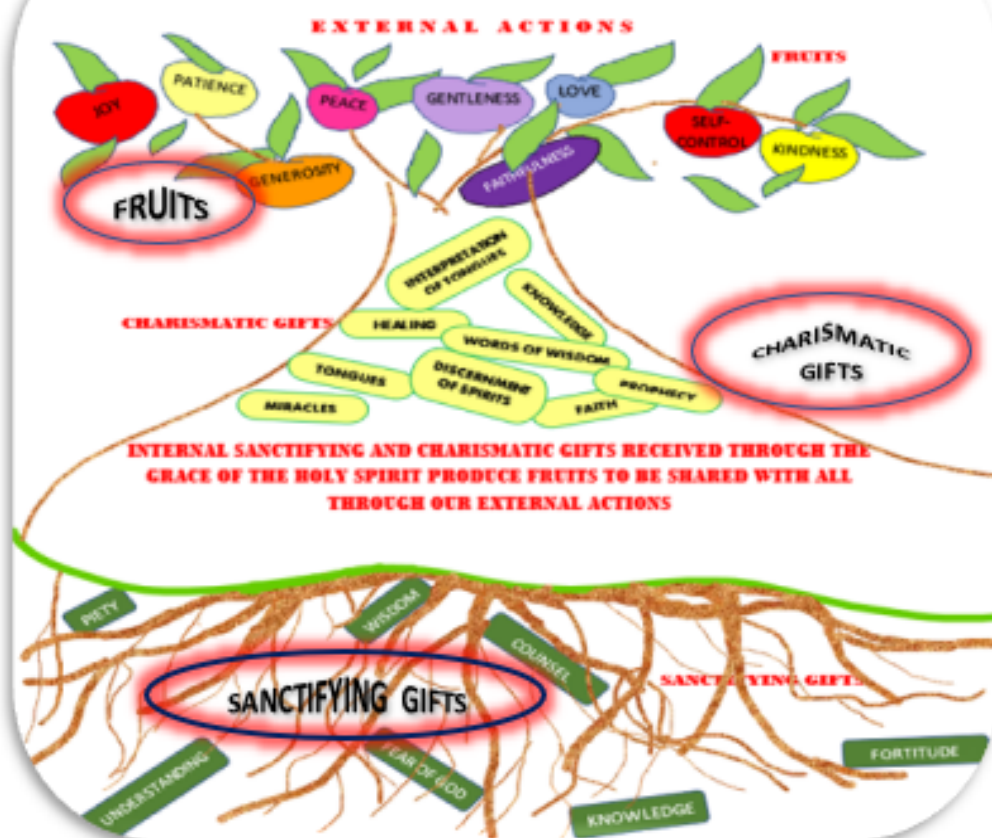


DESIRE THE GIFTS – LIVE THE FRUITS

FAITHFULNESS

GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Psalm 33:4 For the word of the Lord is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.

Joshua 24:14 ... now therefore revere the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS ... All spiritual fruits are expressions of the Holy Spirit's gifts, meant to be given away according to the example of Jesus. According to St. Paul **1 Corinthians 13:2**, faith has a stipulation ... "if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing". Being faithful to someone, at its core, is never failing to expect God's goodness in the final outcome. Even if we know there could be hardships, setbacks, and discouragement, loving perseverance must take priority. The fruit of faithfulness in its truest form is constant and never failing.

How do we perceive this in our own lives? First, we look to Jesus and His example. Even after He was deserted by His own Apostles, He returned to comfort them and offer His peace. Because of His concern for them, He was not going to abandon them, even under the disappointing circumstances. Why, because He was faithful, out of His love for them. For us, it is no different. God gave Moses commandments for us to follow, we are expected to be faithful to His requests. We should not just obey them out of fear of retribution, but because we love God and don't want to offend Him. We all have those little, or large, vices that seem to replace our God at times, that momentarily remove God from our sight, causing us to be unfaithful. But the Lord stays with us, watching, safeguarding, and longing for us to be faithful to Him once again. **1 Corinthians 10:13** "God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength" With love and strength of heart, we will have no desire for these replacements, we will only long to do His will, follow Him, find our joy in Him. **HOLY SPIRIT COME!**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH THE FRUIT OF FAITHFULNESS:

St. Joseph, we ask for your intercession, that we may always listen with a humble heart, as you did, to the promptings of Our Lord. Help us to use your example of faith and trust in God's providence in all our actions as we journey closer to Him. Ask Jesus to give us the strength and desire needed to willingly abide by His commandments. Thank you, St. Joseph, for so lovingly caring for Jesus, and pray we may do the same. **AMEN**

