

The Promises of God - Lesson 22

Introduction:

1. The promises of God are *"exceeding great and precious"* (2 Peter 1:4).
2. Because God's promises are so special, they deserve our careful attention.
3. One of God's promises is revealed in Joel 2:28-32 -- He promised to send His Spirit.
4. According to the Scriptures,:
 - a. God kept His promise (Acts 2:16-21)
 - b. God has given people various measures of the Spirit, including:
 - 1) the baptism of the Holy Spirit [received by the apostles (Acts 2) and the household of Cornelius (Acts 10)]
 - 2) the miraculous indwelling of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by spiritual gifts [imparted by the laying on of the apostles' hands (Acts 8:14-17; 19:5-6)]
 - 3) the non-miraculous indwelling of the Holy Spirit [received by those who obey the Gospel (Acts 2:38; 5:32)].
5. Because the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is conditional (Romans 8:9-11), we must comply with the instructions that relate to Him.
6. God wants His children to:
 - a. *"walk in the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:16-17)
 - b. *"live in the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:25)
 - c. sow *"to the Spirit"* (Galatians 6:7-8).
7. The fruit that we bear shows something about us (Luke 6:43-45).
 - a. Those who walk in the flesh, live in the flesh, and sow to the flesh will bear *"the works of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:19-21).
 - b. Those who walk in the Spirit, live in the Spirit, and sow to the Spirit will bear *"the fruit of the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:22-23).
8. In this lesson we are studying the 9 characteristics that make up *"the fruit of the Spirit."*

Discussion:

- I. *"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT" IS:*
 - A. *Love* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
 - B. *Joy* (Philippians 4:4)
 - C. *Peace* (Romans 12:18; 14:19)
 - D. *Longsuffering* (Ephesians 4:1-3)
 - E. *Gentleness* (Titus 3:1-2)
 - F. *Goodness* (Galatians 6:10)
 - G. *Faith [Faithfulness]* (Revelation 2:10)
 - H. *Meekness* (Colossians 3:12-13)
 - I. *Temperance [Self-control]* (2 Peter 1:5-7).
- II. *"AGAINST SUCH THERE IS NO LAW"*
 - A. The Lord highly approves of these characteristics.
 - B. He wants His followers to develop these characteristics and to continually grow in them (John 15:8).
 - C. Requirements for bearing good fruit include:
 1. the right kind of "seed" (Luke 8:11; Ephesians 6:17b)
 2. the right kind of "soil" (Luke 8:15).