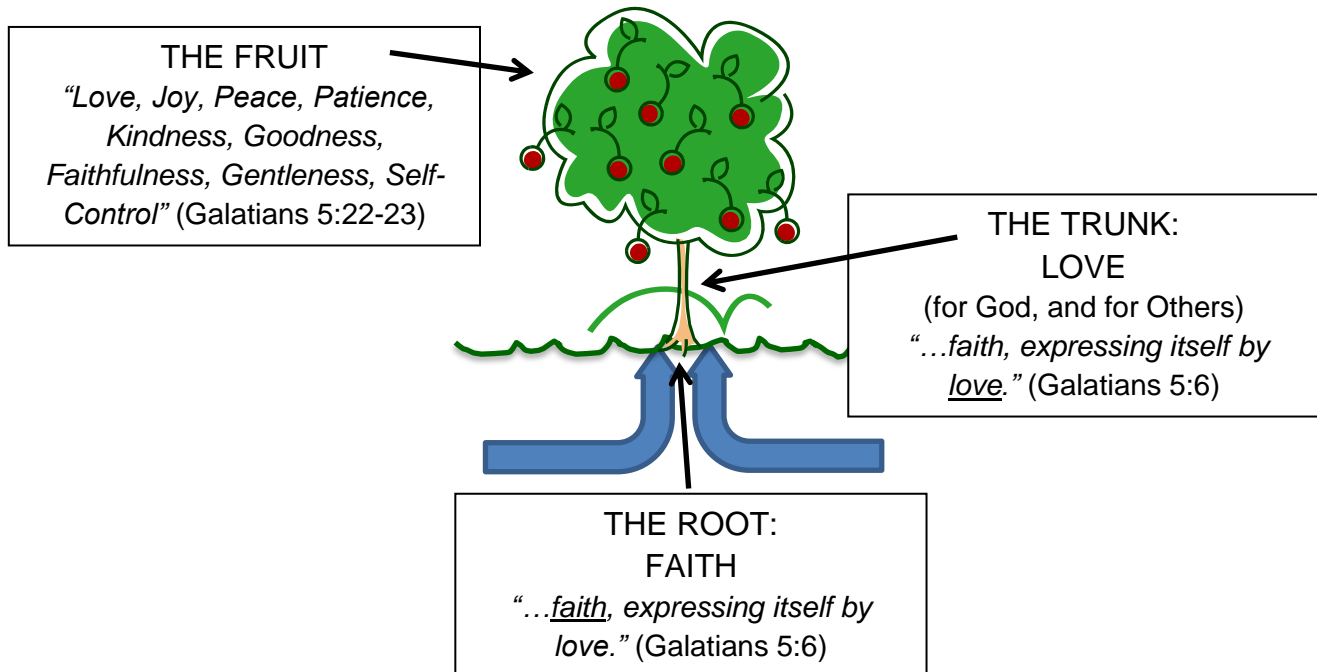


GROWING IN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT¹



FAITH = The empty hands that receive a free gift!²

Moment by moment, ask yourself two questions:

1. What does God want me to BELIEVE right now?
2. How does God want me LOVE right now? (God first, then others)

Be as specific as possible, answering these questions right in this very moment you are living.

- This is a Gospel-centered, Christ-centered perspective on sanctification, how you become more like Christ by the Holy Spirit's power.
- Believe God, that he loves you and delights in you through his Son, and that he will enable you to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Then step out in practical love.
- With each step, you are walking right into those "good works" that God has prepared in advance for you to do. He dwells in you now to help you do them.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 2:20; 5:25

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

REFLECTION: What fruit of the Spirit would you like to see more of in your life? What in you hinders its development? What practical steps can you take to demonstrate "faith working by love" (Galatians 5:6). Pray for this to happen, and then move on it.

¹ This brief study illustrates "sanctification"—the process of life transformation—for those who have trusted in Christ as Savior and Lord. For more information on becoming a Christian, see www.ccmVT.org, Resources, Downloads, "The Greatest News!"

² The Lord Jesus Christ is the object of faith. Eternal life, beginning now, is the gift that faith receives.