

Take-Home · Session 5

The First Fruits: Love, Joy, Peace

What We Found

Works are plural, fruit is singular (Galatians 5:19-23): a mob of works against one fruit, a contrast Christians have long read as one life forming in the soul, the character of Christ.

Agape in 1 Corinthians 13 is portrayed through concrete, costly action far more than feeling: love wills the good of the other at cost.

Philippians, written from prison, returns again and again to rejoicing: joy is the settled gladness of belonging to God, and it can share a cell with suffering.

Christ's peace (John 14:27) is not circumstantial like the world's: it is right order with God, given on the night before the cross.

Voices of the Church

St. Thérèse of Lisieux · *Story of a Soul, Manuscript B, summary*

She found her place where Paul points: the Church has a heart, the heart burns with love, and her vocation was love itself. Charity is essential to holiness; every gift is meant to be used in love, and having a gift is not proof of holiness.

St. Philip Neri · *early biographies (Gallonio, 1600), tradition*

Holiness that laughed: his earliest biographers, beginning with Gallonio (1600), record the jokes that punctured his own reputation. Cheerfulness so cultivated disposes a soul to grace; it was more than temperament.

St. Augustine · *Confessions 1.1, summary*

You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. The application we draw: peace is a homecoming before it is a rearrangement of circumstances.

Live It This Week

This week's one thing. One clause of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 per morning, aimed at one specific person.

- Optional: When anxiety spikes, pray John 14:27 slowly instead of rehearsing the circumstance.
- Optional: One hidden act of love that cannot be repaid or discovered.

Memory Verse

Romans 5:5 · ...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Before Next Session

Read Colossians 3:12-14 and Luke 6:27-36. Next session: the fruits that make life together possible.

Scripture this session: Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a; John 14:27; Exodus 34:6; Philippians 4:4; Romans 5:5 · Catechism: 736, 1822-1829, 2304-2305