

# LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2025

## SERIES INFO

**Rotten:** In a world of fake smiles, quick tempers, and shallow love, we're all producing something. Every word, every choice, every action plants something in someone's heart—either life-giving or toxic. But the Spirit grows something different: love when hate comes easy, joy when life feels heavy, peace in the chaos, patience when you're pushed, kindness in a cruel world, goodness when nobody's watching, faithfulness when others walk away, gentleness in a culture that shouts, and self-control when everything says give in. That's not surface-level. That's transformation. And it might be the very thing that marks the difference between being ruled by the mess around you and being fueled by something greater.

## PERSONAL FUN FACTS

What's a small thing in your everyday life that you secretly *love* but others might overlook? (like the smell of rain or a particular sound)

## TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest “takeaways” you had from the message this week about the Holy Spirit producing the fruit of love within you?

## DISCUSSION

### Let's Talk Holy Spirit

**Scripture: John 14:26, Romans 8:11, 26-27**

The Holy Spirit is not an “extra” in the Christian life. He is God's very personal presence that lives in us, pouring out God's holy love, and shaping us into Christ's likeness.

- From a biblical perspective, how would you describe the Holy Spirit and what He does? (think in terms of how to communicate to a not-yet believer)
  - When you pray or think about the Holy Spirit, do you tend to think of Him more as a power or as a Person? Why would this matter?
- How does understanding the Spirit as being fully God shape the way we think about His role in forming the spiritual fruit of love in us?

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## DISCUSSION CONTINUED

### All We Need is Love

**Scripture: Romans 5:6-8, John 13:34-35**

Notice how central love is to the Christian life. It was said in the message this week that “love is the soil in which every other fruit grows.” Without love, none of the spiritual fruit can thrive. Love is foundational.

- What makes Christian love different from cultural definitions of love? In other words, what is the difference between loving as the culture defines it and loving as Christ defines it?
- Why is it important to understand that love isn’t something we just conjure up or work harder at, but something the Spirit grows in us?
- When have you experienced the love of God in a way that was so real it changed how you saw yourself and/or others?

### Love is Action

**Scripture: Matthew 22:37-39, Matthew 5:43-48**

The Holy Spirit can really form love in you, here and now. When love seems humanly impossible, the Holy Spirit’s living in you can make it possible. The Spirit empowers us to love people we couldn’t love on our own. The Holy Spirit’s goal in our lives is not just to make us “good people,” but to fill us with His holy love that reflects God Himself.

- In the above passage (Matthew 5:43-48) Jesus tells us, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” What does Jesus mean by that, given the discussion on the topic of love? (Hint: it doesn’t mean “flawless.”)
- In your own life, where do you see the Holy Spirit maturing your love? Where do you still resist allowing His love to fully flow through you?

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## APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

### Silent Reflection

- Think of someone who is easy to love (family, friend, mentor)
- Think of someone neutral (coworker, neighbor, acquaintance)
- Think of someone difficult to love (enemy, critic, group of people)

As you consider these three groups of people, notice how different your heart feels toward each of these. That difference shows where our love is still partial or incomplete.

### Take a Step This Week:

Jesus says, love matures when it extends even to our enemies. John says, “perfect love drives out fear.” What fears or barriers keep you from extending love to the third category of people above (difficult to love)? Pray for the Holy Spirit to pour His love into your heart for this person or situation.

## PRAYER

Holy Spirit, you are love poured into our hearts. Shape us into people of holy love, so that our lives reflect Christ in Word, action, and motive. Make our church be a community where your love is visible and powerful. In Jesus’ name, Amen.