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**STRENGTHEN
YOUR
FAITH**

Fruit of the Spirit – Love

By Michael Grigsby

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

Love conquers all. Love wins. But first, love. All of these sayings have circulated in culture over the past couple of years, emphasizing the definition of love and its primacy. But what's the importance of love?

Well, this is when we can turn to Scripture. Most of us can jump to the passage that is read at almost any wedding. *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge it will pass away.”* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

It is a very quotable verse, and it is printed on so much home decor that it is almost a guarantee to see this sign at any home. But what about the rest of what Scripture says? *“Love binds us in perfect unity.”* (Colossians 3:14). *“Love covers all wrongs.”* (Proverbs 10:12). *“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”* (1 John 4:8). God is love.

1 John 4:19 states that we love because He first loved us. Do you understand that? We are able to recognize love because God granted us that ability. Our love has no real meaning unless God is part of it because God is love. God and love exist together in perfect harmony. God is love. To truly know love is to understand a part of God's character.

We can love others and God because He first loved us. To connect with the theme of these devotionals, Fruit of the Spirit, we understand that love

Continued to page 2

Prayer is the Way

Steve Driskill	Tim Kirk	Nicole Bowman
Amy Warner	Vicki Reavis	Jason Smith
Kaylynn Philpot	Pete Petree	Ashley Crews
Melvin Warner	Emma Burich	Levi Hunt
Marty Seifried	Dwight Lunsford	James Jones Sr.
Jim Rose	Bob Ogle	Steve Bond
Wes Robinson	Connie Johnson	David Lupo
Aubrey Cheney	Cheryl Flynn	Connie Woods
Barbara Mason	Tristan Hladik	Steve Reist
Shirley Moore	Gary McKee	Mary Ferguson
Ron Waltman	Arta Waltman	Josephine Gonzalez
Randy Baker	Janelle Wile	Donita Murray
Cara Schultz	Nick Wathier	Dave Swindt
Travis Fortune	Kraig Birchfield	Rikki Ashby
Wilder Wray	Greg Hargrove	Dean Cavett
Tammy Long Qualls	Rick Herod	Beth Seifried
Joann Wieler	Alex Blaylock	Brian Wilson
Raymond Barnes	Gayle Roberts	
Jason Warner	Blake Boulard	

Note: To call out a prayer need during the week, contact Laberta at 580-886-5225.

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Fruit of the Spirit – Love

is a fruit that flows from God's Spirit within us. So when we go out and love our neighbors, we recognize that our ability to love comes from God's love for us, and that it is His Spirit flowing through us when we love.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

(1 Corinthians 13:6)



TRUE LOVE

A guy dates a girl for three months. She says she's in love. He's not sure, but he knows he feels different when he's with her. He wonders if that's love. Maybe you've wondered too.

Want to know if you feel genuine love? Ask yourself this: *Do I encourage this person to do what is right?* For true love "takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6).

Here's an example. A young couple is on a date. His affection goes beyond her comfort zone. She resists. He tries the oldest line in the book: "But I love you. I just want to be near you. If you loved me . . ." That siren you hear? It's the phony-love detector. This guy doesn't love her. True love will never ask the "beloved" to do what he or she thinks is wrong.

Want to know if your love for someone is true? If your friendship is genuine? Ask if you influence this person to do what is right. If you answer yes, ask her out for lunch.

Love has inspired more songs, books, movies, and bad poetry than any emotion you can think of. But what exactly is it? You'll find no better definition than Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 13. Check it out. I think you'll love it.

— Max Lucado

February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Sarah Hoffman	2 	3 Blake Felder	4 Danielle McGinn	5 Kyle Barney	6	7 Nickolas Hough
8	9	10 Wayne Pollock Debbie Chaloupek	11	12 Roxanne Shea Sarah Michels Shelly Shepherd	13	14 
15	16 Emily McGinn	17 Kylee Thompson	18	19 Curtis McDonald	20	21
22	23 Heather Canada <i>Elvin & Susan Kendrick</i>	24 Cade Heath	25	26	27	28
CWF Meetings 2nd Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	ADULT BIBLE STUDY Monday 6-7:00 p.m.	CHOIR PRACTICE Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. 	<i>Trudi Gibson - February</i> <i>Lanna Chaloupek - March</i>		<p>NOTE: Please notify us if a name needs to be removed or added. Contact Toni Goforth at: tonigo4th@hotmail.com or you may text or call 580-822-5109.</p>	



LOVE NEVER FAILS

*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love.*
1 Corinthians 13:13



1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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62				63					64					
65				66					67					
68				69					70					

ACROSS

- 1 Ruffled shirt front
- 6 "Put it upon a ____" (Numbers 21:9)
- 10 "The ____ facing Joppa" (Joshua 19:46)
- 14 Islands greeting
- 15 "Cast her ____ heaps" (Jeremiah 50:26)
- 16 "LOVE is ____" (A characteristic of love from 1 Corinthians 13)

- 17 Grinding tooth
- 18 "____ they faint in the way" (Matthew 15:32)
- 19 French ____-China
- 20 "LOVE...____" (A characteristic of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7) (3 words)
- 23 German auto
- 24 "It is ____ on fire of hell" (James 3:6)
- 25 "They...took no ____ with them" (Matthew 25:3)
- 28 In ____ (In its place)
- 30 Sale inducement
- 35 Shapeless mass
- 37 A long, long time
- 39 Excessive zeal
- 40 A characteristic of LOVE from 1 Corinthians 13:4 (3 words)
- 43 "There is one ____ unto all" (Ecclesiastes 9:3)
- 44 "Much ____ fold" (Psalm 19:10)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE, *continued from page 5*

45 "His teeth shall be set on ____" (Jeremiah 31:30)
 46 More crimson
 48 In charge of airport security (abbr.)
 50 Auction or profit follower
 51 "A ____ for a burnt offering" (Leviticus 16:3)
 53 Suitable for church use (abbr.)
 55 "LOVE...____" (A characteristic of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7) (3 words)
 62 "Casting all your ____ upon him" (1 Peter 5:7)
 63 "Over Edom will I cast out my ____" (Psalm 60:8)
 64 ____ Gay, famous WWII bomber
 65 Get things ready, for short
 66 Vietnam neighbor
 67 "He looked like glowing ____" (Ezekiel 1:27)
 68 Follower of Joel
 69 Fraternal fellows
 70 Wear away
DOWN
 1 Door post
 2 Healing succulent
 3 Gaucho's cowcatcher
 4 Actress Maureen
 5 "Then departed Barnabas to ____" (Acts 11:25)
 6 Succeed (3 words)
 7 German auto
 8 "For his anger ____ only a moment" (Psalm 30:5)
 9 Hadassah (Ester 2:7)
 10 Similar
 11 "Put a ____ on his hand, and shoes on his feet" (Luke 15:22)
 12 "The Creator of the ____ of the earth" (Isaiah 40:28)
 13 "Why make ye this ____, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
 21 Goodbye in Lyon
 22 List components
 25 One who leers
 26 "Gaius, whom ____ in the truth" (3 John 1:1) (2 words)
 27 "I have ____ thee" (Isaiah 43:4)
 29 "Disobedient and ____ for doing anything good" (Titus 1:16)
 31 Unit of cotton
 32 Positive electrode
 33 Slight color
 34 "The very thing I was ____ to do" (Galatians 2:10)
 36 "For, lo, the wicked ____ their bow" (Psalm 11:2)
 38 "The ____ man does not know" (Psalm 92:6)
 41 Cubic meter
 42 Respond to a stimulus
 47 Fight playfully (dial.)
 49 "And you will devise an evil ____" (Ezekiel 38:10)
 52 Taj ____
 54 Ocean vessel
 55 "Do thyself no ____: for we are all here" (Acts 16:28)
 56 Sandwich cookie
 57 Energizes (with up)
 58 "Which things the angels desire to ____ into" (1 Peter 1:12)
 59 "It teaches us to say ____ ungodliness and worldly passions" (Titus 2:12) (2 words)
 60 "Therefore my heart is ____" (Psalm 16:9)
 61 "Then let him count the years of the ____ thereof" (Leviticus 25:27)
 62 He presents his numbers well (abbr.)

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS

1 Jabot
 6 Pole
 10 Area
 14 Aloha
 15 Upas
 16 Kind
 17 Molar
 18 Lest
 19 Indo
 20 Bearsallthings
 23 Audi
 24 Set
 25 Oil
 28 Situ
 30 Rebate
 35 Glob
 37 Eons

39 Mania
 40 Lovesufferslong
 43 Event
 44 Fine
 45 Edge
 46 Redder
 48 Tsas
 50 Eer
 51 Ram
 53 Eccl
 55 Hopesallthings
 62 Care
 63 Shoe
 64 Enola
 65 Prep
 66 Laos
 67 Metal
 68 Amos
 69 Elks
 70 Erode

DOWN
 1 Jamb
 2 Aloe
 3 Bola
 4 Ohara
 5 Tarsus
 6 Pullitoff
 7 Opel
 8 Lasts
 9 Esther
 10 Akin
 11 Ring
 12 Ends
 13 Ado
 21 Adieu
 22 Items
 25 Ogler
 26 Illove
 27 Loved
 29 Unfit

31 Bale
 32 Anode
 33 Tinge
 34 Eager
 36 Bend
 38 Senseless
 41 Stere
 42 React
 47 Rassle
 49 Scheme
 52 Mahal
 54 Liner
 55 Harm
 56 Oreo
 57 Peps
 58 Look
 59 Noto
 60 Glad
 61 Sale
 62 CPA