

Choosing to be Fruitful

(from Pastor Joe Turner's sermon on Feb. 15, 2015)

1. I choose Love (*agape*) 1 Cor. 13:4-7

To Love God and Love what He loves. Whether in word, deed or attitude I seek to be charitable towards others. No occasion justifies hatred or bitterness. My enemy is not comprised of flesh and blood. I will live forgiven and forgive others that I may live.

2. I choose Joy (*chara*) John 15:9-11

I seek to remain present to the reality of Jesus; all He has done, all that he is and all that he has promised to me. I will choose to see hardships as working for my good and difficulties as opportunities for God to reveal Himself.

3. I choose Peace (*eirene*) 2 Thess. 3:16

I will find refuge in the bigness of God and rest in the finished work of the cross. Knowing nothing can separate me from the love of God I will not fear the king of darkness but rather falling short of the awesome responsibility of representing Jesus well.

4. I choose Patience (*makrothymia*) Col. 1:10-11

I will accept people where they are at while encouraging them to grow. I will not be demanding where Jesus would be gracious. I will look for progress rather than perfection; I will not give up if things take longer than I think they should; and I will not leave if I am offended.

5. I choose Kindness (*chrestotes*) Col.3:12

I will be concerned with those I don't know because I know God is concerned, I will be attentive to the needs of others in regards to my resources, my words will edify and encourage and I will choose to bless others as I have been blessed.

6. I choose Goodness (*agathosyne*) Eph. 5:8-10, Phil. 4:8

I choose to be about the business of God; in finances, humor, entertainment, music and conversation. Seeking to not become bound by legalism nor to abuse the liberty I have in Christ.

7. I choose Faithfulness (*pistis*) Pro. 3:3-4

Today I will keep my promises. I will not let work keep me from my responsibilities at home. I will not let busyness keep me from time with the Lord. I will not hide behind excuses if the more truthful answer is out of convenience I chose not to be faithful.

8. I choose Gentleness (*prautes*) 1 Peter 3:15

I will be careful not to use any authority, influence or insight I have been given in a harsh, belittling or uncaring way. Where truth needs to be confrontational I will seek to do it in love.

9. I choose Self-control (*enkrateia*) Rom 6:18-19

I am a spiritual being – after this body is dead my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule what is eternal. My appetites, emotions, passions and desires will not rule over my spirit.