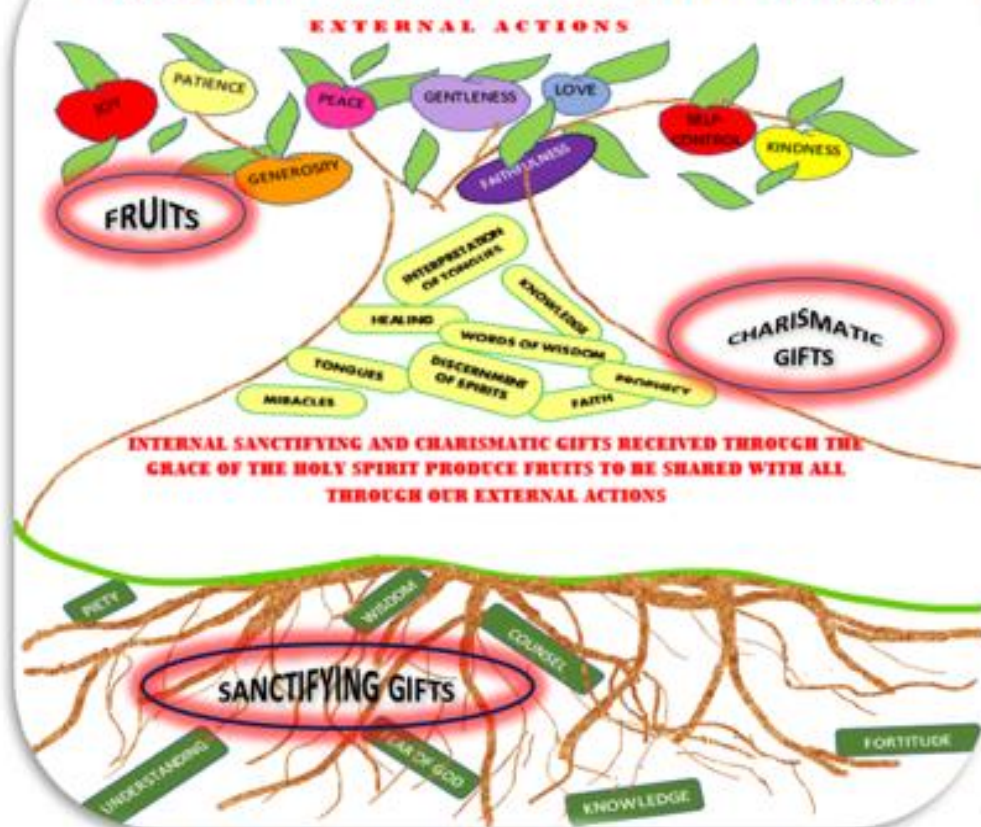


DESIRE THE GIFTS – LIVE THE FRUITS

GENTLENESS

GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



James 3:13 *Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.*

1 Peter 3:15-17 *Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.*

GENTLENESS... How is it manifested in us from God and how can we encourage others to seek this fruit? Someone approaches you, angry at the world, wanting an ally, anyone that will agree with him. There are so many options when confronted with angry, fearful, or just confused people who need someone to listen to them. How do we turn this around into a gentle situation

without disregarding or minimizing their pain and troubled mind? First thing to do, pray for the gift of wisdom in your conversation, that your words be full of love and compassion. Ask the Holy Spirit for strength so that this wisdom will produce the fruit of gentleness, so that God can transform their distress into more peaceful thoughts, reactions, and attitudes. Then just listen to their viewpoint, to the hurts and disappointments. Sometimes, a kind, listening ear is all they are looking for. If you are asked for advice or an opinion, it can be your opportunity to mention the goodness, mercy, and saving grace of God. If correction is needed, use discernment in your words. **2 Timothy 2:24-26** *"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone ... correcting his opponents with gentleness."* If harshness is used in a disagreement or criticism, the result is probably a conversation that starts out very tense, that could quickly end with words of beratement, and a more aggravated and anxious person. Harshness does not display the love of Jesus, but promotes hopelessness and desperation. Choose words that will allow you to share the fruit of gentleness. Allow your gifts to bear fruits that provide sustenance to others. **HOLY SPIRIT COME!**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS DE SALES THE FRUIT OF GENTLENESS:

St. Francis, you portrayed so evidently, that the most fruitful evangelization is with childlike, gentle love. Your example of discernment and patient waiting for the Lord's messages before reacting displays your gentle abandon to God's providence. Please pray to Jesus that I may mimic this virtuous work as I continue to serve Him. **AMEN**

**NOTHING IS SO STRONG AS
GENTLENESS, NOTHING SO
GENTLE AS REAL STRENGTH**

