

Mary, an Example of the Fruit of the Spirit

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Introduction: What is “the fruit of the Spirit?” Can it be seen?

- A. The essence of a mature faith is seen in the fruit of the Spirit. **(Gal 5:22-23)**
 - 1. When a heart has this fruit, it cannot be corrupted by the poison of Satan.
 - 2. Please note it is fruit and not fruits. All nine attributes are present!
- B. Mary is a powerful example of how this fruit pleases God. **(Lk 1:28)**
 - 1. How was Mary to be “highly favored” and “blessed?”
 - 2. She was given a hard and difficult work. The world would not call this blessed!
 - 3. There is no greater purpose in life than to be used by the Lord for His glory.
(Phil 2:17-18)

I. God’s peace gave Mary contentment and fulfillment as a servant

- A. Mary completely identified herself as a “handmaiden.” **(Lk 1:38, 48)**
 - 1. Servant - δούλη, ης, ή literally *female slave, maidservant, slave woman*;
 - 2. When we know God, we find fulfillment in this very thing. Paul uses the same word to describe himself and others. **(Rom 1:1; Gal 1:10; Col 4:12)**
 - 3. A proud man could never find such fulfillment. Being a slave is “dangerous!”
- B. The peace of God is found by a complete surrender to God in faith. **(Rom 5:1)**
 - 1. Peace - "the harmonized relationships between God and man, accomplished through the gospel" (Vine’s Expository Dictionary)
 - 2. When we give up all as Jesus did then God can use us! **(Phil 2:6-8)**
 - 3. There is a powerful stand when our minds have been emptied of everything but God. We do not have to fear man or anything else. **(Phil 4:6-7)**
 - 4. Did Mary have a peaceful life? It depends on how you define peace! She had peace with God and His servants. The world was at war with her.
- C. What kind of parents did God choose for Jesus?
 - 1. While Mary and Joseph had these qualities, it is Mary who lived a long life.
 - 2. Mary was told of the searing pain she would experience. **(Lk 2:34-35)**
 - 3. A peaceful heart will stand in pain but also with joy. This is exactly the example Jesus set on the cross! **(Jn 16:32-33)**
- D. Where does a heart of peace go to be encouraged? **(Lk 1:39-40)**
 - 1. What do people of faith talk about when they get together? **(Lk 1:45-51)**
 - 2. Would we enjoy visiting others that had the peace of God first in their lives?
 - 3. When we no longer fear the proud but trust in God’s power and promises then we have found peace! There are many things that are not important!

II. Mary possessed a longsuffering that stood firm through great trials

A. What is longsuffering?

Longsuffering - μακροθυμία, ας, ή as a state of emotional quietness in the face of unfavorable circumstances *patience, long-suffering*; (1) as patience under trial *endurance, steadfastness* (HE 6.12); (2) as constraint exercised toward others *forbearance, patience* (2C 6.6);

B. Mary had to quietly endure some hard things.

1. She had to tell Joseph about her child and then wait for the Lord to inform him.
 - a. This was a test for Joseph too. **(Mt 1:18-25)**
 - b. At His birth they immediately had to flee to Egypt! **(Mt 2:13, 19-20)**
2. She alone had to raise a child that was very different than others.
 - a. We cannot fully understand the challenges this brought to her.
 - b. Likely Joseph died at some time before the ministry of Christ. This would have greatly added to her burden.
 - c. There were things that Jesus said in His ministry that would have challenged her. **(Mt 12:46-50)**
3. She had to overcome the obstacles to believe that He is the Son of God.
 - a. This was a struggle for the whole family. **(Jn 7:3-5)**
 - b. Some mothers do not react well when children differ among themselves.
 - c. Building a biblical faith has major roadblocks to overcome for all.
4. She had to watch Him die.
 - a. God through Simeon had warned her of this occasion. **(Lk 2:34-35)**
 - b. Could you have done this? **(Jn 19:25)**

C. Longsuffering is learned by those who know that God is in control.

1. There are many things we think we should take on and fix that we should give to God! **(Mt 11:28-30)**
2. A “lowly” person will gladly yield to God. Any fretters here today? **(Psa 37:7-9)**
3. How could Mary stand there and watch Him die? She knew the plan! She knew God and the power that He has!

III. Consider the blessings Mary received

A. She could know that she was a part of blessing the whole world.

1. She knew that the birth and rising of the Messiah would bless many.
2. She knew her role was only as a tool to be used. She was in the background!
3. Every Christian must have this attitude. We should praise Godly mothers.

B. She also could know that the example of her faith would bless others too.

1. Who would need to see and remember her faith the most?
2. She was successful here! What a blessing! **(Acts 1:14)**

C. She knew that she would continue to have the care of God.

1. Jesus made arrangements for her. **(Jn 19:25-27)**
 - a. John was blessed in this to.
 - b. Many consider their elderly parents a burden. **(1 Tim 5:8)**
2. Jesus will take care of all who trust Him. **(1 Pt 5:6-7)**

D. She was able to go to heaven.

1. Was it worth it? **(Rev 21:3-5)**
2. How many have quit because of pain and disappointments?

Conclusion: Do you want also to be a “handmaiden of the Lord?” **(Gal 2:20)**