



## Fruitful

### Part 1

May 5, 2024

The Book of Galatians 5:16-26, <sup>16</sup>“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

What does it mean to be fruitful? Concerning matters of the Faith, how do we go about developing not just a powerful life but a fruitful life as well? The Apostle Paul, in Galatians chapter 5, provides for us a clear distinction that separates Flesh from Fruit. Friends, there is a clear dichotomy between sin and sanctity, flesh and spirit, faith and failure.

With that said, why is the Fruit of the Spirit so important? As Pentecostals, I fear that we put a tremendous amount of focus on the Gifts of the Spirit at the forfeiture of the Fruit of the Spirit. Why is the Fruit of the Spirit just as important as the Gifts of the Spirit? Just as there are 9 gifts, there are 9 fruits and there is a requirement that each of the gifts and the fruit work in conjunction together as power twins; as it were you can't have one without the other.

The Fruit is the Proof of the Power of the Holy Spirit being in our Lives; Simply put, the Gifts are the Power but the Fruit is the Proof! And we must find balance in these...

**1. When our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand that the Gifts of the Spirit may be the Power of Christ but the Fruit of the Spirit is the Character of Christ!**

- a. According to the Scripture, there is no Law or standard that seeks to prohibits us from Walking in the Spirit but there are laws or standards that do seek to prohibit us from living in the flesh.
- b. We must understand that we cannot say that we are spiritual and yet be found guilty of perpetually living and demonstrating the fruit of our flesh. A momentary failure is for a moment but a perpetuating habit flows from an unrepentant heart!
- c. Paul instructs us in verse 21, **“I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”**
- d. Church, you can't claim to be the King's Kid and yet live in rebellion like His enemy! We can't claim to be a follower of Jesus and yet subject ourselves to the whiles of Satan!

- e. “Well Pastor, I’m no longer under the law but I’m under grace.”  
Ok, so let’s dissect that perspective for a moment... What does the Scripture bare out regarding that viewpoint and statement?
- f. The Book of Romans 6:1-2, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” Friends there is a holy standard prescribed in the Holy writ!
- g. The Book of Romans 6:14-15, “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”
- h. Friends, the Grace of God is defined as the Power of God being poured into your life to subject our flesh and not unfetter it. Grace doesn’t alleviate Christ’s righteous requirement, it elevates it while at the same time giving us the Power of the Holy Spirit to meet the expectation.
- i. Romans 12:1 in the NKJV records, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*”

- j. Church family, the Scripture's expectation of us to live according to the Word and bear the Fruit of the Spirit is our reasonable service; it is NOT an unrealistic expectation.
- k. Remember today that when our lives become Fruitful in our Faith, we understand that the Gifts of the Spirit may be the manifestation of the Power of Christ but the Fruit of the Spirit is the Character of Christ!
- l. We can't claim His Power and not manifest His Character! That is the textbook definition of hypocrisy! Point #2...

## 2. When our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand that the Holy Spirit is always Truthful but is Never Rude!

- a. Now before I go any further, let me make one point abundantly clear: The Anointing is NEVER Rude. Period.
- b. You can't claim to be anointed and be ugly to people. And there is a fine line between being truthful and being hateful.
- c. 1 Corinthians 13:1-2, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>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."

- d. Friends the Method is just as important as the Message and if your heart is not right then your anointing will be polluted. Far too many claim to have the Spirit of Truth but it's actually a Spirit of Maliciousness; you're just messy.
- e. Note the words of the Apostle John in 1 John 5:6-8, **"<sup>6</sup>This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup>For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup>the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree."**
- f. Notice that the Apostle John makes it clear that it is the Spirit that is the Truth. Therefore, Truth being ministered by the Power of the Holy Spirit through the life of a person who has the Fruit of the Holy Spirit self-evident is the only way truth will be received.
- g. The Fruit of the Spirit being known and visible is the only effective means by which we partner with the Holy Spirit to impact the world around us.
- h. Someone who walks in the Spirit of Truth must be in partnership with the Truth and when we are in the Spirit, our audience will know it; when are in the flesh, our audience will know it. Friends, nothing outweighs tenure of faithfulness to the things of God!

- i. Remember today that when our lives become Fruitful in our Faith, we understand that the Holy Spirit is never Rude but it is always Truthful! Point #3...

### 3. When our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand that the Fruit of the Spirit is Meant to be Produced and Consumed; Not Hidden!

- a. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit facilitates two specific things:
  - i. It Feeds and It Seeds
- b. The Gospel of Saint John 15:4-8, <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.”
- c. Jesus expects us as His Disciples to bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit and by this Fruit of the Spirit is the Father glorified!

d. And with that said, the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is the Byproduct of Correction. The pruning process of the Spirit of God in our lives is due to the fact that we can all be more fruitful in Him that Loves Us!

e. Note verse 2 in this passage of text, “<sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

f. Friends, the Pruning Process is worth the Fruit to follow! (Teach)

- i. Potted or Planted?
- ii. Dug up or Disgruntled?
- iii. Pruned or Puny?
- iv. His Will or Weird?
- v. His Word or your feelings?