

# THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Hiram Church of Christ

www.hiramchurchofChrist.com · 7660 Nebo Road, Hiram, GA 30141 · (770) 943-9977

LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU AND SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU

“Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.” **Romans 16:16**

FIRST CENTURY CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

**MINISTER: MELVIN J. BRYANT II**

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 4:11





## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Announcements:** Matt Johnson  
**Opening Prayer:** Matt Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Kwame Abdul  
**Second Prayer:** Clarence Procter  
**Lord’s Table:** Melvin J. Bryant III  
 Devin Bryant  
**Message:** Melvin J. Bryant II  
**Closing Prayer:** Alex Johnson

## Attendance

**Morning Hour:** 14  
**Bible Class:** 18  
**Worship:** 27  
**Wednesday:** 12  
**Contribution:** \$ TBA

## Weekly Service Times

 The Morning Hour 9:00am  
 Bible Class 10:00am  
 Morning Worship 11:00am  
 Wed. Evening Bible Classes 7:30pm

## The Morning Hour

- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

**Missions:** India & Childhaven

## PLAN OF SALVATION

- ★ Taught by God - John 6:45
- ★ Believe - John 8:24
- ★ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30  
(Repentance entails counting the cost)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10



PART II

WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREATED OUR CELL PHONES?

WHAT IF WE...

...carried it with us everywhere?

...turn back to get it if we forgot it?

...checked it for messages throughout the day?

...used it in case of emergencies?

...spend an hour or more each day using it?



*What would our lives look like?*

## ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES

Lea Overton (Jeff's mother), Sebastian and Erica Suarez, Ron McCurry (shut in-visits requested), Amy Brown, Polly Tunstall (Amy's mother), Ann Phillips, Harold and Dean Reeves, Mary Brock's daughter Potts/Williams family, Kilwonia Chandler, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Charlie Griffin, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Ben Westbrooks (leukemia), Anita Berger husband Rich, Sis. Carolyn, Ashley (Sis. Erica's sister) and her family, Sis. Proctor, Anita Berger.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **The Webb** family lost their daughter Kira. Let us keep them in our prayers.
- ▶ **Anita Berger** test result was favorable, but she is still in need of prayers for complications.
- ▶ **Kwame** had a successful surgery and is in need of continual prayers as he heals from it. And, for his citizenship as he has applied for it.
- ▶ **Charlie** had surgery on his foot and has asked that we keep him in prayer.
- ▶ **Garrison Ihle**, the 5 month old baby of some friends of the Johnsons had his surgery. Please keep him and his family in our prayers.
- ▶ **Carolyn** is still in need of our continual prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers for his son in law.
- ▶ **Mary Matthews**, the aunt of Sis. Traci Bryant is being treated for cancer. Let us keep her lifted in prayer.
- ▶ **Brother Melvin** has a co-worker, Dondrea Clay who is in need of prayers as she was injured on the job.
- ▶ **Kaitlyn Hunter** mom is in need of continual prayer for difficulties, her organs are shutting down!
- ▶ **Jamie Franklin** is in need of continual prayers after the lost of her parents.

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

### ☑ October Birthdays

Clarence Proctor - 13th  
Matthew Chandler - 24th  
Makayla Johnson - 28th

### ☑ World Church News

### ☑ Hiram Church of Christ News

Make plans to stay for the last Sunday fellowship meal each month.

### ☑ Anniversaries

TBA

### ☑ Traveling

Sis. Pudgy

**Kaitlyn Hunter** was baptized on September 15th. Let us keep her in prayer for strength and faithfulness.

### ☑ Hiram Church News

Sis. Becky will be conducting a ladies class each third Monday of the month. All women are encouraged to attend.

**Jonathan Reaves** was baptized on September 29th. Let us keep him in prayer for strength and faithfulness.

### ☑ Local Church News

# "BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GROWTH" Part II

## Galatians 5:22 - 2 Peter 3:17

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

Last week we left off from this series understanding that LOVE is the first fruit of the Spirit we find recorded in Galatians 5:22! We came to understand that "Love" is a Universal Language! You find "Love" in every nation under heaven! And, understanding this "Fruit of the Spirit," God wants us to GROW in our love for Him and one another!

- Again, The Greek Word for "Love" here is, (ἀγάπη) "Agapē"!
- "Love" in this text means, "to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard - to regard with affection, loving concern." (Louw Nida vol. 1 pg. 292).
- BDAG tells us it is, "to have a warm regard for and interest in another, to cherish, have affection for, love." (pg. 5).

### I. LOVE IS BEHAVIORAL

A. *That is*, "Love" has Characteristics, Qualities, Mannerisms!

- "Love" behaves itself in certain fashions and it will be in our best interest to allow these qualities to manifest itself in our lives! (see 1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
- Paul tell us HOW important "Love" is, *however*, we can know ALL the scriptures of the Bible!
- Even if we understand every context we come across BUT; "IF" we don't have "LOVE", quoting scriptures, preaching sermons, passing out literature means NOTHING!
- **First**, what is the "Tongues of Men"? (verse 1).
- The "Tongues of Men" is a reference to being able to speak in languages having NEVER learned it! It is the same "Tongues" the Apostles were able to speak in Acts 2:8-11!
- **Second**, What is the "Tongues of Angels"?
- *Think about this....* "IF" the "Tongues of Men" is a KNOWN Language, then it would be fair to note that the "Tongues of Angels" is a KNOWN language as well!
- Angels were messengers from God, and EVERY ANGEL who spoke to God's people spoke in a LANGUAGE that was understandable to the person who received the message! (cf. Genesis 31:11; Acts 8:26)!
- So, "IF" we have the "Tongues of Men and Angels" (*that is*, being able to speak in these languages having NEVER studied them, *and mind you*, this only happened in the age of miracles) and I don't have "LOVE", that "Natural Affection," that Concerning Love for the person I'm speaking to, the Bible tells us, "I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal." "IF" we don't have Genuine Love for the person, we are just making NOISE and they are not paying us any attention!

B. "IF" I have the "Gift of Prophecy" (verse 2).

- Now, the "Gift of Prophecy" is simply being able to interpret divine will! Paul said, "IF" I can understand ALL mysteries, *that is*, "Things no one can know until they are revealed!"
- Knowledge in this verse is to KNOW the content of God's will in a miraculous fashion!
- Disclaimer: NO ONE can perform a Miracle today! And, NO ONE has the power of Prophecy, NOR Understanding ALL mysteries today, NOR any of the NINE "Spiritual Gift" found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11!
- In the early church, some had the ability to know all mysteries, *however*, HOW do we know the mystery today? (see Ephesians 3:1-4).
- Today, "IF" one wants to KNOW the Mystery of Christ that has ALREADY been Revealed by Revelation, we have to READ to UNDERSTAND God's will!

- The MAIN point of Paul’s writings in verse 2 is that “IF” they had the “Gift of Prophecy, and Understand ALL Mysteries and ALL Knowledge, **AND though I have ALL Faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.**” This is MIRACULOUS Faith! (cf. Matthew 17:20).
- C. “IF” we gave ALL our goods to feed the poor and there is NO true “LOVE,” it profits nothing! (v.3).
- D. “IF” we gave our bodies to be burned *simple means* an ultimate sacrifice in becoming a martyr, *that is*, if I lay down my life in the most PAINFUL manner, BUT have no “LOVE,” Paul says it profits NOTHING!
  - So, today, “IF” we do things for ANYONE and it’s not out of pure sincere “LOVE,” it profits us NOTHING church! Now consider....

**II. CHARACTERISTICS OF LOVE**

- A. In 1 Corinthians 13:4, “Love Suffers Long”!
  - “Love” is Patient...it’s Longsuffering! With this type of “Love” we don’t give up so easily, and why is that? Because God is Patient and Longsuffering toward us (Psalms 103:8).
- B. Love is KIND
  - “Kind” here means, “to provide something beneficial for someone as an act of kindness - to act kindly, to be kind, kindness.” (Louw Nida vol 1. Pg. 749).
- C. Love does not ENVY
  - The Greek word here is, “zeloo” it means, “to experience strong envy and resentment against someone—‘to be jealous, to be envious.” (Louw-Nida Vol. 1, p. 759).
  - The “Love” that God wants us to have is that we are NOT Jealous or Envious of what someone else HAS or Have become!
  - Remember Joseph’s brothers in Genesis chapter 37? They ENVIED him in verse 11 because of his dreams!
  - Paul tells us that “Love” does not (or in our case) SHOULD NOT Envy, we should not be Jealous! “IF” we genuinely “Love” someone, we will be happy for them and NOT be envious!
- D. “Love does not PARADE itself”
  - Parade here means, “to PRAISE oneself excessively. To be a braggart, to brag!” (Louw Nida vol. 1 pg. 430)! *It means*, “to inflate with pride and vanity....” (Moulton pg. 431)!
  - We ought not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think (Romans 12:3).
  - “Love” does not “Parade” itself! We have an example of this in scripture (see Luke 20:45-47).
  - Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:4 that LOVE does not carry itself like this! Love does NOT “Parade itself”!
- E. “Love is not PUFFED UP”!
  - “Puffed” up here means, “to cause someone to be proud, arrogant, or haughty - to make proud, to make arrogant, to make haughty!” (Louw Nida vol 1. pg. 764)!
  - *Sometimes* people can be “Puffed Up” and become so arrogant that they forget who God is! (see Acts 12:20-23; see also Daniel 4:28ff)!
  - We are to be CAREFUL that we don’t become SO ARROGANT that we forget who God is, and that applies to leaders and rulers of countries!
  - Be encouraged brethren until the last AMEN....

Sermon Notes

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