

Daily Devotion

The



Monday, 16 – Sunday, 22 June 2025

June 2025

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
22							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30						

The Agápē Fruit

Last week—in *Your Fruit Tells the Truth*—we gave thoughtful attention to what we are allowing to grow within us. A tree is known by its fruit. What takes root in the heart will inevitably show in the life. Jesus made this strikingly clear when He applied the principle to His disciples. At the Last Supper, He declared: “By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). Love is the fruit that identifies the true follower of Christ.



Francis Schaeffer put it memorably:

“Jesus gives the world a piece of litmus paper, a reasonable thermometer. There is a mark which, if the world does not see, allows them to conclude, ‘This person is not a Christian.’”

Paul echoes this in Galatians 5:22: “The fruit of the Spirit is love...” followed by eight attributes. It may strike readers—both in English and in Greek—as grammatically odd to use “is” followed by a list. But this is no mistake; it is a revelation. Paul is not describing many fruits, but one: **love**. All the others—joy, peace, patience, and so on—are expressions of that one fruit in different situations.

Love is the seed sown in the soil of our hearts, and love is the fruit it must produce. As Romans 5:5 tells us, “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

This truth is worth underlining: **it is God’s love to us**, not our love to Him. For years, I misread the phrase “the love of God” in the New Testament as referring to my love toward Him. But Paul clarifies only a few verses later: “God proves His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

The seed is love. The fruit is love. It must be love. So let us abide in His love, allowing it to shape every part of us—until our lives carry the unmistakable fragrance of His presence.

Adewale Adefuye
Ipswich
14 June 2025



Learn to Ask Questions

Isidor Isaac Rabi won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1944 for his discovery of [nuclear magnetic resonance](#), which is used in [magnetic resonance imaging](#). He was also one of the first scientists in the United States to work on the [cavity magnetron](#), which is used in microwave radar and microwave ovens.¹

He was once asked why he became a scientist. He replied: "My mother made me a scientist without ever knowing it. Every other child would come back from school and be asked, 'What did you learn today?' But my mother used to say, 'Izzy, did you ask a good question today?' That made the difference. Asking good questions made me into a scientist."²

We are responsible for our own learning and growing, and that means we can't afford to be passive. Learning works best when we stay curious, ask questions, and take an active role in understanding God's word. Questioning shouldn't stop when lessons end — it's something we carry with us throughout life. By thinking and staying open-minded, we give ourselves the best chance to grow, improve, and make sense.

¹ Isidor Isaac Rabi - Wikiquote

² Did You Ask A Good Question Today? | Aish

The Agápē Seed in Your Heart



Romans 5:5, BSB

⁵ ... God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.



In the *Parable of the Sower*, Jesus reveals how His Kingdom grows: **His Word is the seed, and our hearts are the soil.** When the message of the Kingdom is preached, seed is planted. But Scripture unveils an even deeper truth—**God doesn't just sow His Word; He pours out His very love into our hearts** (Romans 5:5).

If you are in Christ, this is not a hopeful guess or a distant promise. **It is a divine reality.** God has already flooded your heart with His love—unearned, unstoppable, and unconditional.



So, here's the question: *What will you do with this revelation?*

Will you let it lie dormant, choked by distraction or hardened by doubt? Or will you **tend the soil**—through surrender, worship, and obedience—so His love can take root, flourish, and bear fruit for His glory?



(i) What does it mean that God's love is **poured out** (like water) rather than merely given? How does this imagery change your view of His love? _____

(ii) If God's love is already poured into your heart, why might you still struggle to **feel** loved or **act** lovingly? (Consider obstacles like trauma, unbelief, or sin.) _____

(iii) What "containers" in your life (habits, relationships, thought patterns) limit how freely God's love flows **through** you to others? _____

Sit Quietly & Repeat



"Your love is poured out in me".

What doubts or joys surface? _____

Bring them to God.

Where No Plant Grew



Romans 5:5, BSB

⁵ ... God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.



This is a true story that made headlines in the UK in 2013. In 2006, Sue Bramley moved into a house in Forest Town, Nottinghamshire, with her daughter Sophie. For seven years, she lived there unaware of the home's dark past—until the garden began to whisper its secrets.

No matter what she planted—bedding flowers, lawn seed, even fresh turf—nothing thrived. A stubborn patch of earth refused to sustain life. Baffled, Sue eventually gave up and installed a patio instead. It became a sunny retreat where her family gathered for barbecues and lazy afternoons.

Then, in 2013, a tip-off led police to her door. They were searching for the previous owners, Patricia and William Wycherley, who had been reported missing years earlier. Beneath the patio slabs, officers began to dig.

Three feet down, they uncovered the couple's bodies—buried in the very spot where no plants would grow.



Just as Sue Bramley's garden bore a hidden corruption that choked life, our hearts may harbour things that hinder God's love from flourishing.



- (a) What hidden burdens within the heart could stifle the growth of God's love? _____
- (b) How does the Holy Spirit dig up what's buried—whether fear, hardness, or sin—and till the soil with grace? _____
- (c) What is required on my part? _____

Pray Honestly



Father, what hinders Your love from taking deep root in my heart? It might be painful but our hearts are open for the rocks of resistance to be broken; the poison of unforgiveness to be cleansed and the thorns of distraction uprooted. Our hearts are open to be cultivated until it overflows with life.

What Chokes the Seed?
→ Like toxic chemicals in soil, anxiety or materialism can suffocate God's love. (Matthew 13:22)
→ Unhealed trauma prevents roots from deepening. The "sun" of trials exposes what's beneath. (Matthew 13:5-6)
→ Resentment is like a contaminant—it poisons the soil of the heart. (Hebrews 12:15)
→ Just as the bodies under the patio defiled the ground, hidden sin blocks spiritual growth. (Psalm 66:18)

GIVING
as an act of worship
BEFORE GOD
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

3 ways you can give in



Transfer to bank account



EFGA Ipswich
Sort code: 60-05-16
Account: 18534082

In person cash or card



During our gatherings, you can
give in person.

Scan QR code



Givt

You're ready to give.
Scan this QR code with the Givt app.



The Agápē Fruit—The One Fruit of the Spirit



Galatians 5:22

²² But the fruit of the Spirit **is** agápē



At first glance, it might seem strange that Paul writes, **“The fruit of the Spirit is...”** and then gives us a list of nine traits. Shouldn’t it say, **“fruits are”**? But there’s no grammatical error here—just a spiritual insight waiting to be uncovered. Paul is not speaking of many fruits, but of one: **agape**, a love so profound that English struggles to contain it.

Yet we dilute agápē when we call it merely "love." We love God and we love chocolate. Agápē, however, speaks of something far deeper and richer: it is sacrificial, steadfast and selfless. It is the love that chose a cross. It is the love that does not waver with emotion but anchors itself in commitment and grace.



This is why I prefer to retain the word agápē—not to be clever or pedantic, but because no other word quite captures its weight.



(a) If English has multiple words for love (romance, friendship, affection), why do we settle for a generic term when Jesus modelled something far more radical—agápē? _____

(b) What if the reason the Church struggles to love like Jesus is that we’ve forgotten what **agápē** costs—and how unlike worldly love it truly is? _____

(c) If ‘agápē’ is the word God chose to define His very nature, shouldn’t we treat it as sacred—not interchangeable with fleeting human emotions? _____

Agápē is not something we produce by effort. It is the Spirit’s fruit—something that grows in us as we yield to Him. The seed is sown by God, and when it bears fruit, that fruit is unmistakably agápē-shaped.

Pray Honestly



Father, You have defined the fruit You desire to grow in us—nothing less than agápē will do. Apart from You, we can do nothing. Yet in Your mercy, You call us to yield to Your work within us. Your grace is enough—not our striving, but Your life flowing through us. Agápē is Your goal for us, and agápē is what You already possess. So, we rest in Your love, trusting that what You demand, You provide. Shape us completely—our thoughts, words, and actions—until agápē marks every part of who we are. We surrender to Your perfect work. Amen.

The Agápē Fruit—The Fruit That Proves Our Root



John 13:34–35 (BSB)

³⁴ A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Corinthians 13:13 (BSB)

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love.



Why do you think Jesus needed a new commandment when love was already part of God’s law? How does 'agápē' redefine what love looks like? _____



If you were asked to name the one unmistakable sign that someone is a follower of Jesus, what would you say? Church attendance? Sound doctrine? Spiritual gifts? Perhaps a strong prayer life?

Jesus gave a very different answer. From the outside looking in, He gave the world one litmus test—just one: **“By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you [agape] one another.”** (John 13:35)

It is the **defining fruit**—the one mark Jesus gives to distinguish His true followers.

Paul, echoing this truth, places love at the very heart of Christian life:

“Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Without love, faith is empty and hope is cold. Without love, our gifts, knowledge, and service are just noise.

In a noisy, divided world where everyone claims to have the truth, agápē remains the quiet but undeniable evidence of a life rooted in Christ. It doesn’t shout, but it speaks volumes. It doesn’t demand attention, but it draws others in. Agape is the fruit that defines us—not by our declaration, but by our demonstration.



- (i) Is agápē growing in me—not just as a feeling, but as a pattern of life?
-



Lord Jesus, You loved us with agápē—sacrificial, unearned, unshakable love. Let that same love grow in us. Teach us to love as You do. We want this to be the clearest evidence of our life. May our words, choices, and presence point people straight to You.

Growing the Agápē Fruit: The Patient Work of Spiritual Growth



Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is agape (BSB)

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew... (BSB)



Adam was created fully formed, but Jesus entered the world as a baby—and grew. This is God's pattern for us too. Spiritual maturity doesn't happen instantly. Like a tender sapling, agápē takes time to root deeply and bear fruit richly.



We often ask God to fill us with love. But according to Scripture, He already has.

(1) When we ask God to 'fill us with love,' are we ignoring what He's already given us? _____

(2) Are we waiting for a feeling of love—or walking in the reality of it by faith? _____

(3) How might our prayers & relationships change if we saw ourselves not as love's beggars, but as love believers? _____

Growth takes time. No farmer expects harvest the day after planting. Growth requires:

Sunlight — Regular exposure to God's truth (Psalm 119:105)

Water — The refreshment of prayer and the Spirit (John 7:37-39)

Good Soil — A heart softened to God's work (Matthew 13:23)

Time — Patient trust in God's timing (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Pray Honestly



The prayer we need is not “Give me more,” but “Help me yield to what You’ve already planted.”

As we cooperate with the Spirit, agápē begins to flourish—slowly, quietly, unmistakably.

Father, please show us how we can cooperate with your Spirit as your agape grows in us.

Saturday

21 June 2025

PAUSE

OBSERVE

REFLECT

Change—or growth—comes from acting on God’s word.

Jesus says, “**When anyone hears the message of the kingdom but does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.**”

James puts it more starkly, “**Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.**”

What am I thankful for in this week’s devotional? _____

What have I done this week in response to what I heard or read? _____

How do I understand what I have read and heard in the last five days?

Monday: _____

Tuesday: _____

Wednesday: _____

Thursday: _____

Friday: _____

What is God is telling me?

How does it make me feel?

Why? _____

Who can I discuss this with? see footnote _____

Declare boldly

I don’t want to deceive myself. I hear the Word; I read the Word & I do the Word.



Pray boldly: Father, I am Your child, I carry Your DNA. I am who You say I am, can do what You say I can do, have what You say I have. Your grace is sufficient for me 🙏

Life in the Kingdom of God was not designed to be lived in isolation. Did you know that most of the 'you' in the New Testament are plural? They are for 'all of you.' Check the 'one another's' in the New Testament. How many can you find? And what do they tell us?

GIVING
as an act of worship
BEFORE GOD
2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15

2 ways **you can** give in



Transfer to bank account



Elim Foursquare Gospel
Alliance
Sort: 60-05-16
Acc: 18558313

In person cash



You can give in person in our services. Look for the designated collection boxes, or feel free to reach out to any team member for assistance.

Sunday

22 June 2025

PLAN

and

DO

The blessing is in the doing. It's great to read and hear but the blessing is in the doing, acting on what is read and heard. Plan to do.

James 1:25

²⁵ However, the person who continues to study God's perfect laws that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's laws say. (GW)

²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (ESV)

What is God is telling me from this week's devotional?

What am I going to do about it -

Immediately? _____

In the next few days? _____

How can I be accountable?

Declare boldly

I don't want to deceive myself. I hear the Word; I read the Word & I do the Word.



Pray boldly: Father, I am Your child, I carry Your DNA. I am who You say I am, can do what You say I can do, have what You say I have. Your grace is sufficient for me 🙏