

Sir Knights;

The month of June brings us the official beginning of summer. Many people will take their family vacations during the summer. It is, after all, a great time of year to get away and relax. For me, much of that relaxation will come on the back of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle, but I digress...

As we experience our natural summer, do not forget that we also have a spiritual summer. I recently read a devotion that talked about how we each walk through spiritual seasons: Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

We must learn to seize the joy of the season and cultivate our spiritual fruit; the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

How do we cultivate this fruit? The best way to do this is to remember to spend time with our spiritual gardener, our Heavenly Father, who is with us always. John 15:5 reminds us, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

As Knights Templar we should be setting an example for others on seizing the joy of the season and cultivating our spiritual fruit. Start each day with prayer and step out into the world demonstrating those qualities to everyone you meet.

Jesus taught us, both by example and through his words, to face the world in a different way than everyone else does. Sure, it may be challenging at times, but stand firm in your faith, ask God for guidance, and you will be surprised at the difference you may help to make in the world around you. Sure, that change may only be a small one. I'm not suggesting that our actions will change the world, but any positive change we make helps others. There is a song I like by the band Blackberry Smoke that says, "I may not change the world, but I'm gonna leave a scar" Let's follow our Lord's lead and leave a mark that others cannot help but notice. And remember, Jesus' apostles were few in number, but look at the change they made by following their faith.

So get out there and enjoy the season. And be the hands and feet of Jesus as you make a difference.

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