



## The Promise of the Spirit

### Part 3

April 25, 2021

Today I will be continuing our study while we seek to address and expound upon the Promise of the Spirit. Over the past few weeks, Pastor Beck and I have taught many things to push us to grow in our understanding of the Biblical Narrative as well dispel any misconceptions or misunderstanding concerning the Holy Spirit.

And I, over the past two Sundays, have specifically addressed some very detailed points: The Power of the Holy Spirit is Essential to our function as Christians, Quintessential to our development as follower of Christ, as well as fact that the Holy Spirit is a triune part of the God Head.

We further discussed how the Holy Spirit was involved in the creation story, was involved in the creation of the First Adam, was involved in the creation of the Last Adam (Jesus), as well as the Holy Spirit's involvement of the recreation of you.

But in all of this, the one point that we must reconcile ourselves with is that Jesus placed a major emphasis on Fruit above Gifts. Notice with me the passage of Scripture found in **The Gospel of Saint John 15:1-8** declares, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, (NOTICE THAT IT DOESN'T SAY "BEAR GIFT") and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.<sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

Notice the last verse in this passage of scripture, noted in verse 8, "<sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

It would seem to reason, conferring to the Words of Christ, that Jesus is more concerned with your fruit validating your discipleship under His headship than He is your manifestations of Spiritual gifts... Jesus did not say, “By this my Father is glorified, that you speak in tongues and prophecy and cast out devils and so prove to be my disciples.” As a matter of fact Jesus addressed a very similar dichotomy found in the **Gospel of Saint Matthew 7:21-23**, “<sup>21</sup> Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Notice that Jesus annotates in what way “Christians” on the day on judgment will seek to vindicate themselves from being cast out into Hell by their manifestation of Spiritual Gifts. Did we not prophesy, did we not cast out devils, did we not do mighty works in your name? Jesus in The Gospel of Saint Matthew 7 and The Gospel of Saint John 15 is giving us a tremendous insight into His view of His disciples; He is more concerned with your fruits than He is gifts... Remember the Words of Christ in John 15, “<sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

If we want the world to believe that we are followers of Jesus then the Fruit of the Spirit of Christ must be self-evident in our daily lives and not just on Sunday. The manifestation of Fruit in our lives should be our greater focus as Christians than the Gifts that we seek to demonstrate; to bear much fruit and thus prove that you are His disciples. So with that said, Point #1...

## 1. The Fruit of the Spirit is the Character of Christ

Notice the second half of verse 5, “Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” Apart from me you can do nothing... It is the Grace of God manifesting by the Spirit of God that we have now become partakers of Christ therefore, if we are in Christ, we will bear fruit that validates our conversion!

Notice the last verse of this passage of text found in verse 8, “<sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” It is the Fruit of the Spirit that we can easily ascribe to the character of Christ thus if we are the branches and He is the vine then we should demonstrate the character of Christ in the Earth by the Power of the Holy Ghost! Notice how Paul delineates between the Fruit of the Flesh versus the Fruit of the Spirit...

Galatians 5:16-26 ESV, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the

works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

And we dishonor Christ and His Church when we claim to be One with Christ but have no fruit; no character of Christ that we are manifesting into the earth! The Fruit of the Spirit is the Character of Christ and the Gifts of the Spirit is the Power of Christ! But far too many of us are consumed with His Gifts but do not bear His Fruit.

We are more concerned with the Works of His Hands than we are the Content of His Heart! It is our Character in Christ that positions us for the Gifts of Christ to be made manifest in such a way that they are received; if you have not the Character of Christ then you are undeserving of being received from when it comes to Spiritual Gifts.

But not only is the Fruit of the Spirit the Character of Christ, Point #2...

**2. The Fruit of the Spirit is the Ultimate Demonstration of the Born Again Experience!**

Say it with me, **“The Proof is in the Fruit!”** Notice with me verse 23 found in Galatians 5:23, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”** The Apostle Paul is seeking to get us to understand that there is no Law prohibiting us from walking in the Spirit but there is a law that prohibitive of us living our lives without restraint and in the flesh.

You cannot run with the Devil and claim to walk with Jesus; the Proof is in the Fruit. “Well only God can judge me!” The Proof is in the Fruit. The truest form of hypocrisy is claiming a title with a life that doesn't bear the fruit of the Title. You cannot say you are a spiritual person but then perpetually live and demonstrate the fruit of the flesh. You are either going to live in the Flesh or live by the Spirit but you can't live in both.

“Well Pastor you are being legalistic... I'm no longer under the law but I'm under grace. Jesus loves me and knows I am a sinner so He makes allowances for me because no one is perfect...” Ok, so let's analyze that viewpoint for a minute... What does the Bible have to say about that perspective?

In my opinion, one of the scariest and most sobering Scriptures in the entirety of the Bible is found in **Hebrews 10:26-31**, **“<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> How much worse punishment, do you think,**

will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? <sup>30</sup> For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.” <sup>31</sup> It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Many of our lives do not bear the fruit of the Spirit because we do not allow the Holy Spirit to prune our lives. Remember the words of Jesus in verse 2, “...and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” And for us to claim that we are followers of Christ, we must bear fruit and submit to the Pruning of the Father by the Holy Spirit or we will not bear fruit unto Righteousness; thus being cut away from the Vine. But not only is the Fruit of the Spirit the Ultimate Demonstration of the Born Again Experience, point #3...

**3. The Fruit of the Spirit unlocks the door to the lives of people to receive the Gifts of the Spirit!**

Allow me to draw your attention to 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 and we will continue into 1 Corinthians 13...

1 Corinthians 12:27-31, “27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work

miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-13, “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,[\[a\]](#) but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

So with this passage of text read, what can we glean from the Apostle Paul’s insight and directives? First off, if I have no fruit, my gifts are powerless to impact others because they won’t be received.

(REPEAT)



Notice verses 1 and 2 of 1 Corinthians 13, **“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”**

Notice the repetitive phrase of “have not love”; simply put, if I have no fruit, my gifts are useless. If I have no fruit, my gifts are nothing more than clanging cymbals and noisy gongs that don’t empower people, they annoy people. I’m simply making noise and not making an impact. It is our Fruit that must precede our Gifts; if we seek for our Gifts to precede our Fruit then our gifts will never be received. The **Book of Proverbs 18:16 records, “A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.”**

But allow me to parenthetically insert a thought here; your gifts may make room for you and bring you before the great but it is your character that will keep you in the room. It may be your gifts that unlock the door but it is your character, your fruit, that will usher you into the room to establish you.

Your Fruit Matters because without fruit, your heart is powerless to love those you are trying to reach. Your fruit makes your gifts palatable and without fruit, your gift will not be received. And if you want your Gifts to be received in this House, then you need to have some Fruit to show or I will refuse to allow your Gift to be positioned in a place of authority in this Church or in one of our services because I am more concerned about your fruit than I am your Gifts. Your Fruit positions your life to impact the lives of people; not your gifts.

## Altar Call:

- Those who need their lives pruned by the Holy Spirit
- Those who need the Holy Spirit to help them to have the Fruit of the Spirit in their lives