

The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.
--Saint Teresa of Calcutta

"This is very good 'business'! It makes people think. Sometimes they ask me to explain it. But you see, everything begins with prayer that is born in the silence of our hearts. **Among yourselves you can share your own experience** of your need to pray, and how you found prayer, and what the fruit of prayer has been in your own lives." --Saint Teresa of Calcutta

The Fruit of Silence is Prayer

Question: What is silence?

"Silence is not an absence. On the contrary, it is the **manifestation of a presence**, the most intimate of all presences."
--Cardinal Sarah, *The Power of Silence*, p 27

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. **Listening is the beginning of prayer.**" --Saint Teresa of Calcutta

"[The aim of all of the asceticism that accompanies prayer] is not to make persons and things disappear from view; rather it **purifies the relationship of the heart to all that exists**, so that the heart may be where its treasure--the Lord--is." --Jean Corbon, *The Wellspring of Worship*.

"Without noise, man is feverish, lost. Noise gives him security, like a drug on which he has become dependent. With its festive appearance noise is a whirlwind that avoids facing itself. Agitation becomes a tranquilizer, a sedative, a morphine pump, a sort of reverie, an incoherent dream-world. But this noise is a dangerous, deceptive medicine, a diabolical lie that helps man avoid confronting himself in his interior emptiness. --Cardinal Sarah, *The Power of Silence*

The Fruit of Prayer is Faith

Question: What is prayer?

"**Pray without ceasing.**" --Paul, 1 Thess. 5:17; "Pray always." --Our Lord, Luke 18:1

"We must remember God more often than we draw breath." --St. Gregory Nazianzus in The Catechism, ##2697

"When the Apostle tells us: Pray without ceasing, he means this: **Desire unceasingly that life of happiness** which is nothing if not eternal...Why he should ask us to pray, when he knows what we need before we ask him, may perplex us if we do not realize that our Lord and God does not want to know what we want (for he cannot fail to know it) but **wants us rather to exercise our desire through our prayers, so that we may be able to receive what he is preparing to give us**. His gift is very great indeed, but our capacity is too small and limited to receive it. That is why we are told: **Enlarge your desires....**" --St. Augustine, "A Letter to Proba"

"**The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of holy desire.**" --St. Augustine, Tract. 4: PL 35.

"Prayer **enlarges the heart** until it is capable of Containing God's gift of himself." --Saint Teresa of Calcutta

Analogies: *basso continuo* (Balthasar), money (Chautard), hunger (Our Lord), panting (David, St. Augustine)

"We believe, not because we see, perceive, deduce something true, but **because we desire something good.**"
--Josef Pieper, *Faith, Hope, Love*, p 37.

"...that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to **hold rather to the things that eternally endure.**" --The Mass, Preface II of Lent.

The Fruit of Faith is Love

Question: What is faith?

“The deeper our faith, the stronger our hope, **the greater our desire, the larger will be our capacity to receive that gift,** which is very great indeed. No eye has seen it; it has no color. No ear has heard it; it has no sound. It has not entered man’s heart; man’s heart must enter into it.” --St. Augustine, “A Letter to Proba”

“Our spirit should be quick to reach out toward God, not only when it is engaged in meditation; at other times also, when it is carrying out its duties, caring for the needy, performing works of charity, giving generously in the service of others, **our spirit should long for God and call him to mind, so that these works may be seasoned with the salt of God’s love,** and so make a palatable offering to the Lord of the universe.” --From a Sermon by Saint John Chrysostom

The Fruit of Love is Service

Question: What is love? How do you increase it?

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do **small things with great love.**” --Saint Teresa of Calcutta

“I do not agree with the big way of doing things. What matters is the individual. If we wait till we get the numbers, then we will be lost in the numbers and we will never be able to show that love and respect for the person.” --Mother Teresa

“The faithful should therefore enter into themselves and make a true judgment on their attitudes of mind and heart. If they find some store of love’s fruit in their hearts, they must not doubt God’s presence within them. **If they would increase their capacity to receive so great a guest, they should practice greater generosity in doing good,** with persevering charity. If God is love, charity should know no limit, for God cannot be confined.” --Pope Saint Leo the Great

“I have found the paradox, that **if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.**”
--Saint Teresa of Calcutta

“Man has places in his heart which do not yet exist, and into them enters suffering in order that they may have existence.” --Leon Bloy, from the Epigraph of Graham Greene’s *The End of the Affair*

The Fruit of Service is Peace

Question: What is service? What is peace?

“And I feel one thing I want to share with you all, the greatest destroyer of peace today is the cry of the innocent unborn child. To me the nations who have legalized abortion, they are the poorest nations. **They are afraid of the little one,** they are afraid of the unborn child, and the child must die because they don’t want to feed one more child, to educate one more child, the child must die.

...let us all pray that we have the courage to stand by the unborn child, and give the child an opportunity to love and to be loved, and **I think with God’s grace we will be able to bring peace in the world.**”

--Saint Teresa of Calcutta, “Nobel Peace Prize Acceptance Speech,” 1979

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; **not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**” --John 14:27.