



YAU

Experiencing God

The Series

1/14 – Introduction

1/21 – God’s Spirit Lived Out

1/28 – Abiding in Jesus

2/4 – Receiving from the Father

2/11 – Walking with God

2/18 – Fruits of the Spirit

2/25 – Worshipping God

3/3 – Serving God I

3/10 – Serving God II

3/17 – Hoping in God

Groups

- **Brandon and Naomi** – Downstairs
- **Aubrey and Scott** – Gym Room
- **Michael and Claire** – Hallway Room
- **Erin and Beth (Women’s)** – Upstairs
- **Stuart, Allie, and Adam (Married)** – Main Level

Intro – Experiencing God requires that we put our eyes on Jesus...

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

Review – Last week we talked about a number of questions...

- What does it look like practically to walk with God?
- How do I allow the Holy Spirit to lead me?
- How can I get in the way of the Spirit's leading?
- What should I experience when the Spirit is leading?

Transition – Today we explore related questions...

- What is the evidence that God's Spirit is leading us?
- How does God's love flow through us?
- How can we care for people in real ways?
- What does it mean to show God's love?

As we are seeking the Lord and surrendering to the Holy Spirit's leading in our lives, He has fruits to bear in our lives for our good and His glory.

Bearing Fruit – The Bible contains a few lists regarding the Holy Spirit's role in our life. This includes the Fruits of the Spirit...

Fruits of the Spirit –

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

Holy Spirit Given – The things above are directed by God's Spirit, given by God's Spirit, and empowered by God's Spirit. Think about each fruit that is listed. What would/might your life look like both internally and externally with the Spirit bearing more of these fruits in your life? Can you imagine what it would be like to have more love...more joy...more peace...more patience...more kindness...more goodness...more faithfulness...more self-control! This is the work of the Spirit!!! There is a good reason why Paul starts the fruit of the Spirit with the fruit of Love. Let's look at some Scripture around this fruit...

Matthew 22 – ³⁴ *Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.* ³⁵ *One of them, an expert in the law, tested Him with this question:* ³⁶ *"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"*

³⁷ *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.* ³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.* ³⁹ *And the*

second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 Corinthians 13 *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

⁴ *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

⁵ *It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

Remember last week in Romans 8 at the end of the passage how Paul highlighted God's love:

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

The Lens – God is love. The most important command from the lips of Jesus is to love God and love people. All other things flow from this command to love. It is with this lens of love that we consider the fruits of the Spirit...

Galatians 5 – ²² *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

Transition – These fruits are under that larger, over-arching umbrella of love. Everything is connected to love. These are all ways to love God and love other people. Think about how these fruits will impact not just your heart but others around you?

The Big Picture – Jesus teaches us how to read the Bible. He tells us that when we read Scripture we are to look for how it all relates to love. What is God telling us about how to love Him and how to love other people well? As we experience, know, and grow in God's love we will want to give this love away and the other fruits of the Spirit to others because of the profound impact that it has on our own hearts and minds.

YAU – Look around the community here at Young Adults United. It is amazing to see people's servant's hearts and how you love one another so well. Look at how people show each other kindness – opening a door, carrying something in, preparing food, listening well, smiling and greeting, praying for someone,

encouraging them, remembering what someone shared and asking them about it, staying late to lock up, putting on worship music... The fruits of the Spirit are on display every week.

Small Group Discussion –

1. Read Galatians 5:22–23 again from the lesson. What fruits have you seen the Spirit manifest in your life?
 - a. What practical difference have those fruits made in your life as you grow in those fruits?

2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 again. Explain how we are to do this, not in our own strength and power, but in God's?
 - a. At the same time, explain how these things take effort and intentionality? How do we balance and not compromise that this is God working through us?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13 again, just verses 4–7, not from a perspective of feelings, but of actions...
 - a. What if someone said, "I just don't feel like doing these things. I think people should do these things for me. I don't want to fake it and just pretend that I love people." What would you say to that person?

 - b. What if someone said, "These things feel like big projects and such a hassle. I don't have time for all of this. I'm busy. Maybe sometime in the future I'm supposed to do these things, but not right now." What would you say to that person?

4. How do the fruits of the Spirit reflect the reality of who Jesus is in your life to the world around you? How has God used you because someone else noticed something "different" about how you live?