

# Heavenly Fruit of Love

*"Give her the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates of the city!" Proverbs 31:31 Amplified*



## Number 64 in the series "God's Virtuous Woman"

All through this portion of scripture, I see God's heavenly fruit of love in this woman's life toward her husband, children and everyone with whom she came in contact.

When I was a young believer, I knew I needed this in my life. The Holy Spirit lead me to James 3:13-18 (NIV), which reads, *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."*

I find this scripture very convicting. I could see little or none of God's heavenly fruit in my life. However, there was an abundance of evil fruit in my life and marriage. I knew I needed help. Again, I was convicted, but praise God for His amazing grace. He did not condemn me. In fact, not only was I not condemned, He gave me hope. I could clearly see the sin I needed to repent of, how evil it was, and the damage it was doing in my home. God in His grace and mercy forgave me and started to help me bring about the changes I needed in my heart and life.

As I would daily read and obey the Bible, God gave me His wisdom for every situation in my life. Daily, He would show me areas of pride; as I repented, He would help me humble myself. He delivered me from all the bitterness, anger and unforgiveness I had toward my husband and taught me how to love and serve him in humility as Christ had served me. He cleansed my heart of envy and selfish ambition and filled my heart with peace and contentment.

Instead of being argumentative, the Holy Spirit helped me listen with respect to my husband and others and appreciate and learn from their points of view. The Holy Spirit taught me how to be considerate of others instead of only thinking of myself. He started to deliver me of being self-righteous and judgmental. He helped me show the same patience and mercy to my husband and others that Christ daily gave me.

The Holy Spirit daily worked on my rebellion and taught me the peace that comes from being submissive as Christ submitted to His Heavenly Father. None of it happened overnight, but I thank God for His amazing grace and patience toward me.

— Janice McBride

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