

Ladies Bible Study
All Things for Good
Chapter Five Part 1.
Lesson Six

Chapter 5 Part 1 Pages 77-83

Introduction: fruits of love to God

Writing on the fruits of love to God Watson says, “It concerns us to ***search carefully*** whether ***any*** of these fruits grow in our garden” (77).

Notice two things about this statement:

1. We are to “***search carefully***.”
 - a. When you plant a garden, you search for the fruit to show itself in time. Likewise, you should search to see the fruit of your love to God to show itself in time.
2. “Whether ***any*** of these fruits grow in our garden.”
 - a. While you long to have all of the fruits of love to God growing in your garden, you may not have all of them (or at least not all of them to the same degree). However, do you have ***any*** of these fruits? Do you see evidence of some of these fruits in your life? This is the question that Watson is asking the reader to contemplate.

Fourteen fruits of love to God:

1. The first fruit of love to God is the musing of the mind upon God.
 - a. “He who is in love, his thoughts are ever upon the object... What are our thoughts upon? Can we say we are ravished with delight when we think on God? Have our thoughts got wings?... A sinner ***crowds God out of his thoughts***” (77-78).
 - i. The sinner willfully “crowds God out of his thoughts.” What might this look like in daily life?
 1. Crowding God out of your thoughts might look like wanting to change the subject as soon as it turns to matters pertaining to Christ. You don’t have room for Him in your thoughts. You must crowd

Christ out of your thoughts by always talking about things other than Him. Do you ever enjoy talking about God?

2. Crowding God out of your thoughts might look like never trying to make time to be intentionally with Him. You have responsibilities. God knows that you do. But, do you ever intentionally make time to be with the Lord in prayer and the word?
3. Crowding God out of your thoughts might look like never thinking about Him. Do you ever enjoy thinking about God? If not, how can you start to enjoy thinking about Him? First, it is a work of the Spirit, but here are two concepts that may be of help:
 - a. The puritans talked about deliberate and occasional meditation. Deliberate meditation might be reflecting on a specific verse you read in your devotions. Then after reflecting on the verse you memorize it. You then take time to pray through that verse. You may continue to contemplate the verse in the coming days or weeks, but the initial deliberate meditation might only take 10 or 15 minutes.
 - b. Occasional meditation is when you meditate on spiritual realities throughout the day. You might see a circle and be reminded of eternity. You might see a fan and remember how you are to fan into flame the gifts God has given you. You might see the color red and be reminded of Jesus' blood. The list is endless.

2. The second fruit of love to God is desire of communion.

- a. "Love desires familiarity and intercourse" (78).
 - i. Do you **desire** familiarity and communion with God?
 1. Desire is an important word. You may not always be able to read your Bible or to pray, but you can desire communion with God. Recently I read of someone who could do little on their sick-bed. They could hardly even muster energy to pray. What do you say to such a one? Do you say, "Pray anyways?" Do you say, "Do physically and mentally what you may quite literally not be able to do?" No. That is insulting. That is asking a man with broken legs to walk. What

you ask is not, "Do that which you cannot do." What you ask is, "Do you desire to do that which you cannot do? Do you desire the Lord even if your ability to actually seek Him be slim at this time?" A man with broken legs cannot walk, but he can desire to walk. So, you may not always be able to seek communion with God as earnestly as you might wish, but do you desire communion with God? Do you want to read the Bible even when you don't get to read the Bible? Do you want to pray even when you don't get to pray?

2. Sometimes a husband and wife are separated from one another for a time in God's providence. While they must be separated, they do not desire to be separated. Their desire is for one another even when they cannot be with one another. So, in God's providence you may not always be able to seek God as you desire, but do you desire to seek him?
3. The third fruit of love to God is grief.
 - a. "Where there is love to God, there is a grieving for our sins of unkindness against him. A child which loves his father cannot but weep for offending him. The heart that burns in love melts in tears. Oh! That I should abuse the love of so dear a Savior!... Did Christ bleed for sin and do you laugh at it?" (79-80).
 - b. "Christians, would not your hearts rise against him that should kill your father, mother, brother, wife, husband; dearest relations in all the world! O then, how should your hearts and souls rise against sin? Surely your sin, it was, that murdered Christ, that killed him, who is instead of all relations, who is a thousand, thousand times dearer to you, than father, mother, husband, child, or whomever; one thought of this should, methinks, be enough to make you say, as Job did, 'I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes,' Job 42:9. Oh! what is that cross on the back of Christ? My sins; oh! what is that crown on the head of Christ? My sins; oh! what is the nail in the right-hand, and that other in the left-hand of Christ? my sins; oh! what is that spear in the side of Christ? my sins; what are those nails and wounds in the feet of Christ? My sins. oh my sins, my sins, my sins!" (Isaac Ambrose, Puritan Theology pg 370).

How Deep The Father's Love For us:

*Behold the man upon a cross:
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice*

*Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life:
I know that it is finished.*

4. The fourth fruit of love to God is magnanimity.

- a. If you love someone you will be courageous to defend them. If a husband sees his wife being mistreated he will step up and defend her. If someone sees a friend being torn down they intervene and try to help. So, Watson writes, “Does he love God that can hear his blessed truths spoken against and be silent? He who loves his friend will stand up for him, and vindicate him when he is reproached. Does Christ appear for us in heaven, and are we afraid to appear for him on earth? Love animates a Christian; fires his heart with zeal, and steels it with courage” (80).

5. The fifth fruit of love to God is sensitiveness.

- a. Our hearts should break rather than laugh at the sin we see in the world around us. *Do you long to see the sin of the world around you ended?*
- b. Love to God is longing for God as the supreme and sovereign good.

6. The sixth fruit of love to God is hatred of sin.

- i. Those who love God hate sin. A major difference between the believer and the unbeliever is that the believer is at war with his sin and the unbeliever is at peace with his sin. Both people sin, but they are worlds apart in terms of their relation to sin. The one loves it, the other loathes it. When the believer is asked, “Do you sin?” He answers, “Yes.” When asked, “Do you hate your sin?” He answers, “Yes.” When asked, “Why do you hate your sin?” He answers, “Because it is an offense to the God I love.” You are not breaking an abstract law when you sin, you are attacking God himself when you sin.
- ii. You are to hate what God hates and love what He loves. *Do you?*

7. The seventh fruit of love to God is crucifixion.

- a. “He who is a lover of God is dead to the world” (81). *What value does the world have to you in comparison with God?* God is worth more than all the world ten

thousand times. He is the jewel that makes all other gold comparatively worthless. Do not gain the world and forfeit your soul.

8. The eighth fruit of love to God is fear.

- a. The fear of displeasing. This is the sense in which we might speak of a husband fearing his wife. He isn't fearful that she is going to hit him over the head with a frying pan (at least I hope not!), he is fearful of disappointing her. He wants to do what he can to show his love for his wife by not disappointing her. In this way, we should fear God. We should fear sin because we don't want to disappoint God.
- b. A few definitions of the fear of God.
 - i. "The fear of God is an awe-filled respect of the divine majesty" (Gouge, 8).
 1. Gouge says this "awe-filled respect of the divine majesty" has two effects on man:
 - a. You want to do whatever you can to please God.
 - b. You want to avoid whatever you can that displeases God.
 - i. "The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil" (Prov. 8:13).
 - ii. This awe-filled respect of God has sometimes been called **filial fear** as opposed to **servile fear**.
 1. **Filial fear** is son-like fear. As a child fears displeasing his father because he loves him so too the Christian fears displeasing his heavenly Father because he loves him.
 2. **Servile fear** is slavish fear. Servile fear is simply a fear of punishment because of sin.
 - a. The distinction between filial fear and slavish fear is grounded upon Romans 8:15 which reads, "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear [this is servile fear], but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Commenting on this verse Gouge writes, "This causes a filial fear. The filial fear is such a fear as dutiful children bear to their fathers" (Gouge, 9).

- c. John Currid says that the fear of God is reverence leading to obedience.
 - i. Proper fear of God is connected with obedience in the Bible.
 - 1. Genesis 22:12; Ps. 111:10
 - ii. Proper fear of God is connected with knowledge and wisdom in the Bible.
 - 1. Prov. 1:7; 9:10
- d. What is the origin of this proper fear of God?
 - i. People say, “Put the fear of God in them?” Compare that with— Rom. 3:18
 - ii. God says, I put fear of me in them – Jer. 32:40

Conclusion:

Watson began by saying, “It concerns us to *search carefully* whether *any* of these fruits grow in our garden” (77). We have searched the first eight of these fruits today. Do *any* of these fruits grow in the garden of your life? They may not be as ripe or plentiful in your life as you would wish, but, do “any of these fruits grow in our garden”? Where they are present, it is the evidence of the Spirit’s work in your life! Rejoice. Where they are absent, pray for the Spirit to produce them. After all, these are Spirit-wrought fruit, not man-made fruit.

1 Thess. 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it