit” with others is “what is it?” Many do not see it as ONE fruit. Largely because of the intuition to compartmentalize, many look on the NINE featured as individual fruits and spend their resources trying to pin down what each is and how each relates to their lives and lifestyles at that moment. After this debate, many will then ask God to grant them either what they see as critical at that moment or as “low lying fruits” to be grasped, and pray with a “give me now” approach for those they have picked, as if they are a buffet spread. Is this also your approach?

Seriously, “the fruit of the Spirit” is just one fruit. Like the proverbial elephant in the room, this fruit has facets and combinations, relating to the moments in our lives. The inconvenient truth is that the fruit is given by God for a long-term purpose. It is the way that we Christians are called to live so that we can “inherit the kingdom of God”. It is not given to us as an option. Finally, with the fruit as a blessed outcome of relating to the Holy Spirit, it is really a transformation coming from our daily yielding to His will. That transformation will be a process, not a “once-off”. And as a training and a discipline involving every thought and action of our lives, it will not be “easy going”.

With this “big picture”, it becomes imperative that we ask the right questions when we reflect on “the fruit of the Spirit”. Instead of “what is it?” the focus is “why?” and on the process of relating to the Holy Spirit for that blessed outcome.

PRAYER

Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, I thank You for the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Help me understand how important this Person is for my journey into Your kingdom. Enable me to build my relationship with the Spirit for that journey. Grant me strength, resilience and discipline to flow into the blessed outcome of receiving the fruit. Provide means and opportunities for me to show that fruit in the moments of my life. In Jesus’ Name, I pray, AMEN.

SUPPLICATION

- What is your understanding of “the fruit of the Spirit”? Spend time to jot down your responses and put together what you have found online or from

publications about the “big picture” behind this gift from God. Pray over what you have ascertained and written down and ask for a reality check against what you know. Then ask God to imbue what you have ascertained into your life and lifestyle.

- Is there someone you know in BRMC or in another Christian community whom you can link up to share and discuss what you are going through with the “fruit of the Spirit” and learn from one another? Or, is someone you know who is also having difficulties with this topic and you would want to go alongside and journey with him or her? Pray for such a person to come to mind. Pray for opportunities to link up and work from there. And once again pray for eyes to recognize opportunities and a heart to use these opportunities.
- Have you noticed that “the fruit of the Spirit” described in this verse are non-descript, “back of house” types? Nothing sensational. But they are the foundation of solid and sincere personal engagements. They are also the impetus for social action, of being a neighbour to unfamiliar people and strangers. In BRMC, we have a ministry that provides opportunities for such action and acts of being a neighbour. It is called OUTREACH & SOCIAL CONCERNS. They are reaching out with Financial Assistance, Education Bursaries and Care & Repair projects. There is the Positive People Ministry. There is the St Luke’s ElderCare Centre. There is the ministry at Sunlove Home. And there is the ministry among the migrant workers. Pray for those who are involved in this Ministry. Better yet, would you offer your services alongside them?
- It is disheartening to read of setbacks in our national efforts to find a “new normal” for our days ahead amidst the pandemic. While it is frustrating to adjust and re-adjust our routines, our daily practices and our lifestyles, let’s take time to pray for those who are in even worse situations than ourselves. Pray especially for the seniors who are living either in anxiety or in resignation of their vulnerability. Pray for those who are in isolation, whether at Homes or at home. Pray for those who are losing hope of their future, be it of gainful employment, as a married person or even as students.

“Christians...have the opportunity to be walking billboards of God’s existence and wisdom. When we demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, people watch and take notice.”

Eddie Foster

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly

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