

*Welcome To Our
Women Of Grace
Magazine
October Edition
2024*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In every
thing give thanks: for this is the will
of God in Christ Jesus concerning
you.*

GOALS FOR OCTOBER

- 🍁 1. Put God first
- 🍁 2. Pray more
- 🍁 3. Thank God every day in the name of Jesus
- 🍁 4. Forgive those who have hurt me
- 🍁 5. Focus on Jesus more than this world ♡
- 🍁 6. Ask God for help more often
- 🍁 7. Trust God always

If God has been good to you,

Amen!

A Symphony of Praise ~

By Deborah Ann Belka

**Lord, may I be thankful,
today and all year though
may praise and thanksgiving
come daily from me to You.**

**May I be made aware of,
all You have done for me
may I not lose my gratitude
or the love I have for Thee.**

**May I sing each morning,
a symphony of my praise
may I lift up my whole heart
as my gratitude I raise.**

**May I always remember,
the blessings You have given
may I forever be mindful
why I have been forgiven.**

**Lord, may I be thankful,
to You in every single way
may praise be on my lips . . .
every moment of my day!**

~~~~~

**Psalm 9:1**

***I will praise thee, O Lord,  
with my whole heart;***

***I will shew forth all thy  
marvellous works.***

***King James Version***

**by Public Domain**

**Copyright 2014 Revised 2021**

**Deborah Ann Belka**

## *Fruit Of The Harvest*

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22, 23 (KJV)**

**I love the whole idea of the harvest. Don't you? There is all that beautiful fruit, the veggies, and the grains. I enjoy seeing the fruition of all those things that grow from those tiny seeds. Just passing by a beautiful golden wheat field makes me happy. There is such goodness to see all over the place that started from little seeds and kernels!**

**Think about those fruits we consider fall fruits like pumpkins, cranberries, pears, and apples. Mmmmm! Pumpkin and apple pies make Thanksgiving a happy time. Pears cooked with cinnamon and brown sugar make a delicious fall dessert. And I don't know about you, but cranberry muffins in the fall make me smile. Even more so when there is a cup of coffee to go with one of those muffins.**

**I have been mulling over that fruit of the Spirit that we are to be known by as Christians. Occasionally it is hard to tell what is good and what is bad fruit. On the outside we can sometimes look so nice. We can say the right things in public. We can go to church. We can join in with the singing on Sundays. But then when we think nobody is looking, we honestly show what our fruit is really like.**

**Let's investigate and test the fruit that is in our *fruit garden*.**

## **1. IS IT FAVORABLE FRUIT?**

If we want people to enjoy a fruit pie or dessert we've made, then it has to have some flavor. Right? We can't have flavor without starting with some favorable fruit. Nobody wants a fruit pie that is made from rotten fruit. That fruit has to be pleasing or we won't desire it.

In other words, is our fruit good or bad? We want to be bearing that *good* fruit when it comes to the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We want our behavior and our speech to be favorable fruit.

We see what good fruit is in Ephesians 5:22-23. We need to bear love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control). All those are wonderful favorable fruits in a nutshell. Each one helps make our character Christ-like.

## **2. IS IT RECOGNIZABLE FRUIT?**

Sometimes I'll see a picture of a fruit online and I'll be like, is that an orange or a grapefruit? Or maybe it's hard to tell at the grocery store just because sometimes they graft different varieties of fruit together into one thing. It's then that I'm left wondering what it really is that I'm holding in my hand at the time.

I sure hope people recognize my fruit of the Spirit. I don't want love to look like selfishness or something. I have to make sure I'm displaying my fruit in the right way. Everything I do must be above board and above reproach. There shouldn't be any questions that the fruit I am bearing is good fruit and fruit that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said they will know us by our fruit (Matthew 7:16), so I want good fruit. I want people to recognize me as a Christian by how I act.

### **3. IS IT UNCOMPROMISING FRUIT?**

**I think of uncompromising fruit as that fruit that is just right. If it should be firm and crisp, then it is. If it should be a little softer when it's ripe, then it should be that way. You all know what a good fruit looks like. It's not straggly, limp, or rotten. It has flavor and all that goodness that makes it a nice quality fruit.**

**One thing that as Christians we can't compromise on is the Word of God. Staying in the Word helps us bear that strong and healthy fruit of the Spirit.**

### **4. IS IT IMPACTFUL FRUIT?**

**For fruit to make a difference in how it tastes in recipes, it has to be good fruit with good qualities. Don't you think? Our fruit of the Spirit has to pack a punch too. We have to leave an impact on the world. Just look again at what the fruits of the Spirit are. They are good things. And we can influence the world with the good fruit that we bear.**

### **5. IS IT TASTEFUL FRUIT?**

**Tasteful fruit is just that. It tastes good! For us that means that our behavior is good and appropriate for a Christian. Are we leaving a good taste on the world? How do others feel after we have spoken with them? Do they feel uplifted and encouraged? Do we make others feel loved by how we treat them? Do we encourage others with kindness? Are we sharing Christ with others by how we act and speak? All those things reflect back on how tasteful our fruit is as Christians.**

## FINAL THOUGHTS

We can see that all of these fruits of the Spirit not only make us better people when we grow them in our lives, but these fruits can hugely affect the whole world around us. All these things are needed for us to reach others for the Lord.

When it comes to harvesttime and my fruit of the Spirit, I want something to show. Don't you? I want to bear good fruit and have that good fruit on display.

Just look at what those next verses in Galatians say after it lists the fruit of the Spirit.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:24-26 (KJV)

It all boils down to dying to self and living for Christ. That's how we bear good fruit.

Fruit goes through a lot of checks and tests before we see it in our grocery stores. The quality, acidity, firmness, ripeness, color, and all those things are checked. Let's test our fruit and ask those questions that I mentioned.

1. Is it FAVORABLE fruit?
2. Is it RECOGNIZABLE fruit?
3. Is it UNCOMPROMISING fruit?
4. Is it IMPACTFUL fruit?
5. Is it TASTEFUL fruit?

I'm sure we all need to work in our *fruit of the Spirit gardens* a little more. We might need to prune out any bad fruit that we've been growing. We can't keep things around that block the growth of those good fruits. Gardening takes some weed pulling and there may be some selfishness, anger, resentment, or other things that are choking out our good fruit. That's when we have to get in there and pull weeds and prune.

Doing a little gardening will make room for Christ to shine in our lives. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit so our *fruit garden* will grow all that lovely fruit mentioned in Galatians. In the end we want to see good fruit in our gardens when it comes to harvesttime.

So, how's your *fruit garden* growing?

Copyright ©2023 Julia Bettencourt



Here is a wonderful idea, Enjoy!

### What is a Gratitude Jar?

Gratitude jars provide a simple way to cultivate the habit of being mindful of the good things in your life. Each day or week, you write down one thing for which you're grateful and put it into the jar where they collect as a reminder of the good things in your world.

(any jar will work, decorate it how you want to and at the end of the year, read back on all your written blessings and things you were thankful for each day!)



# *Happy Thanksgiving!*

*Wishing you all Gods greatest blessings for  
you and your families! You all are so  
important to us and even more so to God and  
His Kingdom! We are so thankful for each one  
and all you do for God!  
Much Love & Prayers  
Bro & Sis Mc Manus*



*Lord,* thank you for walking with us  
through the seasons of our lives.  
For the winter, when we are held safe  
in your arms through the darkness.  
For the hope of spring,  
as we are filled with new promise and life.  
For summer time,  
full of warmth and colour  
And for autumn days  
as leaves fall to seed new growth.

*You are always with us.*

*Amen.*