

**HOW DO YOU PLAN
TO IMPROVE?**

Top Resolutions

1. Get healthy

2. Get organized

3. Live life to its fullest

4. Learn new hobbies

**5. Spend less, save
more**

6. Travel more

7. Read more

**Could I get you to
consider something
much more important?**

**What about your
spiritual life and the
fruit of it?**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

If the “Fruit of the Spirit” is a measuring stick in the life of the believer, then how are you doing?

1. Love

**I don't think it is by
accident that love is
mentioned first.**

**Love is the greatest
virtue.**

1 Corinthians 13:13

**Now these three
remain: faith, hope,
and love. But the
greatest of these is
love.**

**Here we are talking
about “agape” love.**

-unconditional

-unselfish

-sacrificial

Perhaps the best way
to understand this is to
view God's love.

John 3:16 “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

**Remember that our
understanding of love
comes from God.**

**1 John 4:19 We love
because He first loved
us.**

Once you and I
understand where love
comes from, we are
commanded to then
live it out.

Matthew 22:36-39 “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.

**Romans 5:5 This hope
will not disappoint us,
because God's love
has been poured out in
our hearts through the
Holy Spirit who was
given to us.**

2. Joy

**Human beings seek
happiness.**

**The problem is when
we take this to far it is
hedonism.**

**The difference in joy
and happiness is we
don't seek joy. It is
something given to us
by the Lord.**

**When God is our
source of joy, we don't
spend all our time
searching for external
experiences to bring
happiness.**

Ephesians 5:18-21 but be filled by the Spirit: speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music from your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.

**What about the
example of Paul and
Silas?**

**Acts 16:25 About
midnight Paul and
Silas were praying and
singing hymns to God,
and the prisoners were
listening to them.**

**1 Peter 1:8-9 You love Him,
though you have not seen
Him. And though not seeing
Him now, you believe in Him
and rejoice with inexpressible
and glorious joy, because
you are receiving the goal of
your faith, the salvation of
your souls.**

**This joy is found in
Jesus and poured into
our lives by the Holy
Spirit.**

3. Peace

**-a state of harmony in
life and relationships**

**We live this out
particularly in the
Christian community**

**Understand though,
that peace does not
mean living without
conflict.**

**John 14:27 “Peace I
leave with you. My
peace I give to you. I
do not give to you as
the world gives. Your
heart must not be
troubled or fearful.**

**John 16:33 I have told
you these things so that
in Me you may have
peace. You will have
suffering in this world.
Be courageous! I have
conquered the world.”**

**This peace flows from
the Holy Spirit and is a
direct result in our faith
in God and His being
sovereign and in
control.**

**What can we do to help
this idea of peace?**

-rejoice

-pray

-think right

**Philippians 4:7 And the
peace of God, which
surpasses every
thought, will guard
your hearts and minds
in Christ Jesus.**

**So how are you doing
with the first three
fruits?**

