

LIFE CHURCH OF NEW JERSEY

FIVE-DAY DEVOTIONAL

FRUIT SALAD SERIES

FINALE — The Table Is Set

The Fruit Salad Is Finished — Now It's Time to Eat!

“Such As I Have, Give I Thee”

Acts 3:1-8 • Matthew 6:25-34 • 1 Kings 17:1-6 • Matthew 7:7-12

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How to Use This Devotional

Over the next five days, you'll walk through the last movement of the Fruit Salad series — the one the whole harvest was aiming at from Week One. We spent nine weeks growing the fruit toward God, toward others, and toward ourselves. This week we add the direction that makes sense of all nine: toward the world. Each day includes a scripture to read, a short reflection, a Digging Deeper section, questions to search your heart, a practical step to take with you, and a closing prayer. Space is provided for you to write. Take your time — fruit doesn't ripen in a hurry, and it isn't served in a hurry either.

Where We Are in the Harvest — The Full Bowl

TOWARD GOD	TOWARD OTHERS	TOWARD SELF
✓ Agapē — Love ✓ Charā — Joy ✓ Eirēnē — Peace	✓ Makrothymia — Longsuffering ✓ Chrēstotēs — Kindness ✓ Agathōsynē — Goodness	✓ Pistis — Faith ✓ Prautes — Meekness ✓ Enkrateia — Temperance

The Fourth Direction — Toward the World

Every fruit above has already ripened toward God, toward others, toward yourself. This week is not a tenth fruit to grow — it is what you do with the nine you already have. Silver and gold you may not have. But such as you have, give it.

DAY 1 Such As I Have, Give I Thee

READ

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

— Acts 3:1-8, KJV

REFLECT

Peter didn't have silver or gold, and he didn't pretend to. But he had something the lame man at the Gate Beautiful had never once been offered in all his years of begging: the actual, present power of Jesus Christ, alive in him. For nine weeks the Spirit has been growing nine flavors of fruit in you. That is not nothing. It is exactly “such as you have” — and someone near you is expecting to receive something of you, whether they know it or not.

DIGGING DEEPER

Notice where the miracle begins — not with the command, but with the look. “Fastening his eyes upon him... said, Look on us.” Giving the fruit of the Spirit to someone always starts with actually seeing them, not walking past them as scenery at a gate you pass through every day.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- Who has become “scenery” in my life — someone I walk past every day without truly looking at?
- Have I been waiting to feel like I have silver and gold before I give anything away?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Fasten your eyes on one person today you normally walk past. Look at them the way Peter looked at the lame man, and ask God what “such as you have” looks like for them.

PRAY

Father, I don't have silver and gold, but I have what Your Spirit has grown in me these nine weeks. Help me see the people I've stopped noticing, and give me the courage to offer such as I have. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2 Give Without Fear of Running Out

READ

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

— Matthew 6:25-34, KJV

REFLECT

There is a quiet lie that keeps fruit in the bowl instead of on the table: if I give this away, will I have enough left for myself? Jesus dismantles that fear with birds that don't hoard and flowers that don't spin — and are fed and clothed better than a king. The fruit the Spirit grew in you was never meant to be rationed. It was grown to be given, and the same Father who grew it is not finished growing more.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Greek behind “take no thought” (merimnaō) means to be pulled in different directions by anxious care — literally, to be divided. Anxiety about giving fractures the very wholeness (eirēnē) the Spirit grew in you back in Week Three. Peace and hoarding cannot occupy the same heart.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- *What fruit have I been rationing out of fear I won't have enough left for myself?*
- *Do I actually believe the Father who grew this fruit in me is able to grow more?*

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Identify one act of generosity — patience, kindness, forgiveness, encouragement — that you have been withholding out of scarcity thinking. Give it away today without keeping score.

PRAY

Lord, forgive me for treating Your fruit like a limited supply. You are not a Father who runs dry. Teach me to seek Your kingdom first and trust You for what I need after I've given. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 3 Fed at the Brook to Become Bread for Someone Else

READ

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

— 1 Kings 17:1-6, KJV

REFLECT

Before Elijah ever stood on Mount Carmel, God hid him at a brook and fed him privately, twice a day, by ravens nobody else saw. That has been these last nine weeks for you — your own Cherith. But Cherith was never meant to be permanent. The brook eventually dries up, and the very next word from the Lord sends Elijah to a widow's kitchen, where the man who was fed becomes the man who feeds (1 Kings 17:7-16).

DIGGING DEEPER

God chose ravens — unclean birds under the Law — to feed His prophet. The lesson: God is not limited to respectable, expected sources of provision, and He is not limited to respectable, expected people to send you to serve, either.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- *What has my private “Cherith” looked like these last nine weeks — the unseen feeding nobody applauded?*
- *Is there a sign my private season is ending and it's time to move toward someone else's need?*

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Think of one person who is running low — on hope, patience, provision, or peace. Ask God today whether you are meant to be the one who brings them bread.

PRAY

Father, thank You for the private feeding of these nine weeks. I don't want to build a permanent home at the brook. Send me to the kitchen where someone is down to their last handful. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 4 Ask, Seek, Knock — Then Be the Answer

READ

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

— Matthew 7:7-12, KJV

REFLECT

Somebody near you is asking, seeking, knocking right now, even if they'd never call it prayer. You have already received good gifts — nine of them, by name, over nine weeks — from a Father who does not hand out stones for bread or serpents for fish. And then Jesus hands you the serving instruction for everything you've received: do unto others what was done unto you.

DIGGING DEEPER

The Golden Rule sits at the hinge of the Sermon on the Mount — Matthew calls it “the law and the prophets,” the summary of the whole Old Testament ethic. It is not a stand-alone nicety. It is the command to actively reproduce, in someone else's life, every good thing God has already done in yours.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- Who around me is asking, seeking, or knocking in a way I've been too distracted to notice?
- Which of the nine fruits was I given first, and who is waiting to receive it from me?

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Do unto one person today exactly what you wish had been done for you in your hardest season — patience when you were slow, kindness when you didn't deserve it, faith when you couldn't see the way.

PRAY

Father, You have never handed me a stone when I asked for bread. Let me be the answer to someone else's asking today. Teach me to do unto others as You have already done unto me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 5 The Party, and I Brought the Fruit Salad

READ

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

REFLECT

Nine weeks ago this was a list you were learning. Today it is a dish you are bringing to a table. The party — your family, your job, your street, the whole asking, seeking, knocking world outside your front door — is already set. Everyone is bringing something. Some are bringing ambition, some cynicism, some exhaustion, because that is honestly all they have left. And you didn't come with silver and gold. You came with a fruit salad — nine flavors, cut up, ready to be passed around a table that is starving for exactly this.

DIGGING DEEPER

Fruit that stays whole in the bowl is only ever a centerpiece. Every piece of fruit in that salad was cut before it reached a plate. It is the same with what the Spirit grew in you — its flavor, its savor, its essence, is experienced by others only in the giving, the plucking, the shearing that giving requires.

SEARCH YOUR HEART

- *Looking back over the whole series, which fruit is the Spirit most clearly asking me to give away now?*
- *What would it look like this week to genuinely serve the fruit salad instead of just admiring it?*

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Name one person and one fruit. Write both down. Give that fruit to that person before this week ends — no explanation required, just the gift.

PRAY

Father, thank You for growing this fruit in me over nine weeks. Silver and gold I do not have, but such as I have, I give. Let my life be a fruit salad set on a hungry table, until everyone who tastes it tastes You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Nine Fruits — The Full Harvest, Now Sent Out

The series is finished, not so you could keep the fruit to yourself, but so you could finally have something worth serving. Go slowly through the full harvest below. In the last column, write one honest word: given, growing, or waiting to be given.

FRUIT	DIRECTION	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE RIPE	WHERE AM I?
Agapē — Love	Toward God	Decision-love that gives without earning	
Charā — Joy	Toward God	Gladness rooted in God, not circumstance	
Eirēnē — Peace	Toward God	Wholeness — nothing missing, nothing broken	
Makrothymia — Longsuffering	Toward Others	Long boiling point; fire under control	
Chrēstotēs — Kindness	Toward Others	Christlikeness with its sleeves rolled up	
Agathōsynē — Goodness	Toward Others	Gentleness with a spine; virtue that acts	
Pistis — Faith	Toward Self	Faithfulness others can build their life on	
Prautes — Meekness	Toward Self	Strength under control; power that serves	
Enkrateia — Temperance	Toward Self	Appetites, tongue, and reactions ruled by the Spirit	

A few closing questions before you set the bowl on the table:

- *Of all nine fruits, which one have I never once given away — only received?*
- *Who is the “lame man at the gate” in my own life — someone I pass every day, expecting nothing, offering nothing?*
- *What would change in my home, my workplace, my street, if I actually believed I had “such as I have” to give?*
- *Where is God sending me from my own “Cherith” to someone else's kitchen?*

A Closing Word

Fruit is grown, not manufactured — and it is grown to be served, not stored. If these nine weeks have felt more like striving than growing, go back to any day and remember: His goodness led you here in the first place, and it isn't finished yet. But if the fruit has ripened, do not leave it in the bowl. Silver and gold you may not have. But such as you have — give it. The fruit salad is finished. Now it's time to eat.