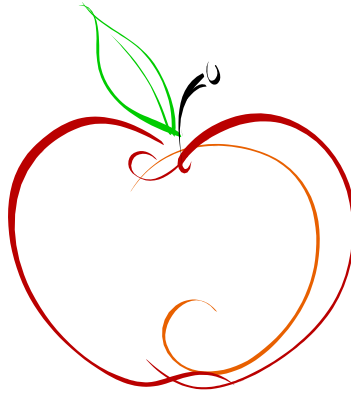


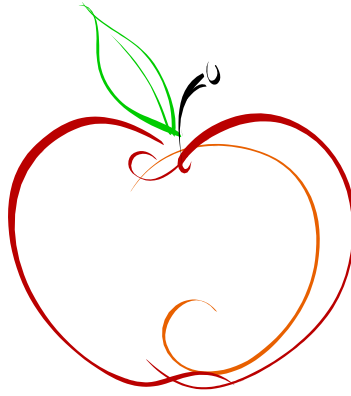


*Fruits of the Spirit
for the
Homeschool Mom*



Galatians 5:22-23

This eDevotional is dedicated to homeschool moms everywhere who are looking for more of Christ and less of themselves.



Galatians 5:22-23

LOVE.

It seems like such an easy word. Especially when it comes to being a mom. But, then why would the older women mentioned in Titus 2 be told to teach the younger women to LOVE their husbands and children? Maybe it isn't nearly as easy as we think. Or maybe we forget to love in a way that really means something.

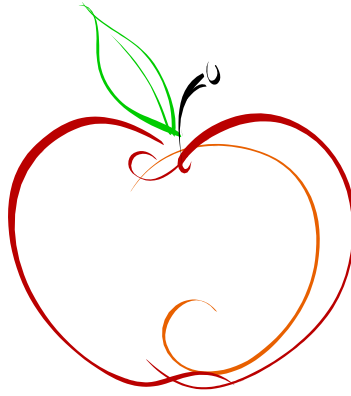
Homeschool moms are busy with so many things. We feel the weight of the world on our shoulders as we find ourselves responsible for not only our children's education, but their spiritual well-being, their nutrition, and their character training. We work diligently from sun up to sun down trying to be and do it all.

But all too often we forget to just LOVE them.

We forget to look in their eyes and smile. We forget to slow down and enjoy them. We forget how quickly this moment of our lives will vanish...how someday the title "homeschool mom" will fade into just "mom."

And what will they remember about those homeschooling years?

Let it be LOVE.



Galatians 5:22-23

JOY.

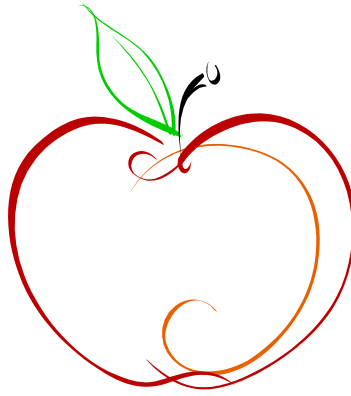
How can I not have JOY knowing I am saved from an eternity of separation from my God? Oh, but how quickly I let the daily grind overtake my JOY.

Does my family see a mother filled with the JOY of the Holy Spirit? Do they see a woman who is blessed beyond measure to be called one God's own children? Or do they see a dreary, worn out mother who never seems to smile? A woman without joy, whose grouchy ways hold them at arm's length?

Oh, Lord, let me be a woman filled with JOY because of You! Let me bask in Your Scriptures. Let me possess a JOY that overflows my heart and spills out onto my face. Let me walk in this JOY every day, all day so that my children see it in all I do.

And may I teach them why I have this JOY! May they know that it is only because of You, Lord.

Fill my life so completely with this JOY that I cannot help but be a JOYful homeschool mother!



Galatians 5:22-23

PEACE.

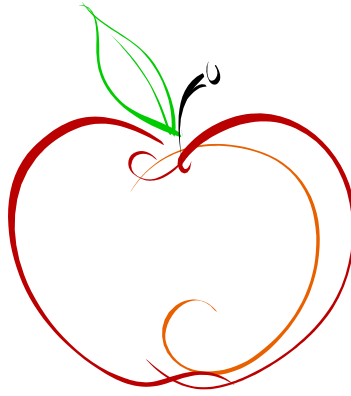
This house is full. Full of school books. Full of children. Full of noise. It's never quiet here. So, how can I ever find PEACE?

By realizing PEACE is not based on decibels, but rather on an inner quietness of spirit.

Your homeschool day can be PEACEful, even when it is loud and chaotic, because when you are walking in the Spirit. There is a calmness of heart and soul and mind that supersedes even the craziest of homeschool days.

Jesus is that PEACE and yes, it does pass all understanding. When people say they don't know how you do it, you don't have to come up with some formula because PEACEfulness isn't a formula...it is a Person.

Give your homeschool day to Him. Let Him guide your steps. With this submission to His will you will find PEACE because it stops being about you and starts being all about Him!



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PATIENCE.

It started with frustrations and ended in yelling. The PATIENCE of a homeschool mom is often worn thin by things as simple as a child who just does not get a math equation, or a rowdy toddler who keeps interrupting the school day.

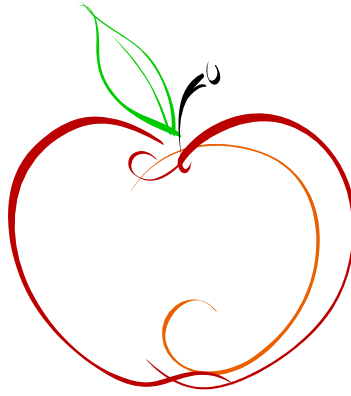
You wonder how much more you can take.

PATIENCE comes from knowing this isn't about you.

When you are walking in the Spirit and really digging deep into the Word, you find that God did not give you these children and these circumstances in order to frustrate you. He gave them to you as gifts...gifts to glorify Him!

If you start seeing that frustrated child or that silly toddler as blessings, you suddenly find the PATIENCE to deal with the human side of these gifts. They need you to point them toward Christ. They need to see you blessing and being blessed.

So, take yourself out of the equation, mama. Drink deep of the Word and breathe in the Lord's goodness. PATIENCE is yours.



Galatians 5:22-23

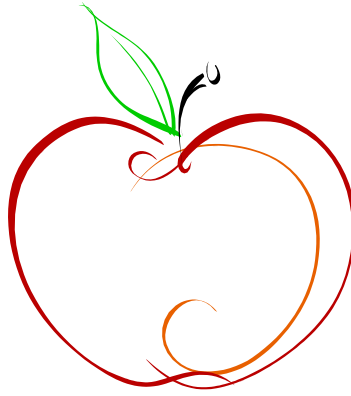
KINDNESS.

Why is it so easy to be unkind to those we love the most?

Our homeschool day should be steeped in **KINDNESS** toward our children and a desire to see that played out amongst the entire family. But it starts with us and our attitude.

KINDNESS is rooted in thankfulness. If we are truly thankful for all the Lord has blessed us with, then our lives will reflect that in everything from our speech to our actions. Our children need to see a mother with a thankful heart that shows **KINDNESS** toward them, their siblings, their father, other family members, and beyond. This can only happen if we are thankful for what the Lord has done for us and remember to keep Him at the forefront of all we do.

We reflect our Savior. His **KINDNESS** knew no bounds. May we show His **KINDNESS** in all we do.



Galatians 5:22-23

GOODNESS.

But, I'll never be good enough.

How many homeschool moms have felt like this? How many have felt as if they are failing and will never get it together? Most, I would venture to guess.

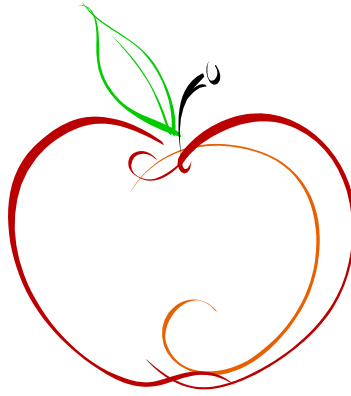
But **GOODNESS** isn't about being perfect. It is about doing the right thing, even when it is difficult.

It is about keeping your eyes on the prize and running that race even when you are tired and feeling alone.

It is about filling your life with the things of Christ so that when the going gets tough, you have the Everlasting Arms to lean on.

Others will see this **GOODNESS** in your life and it will afford you the opportunity to tell them about the God you serve and how He is mightier than anything you might "feel."

It is His **GOODNESS** you have. And that, dear mama, is all you need.



Galatians 5:22-23

FAITHFULNESS.

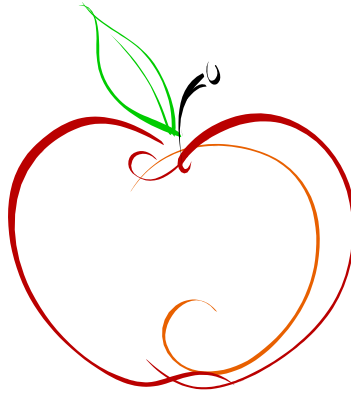
For the homeschool mom, **FAITHFULNESS** is at its best when she is at her worst. It is most evident in her life when everything seems to be caving in and homeschooling feels overwhelming.

It is where the rubber meets the road.

A homeschool mom's walk of faith becomes her anchor in the tough times. It is then that she sees the truth of her **FAITHFULNESS**.

We must hide God's Word in our hearts so that in those difficult times, we see the fruit of **FAITHFULNESS** shining through and we can cling to it.

One foot in front of the other, walking toward the Light, trusting and believing all of this is in His hands.



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GENTLENESS.

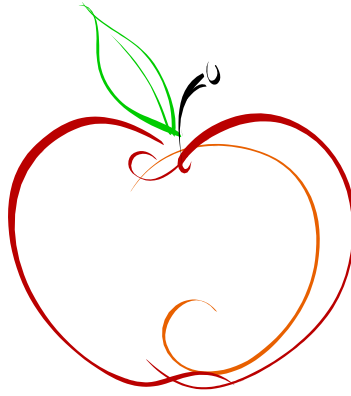
Oh, how I cry out to the Lord to give me a GENTLENESS toward my family!

In so many ways GENTLENESS is a culmination of the previous 7 fruits. It comes from a life lived in the Spirit with a desire to shine a light for Him. It comes because we are faithful and loving and because our hearts are turned toward Him.

We must give Christ reign over all our life. We must be so filled with His GENTLENESS and mercy that it cannot help but spill over into the lives of our family.

We will speak with greater love and kindness, we will show more tenderness and mercy, we will hold these precious little ones closer than ever before because we have seen God's hand in our own lives and we know how gentle and loving He is toward us.

May we always extend a hand of mercy and heart of GENTLENESS.



Galatians 5:22-23

SELF-CONTROL.

Oh what a way to finish this passage of Scripture. That one thing we humans tend to struggle with continually...SELF-CONTROL.

We must first realize we are not our own. We are His.

SELF-CONTROL isn't something we do for ourselves. It is something we do to honor and glorify Him.

We must root out things in our lives that are hindering our walk with Christ. Things that hold us back or keep us from being a living sacrifice must be eliminated.

SELF-CONTROL is realizing selfishness has no place in our lives.

What freedom we will find when we stop living for ourselves and start living a SELF-CONTROLLED life that seeks to serve rather than be served. It will revolutionize our homeschool day. It will change our lives.