

**WOMEN IN THE WORD
OF
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**

THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED
Exploring the Father's Promise to Believers

Scripture Reference Notes
Lesson NINE

FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

March 21, 2023

We spoke just briefly last week about the fruit of the Holy Spirit and how producing fruit for the kingdom is the way we can tell we are allowing the Holy Spirit to control us and dwell in us richly.

Let's examine that passage of scripture a bit more thoroughly.

Galatians 5:22-23 from the Amplified version which gives a little deeper explanation of words and phrases.

“But the fruit of the (Holy) Spirit (the work which the presence within accomplishes) is love (agape), joy (gladness) peace (inward), patience (an even temper, forbearance, longsuffering) kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint) against such there is no law ((that can bring a charge).”

The word “but” at the beginning of the verse tells us there was something important before it. In Gal 5:19-21 is a long list of the deeds of the flesh. As we spoke last week, these things are in scripture to remind us that we are certainly capable of certain things even though we are believers. If we are not strongly connected to the Vine, that is Jesus and are allowing the Spirit to fill us with Himself we can become vulnerable to our flesh.

In His book “God in You” David Jeremiah says of this passage: “The Word of God paints a strikingly beautiful portrait of what a Christlike person looks like, acts like, and feels like when they walk around in the world. That’s what we have in the fruit of the Spirit. But don’t miss the context of this powerful passage. Just before the listing of this radiant, attractive fruit of the spirit, you have another list that isn’t attractive at all. In fact, it’s repulsive. What you have in Galatians 5 then are two opportunities, two options. You can live your life that way, or you can live your life this way. A person who isn’t filled with the Spirit and exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit will ultimately begin to live his or her life after the categories of sin listed here among “the works of the flesh”.

Galatians 5:19-21--“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Let’s focus more on the “fruit” of the Spirit. Accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.

Ron Hembree titles his book, “Fruit of the Spirit—the keys to a Christian Personality”.

I think that is a good explanation. These are the attributes we want to exhibit in our personality as a believer in Jesus Christ.

From Chuck Swindoll:

Some commentators divide these qualities as:

1. Inner attitudes sourced in God—love, joy, peace (upward).
2. Relational qualities expressed to others—patience, kindness, goodness (outward).
3. Personal qualities that guide individual conduct—faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (inward).

“The fruit of the Spirit in us is to be seen not as a collection of unrelated fruits that can be selected according to personal preference, but rather as a composite description of our lives. Our all-around behavior is the direct result of a relationship with the living Christ who indwells His people by His Spirit.” (Author unknown)

Swindoll goes on to say: “Beautiful fruit is the sign of a healthy tree. But fruit is wasted if it stays on the limb or vine. It is meant to be touched, picked, displayed, smelled, tasted, eaten. Literal fruit only pleases the palate and nourishes the body if it goes beyond the tree. Likewise, the fruit of the Spirit nourishes the body of Christ as we display it in our lives!”

WOW! That is an amazing statement.

The seed of a fruit bush or tree is put in the ground in order for it to grow, develop and mature. To do this, it has to be nourished and cultivated. In the same way, our spiritual fruit has to have the nourishment from the Word of God and the cultivation of the Holy Spirit in our lives through our sanctification in order to bear the fruit God intends.

John 5:8--"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Let's draw an analogy here:

1. Crops must have water.....We have the “living Water of the Holy Spirit” in our lives. Jesus promised His Spirit to help, comfort, teach and support us forever.

John 4:10---Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

John 4:14---"But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

2. Crops need sunlight---Jesus said of Himself, “I am the Light of the world”. We cannot survive or flourish without His light in our lives.

John 8:12--Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

3. Crops need tilling.... we must plant seed in good soil where the roots can take hold and eventually produce good fruit in our lives. That good soil is what God provides for us through His Word.

Matthew 13:23--And the one on whose seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

4. Crops need drainage...this carries off the things that are not beneficial to the plant and keeps it from being overcome by the wrong nutrients. Staying connected to the Vine (Jesus) protects us from taking the wrong things into our lives.

I Peter 1:7--so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

5. Crops need pruning...this is a necessary process in order to cut away the useless stuff that can stunt the growth of the plant. The Lord prunes disciplines those whom he loves that is us, His children.

Hebrews 12:5-9--and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

So here is our list of fruit of the Holy Spirit:

Love—I John 4:7-11, John 3:16, I Corinthians. **GOD IS LOVE**
Joy---Nehemiah 8:10, Hebrews 12:3, James 1:2. **JOY/ SACRED DELIGHT**
Peace---Phil 4:6-7, Psalm 46:10. **FROM THE PRINCE OF PEACE**
Kindness---II Samuel 9, Titus 3:4. **FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS**
Goodness---Psalm 21:3, Psalm 100:5, Psalm 23:6. **ONLY FROM GOD**
Faithfulness—II Chronicles 20:1-30, Hebrews 11. **BUILT UP WITHIN**
Gentleness—I Thess 2:5-8. **MEEKNESS AND HUMILITY**
Self-control—I Samuel 26. **SELF DISCIPLINE**

You can take the time in your private study time to meditate on these scriptures for yourself. I am sure you could find many more applicable verses as well.

We know what NOT to do according to Galatians 5 and we also know what the Holy Spirit wants to do in each of us when we allow Him to fill our lives with His presence.

Romans 7:4-6--Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

This fruit filling allows us to **WALK IN THE SPIRIT** and not in our flesh. We slightly touched on this last week. Let's talk about what does it mean to "walk in the Spirit"?

TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT MEANS TO LIVE EACH AND EVERY DAY IN COMPLETE DEPENDENCY UPON THE LORD.

The Lord does not want us to "power through" our lives. Or to continually "pull ourselves up by our boot straps". What HE wants is our surrender and complete focus on HIM as our source of strength and power.

Jeremiah says: “The truth is, it’s not an issue of determination at all, it is an issue of dependence. It’s not trying, BUT it is trusting.”

Galatians 5:16-18--But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

David Jeremiah in “God in You” explains there are many scriptures talking about a Christian’s walk. Here are some he lists:

1. We’re to walk in good works. Ephesians 2:10—For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
2. We’re to talk properly. Romans 13:13-14--Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.
3. We’re to walk by faith. II Corinthians 5:6-7—Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight.
4. We’re to walk in love. Ephesians 5:1-2—Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering, and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
5. We’re to walk as children of light. Ephesians 5:7-9—Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth).
6. We’re to walk worthy of the Lord. Colossians 1:9-10—For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His

will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

7. We're to walk as Jesus walked. I John 2:3-6--By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
8. We're to walk worthy of our vocation. Ephesians 4:1-3--Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Billy Graham says in his book on the Holy Spirit---"It is no accident that the Scriptures call the Third Person of the Holy Trinity the *Holy Spirit*. One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to impart the holiness of God to us. He does this as He develops within us a Christlike character—a character marked by the fruit of the Spirit. God's purpose is that we would "become mature, attaining the full measure of perfection found in Christ". (Ephesians 4:13 NIV).

SO WHAT?

Life can be very hard on planet earth. We all have difficulties, and trials and it can be no fun. We have personal struggles and then those of our family and ones we hold dear to us. The suffering can certainly overwhelm us if we allow it to.

BUT GOD has given us all we need to live out this Christian life here on planet earth.

II Peter 1:2-8---Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has

granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We should be greatly encouraged by these words of Paul. We have all we need. And then GOD even sent us a “Helper”, His Holy Spirit to walk with us every step of the way. We are not orphans, but daughters of the most High God. God has set us up for success. We are meant to be conquerors in the name of Jesus. We are ambassadors for the King of Kings.

II CORINTHIANS 13:14-----The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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Read Galatians chapter 5.

1---List the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

2---Read I John 4:7-16. Where does love originate?

3---Because God is love, what do we know about those whose lives exhibit love? Does this describe you?

4---Is Joy dependent upon circumstances? If not, what is source?

5---How is Christian joy different from the happiness we get from special moments in our lives?

6---Are fear and peace opposing forces? Explain

7---What role can adversity play in developing peace in your life?
(Phil 4:6-7)

8---How can a deeper appreciation for God's patience in your life help you to be patient with others?

9---Define kindness. Think of people who have been kind to you. In what way have you benefited from their kindness?

10---Read Psalm 14:3, Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19. According to these verses, where does "good" come from? Who is "good"?

Our society is becoming increasingly self-absorbed. People quickly discard spouses, children, friends and promises when they get in the way of a personal goal or plan. Faithfulness seems to apply to only one person...self. However when the Holy Spirit develops His fruit in us, the results can be quite different.

11---How has God been faithful in your life?

12—How does the Lord’s faithfulness to you in your past give you confidence He will still remain faithful?

13---How can you exhibit being a faithful person in your Christian walk?

14—Describe the most gentle person you know?

15—Do you possess those characteristics as well? Is there work to be done?

16—We would of course say that Jesus was a gentle man. How then do we reconcile when He would scold the Pharisees and call them names and when He turned over the tables in the temple? (Mark 11:15-16, Luke 19:45-46)

Some of us might say let’s skip the discussion on “self control”. However we must continue to remind ourselves that these traits (fruit) are not what we are expected to develop on our own. If you have tried you would agree that it can be a very frustrating experience.

This is why the Father gave us this miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit to indwell us and fill us and guide our lives.

With HIM all these things are possible. We can become that person who is like Christ and reflects His glory.

17—Ask yourself if you can allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in you and then step back and watch Him do it.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you with that one (or two) fruit that you struggle with the most. Remember it is HIS work!