

## Fruit of the Spirit

- Many people continue to seek the power and manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit, but they do not place a priority on the call of every believer to a holy life. Our desire should be to have Christ-like qualities through the supernatural power with the edification of the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Regardless of what anyone says, God still frowns on sin and has called us to be conformed to the image of His Son.
- We must remember that gifts are given, but spiritual fruit is developed. The fruit of the Spirit comes to us when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior; however, it only comes as a small seed which must be nurtured and developed in our lives (or watered) through prayer, by reading the Word, and by putting faith into action.
- If Christ is in us, then we should be Christlike. The fruit of the Spirit is the display of the character of Christ. It is His presence within us that enables us to develop the spiritual fruit in our lives.

It is interesting that the Bible both begins and ends talking about fruit.

*"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat'..." --- **Genesis 2:15-16***

*"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."*

--- **Revelation 22:1-2**

### God's Divine Purpose

God's divine purpose for your life is for you to bear spiritual fruit. Your relationship to Jesus (Yeshua) is described in **John 15:5** in this way, "He is the vine, and we are the branches."

Again in **John 15:16** the Bible declares, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

In order to bear this fruit, you must be planted and properly rooted spiritually:

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper"*

**Psalm 1:1-3.**

If you want to bear spiritual fruit, then you must reject sin, walk in holiness, and delight in God's law. You must also be planted in the house of God - connected to the Body of Christ.

**Hebrews 10:25** tells us not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" and **Psalm 92:13-14** tells us that:

*"Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing..."*

## A Supernatural Process

Bearing fruit is a supernatural process. Jesus produces the fruit and we bear it. The Father is the divine gardner who supervises the process:

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth (prunes or refines) it, that it may bring forth more fruit."*

--- **John 15:1-2**

The purging process is one that many Christians reject because when they go through difficulties in their lives they always think that the devil is attacking them. God prunes productive plants for the same reason a farmer prunes - to produce more fruit.

Jesus' parable of the barren tree in **Luke 13:6-9** illustrates how God works continually and patiently with the unproductive to produce fruit.

*"A certain young man who had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, 'Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it in the ground'? And he answering unto him, 'Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down'."*

## The Nine Fruit

The book of Galatians identifies the Christ-like qualities that God wants to produce in our lives: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." --- **Galatians 5:22-23**

Notice that the "fruit" of the Spirit is singular (not plural), for there is one fruit revealed in nine separate supernatural manifestations.

Peter wrote, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" **// Peter 1:8.**

We are "filled with these fruits of righteousness only by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God." **Ephesians 5:9**

<b>The 1st three fruit focus on your relationship with God.</b>
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<b>The 2nd three fruit focus on your relationship with others.</b>
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<b>The final three fruit focus directly on the individual.</b>
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## Discerning One's Fruit

Believers beware! There are many people out there wearing sheep's clothing and are "prophesying" by using divination. These people may "appear" to be holy; have their Christian bumper sticker; and know all the right phrase like "Amen," "Hallelujah," "Glory to God," and "Praise the Lord!" but watch out -- they might just be ravening wolves.

As Jesus said, "You will know them by their fruits," so watch them carefully. If these people display the fruit of the Holy Spirit, you can be assured that they are "good trees"; and if they don't, there is a good chance that they are "corrupt trees" in need of God's saving grace.

Jesus says in **Matthew 7:15-20** and **Matthew 12:33** :

*"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."*

*"Either make the tree good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt; for the tree is known by his fruit."*

## Closing Statement

These nine manifestations of the fruit of the Holy Spirit will enable you to eliminate spiritual barrenness, to escape the corruption of the world, and to become partakers of the divine nature of God

**II Peter 1:4-8.** Therefore, keep developing the fruit of the Spirit and the character of Christ in your life. Not only will it cause you to grow spiritually, but it will be a powerful witness to unbelievers as well.

## The “9” In Definition

### LOVE

The first of the manifestations of the Spirit is love, the key to all the others. Along with temperance (self-control), love is bookend that helps hold the other fruit in place. Its divine characteristics are detailed in **I Corinthians 13**. It is a love that surpasses human understanding and causes a person to be filled with the fullness of God (**Ephesians 3:18-19**). This supernatural love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 5:5**). The spiritual fruit of love is not just a feeling or an emotion, but rather it is a decision. This fruit of the Spirit causes us to make a decision to love even when we don't feel like it. Paul writes in **Philippians 1:9**: *"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more."* The word abound means "to grow." God wants our love to grow so big that it will chase people down and overtake them. When we walk in the love of God, everything else will fall into place.

### LONGSUFFERING

Longsuffering is love on trial. It enables you to forbear and forgive others (**Colossians 3:13**). As with the other manifestations of spiritual fruit, you can't produce it in yourself. The ability to be longsuffering comes from the Holy Spirit (**Colossians 1:11**).

### FAITH

Faith is a gift and also a manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit. The gift of faith is imparted from God through the Word, but the fruit of faith is produced by the Holy Spirit. The gift of faith can move mountains, but the fruit of faith is what is required for daily living. The fruit of faith enables us to walk and live by faith (**Romans 5:2**). Without this kind of faith, it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**). *According to the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, faithfulness means a "firm adherence to the truth and to the duties of relationship with God; adhering to your duties; loyalty; constant in performance of duties or services."* Being faithful is not always easy; it requires making a decision and then sticking to it no matter what regardless of what are feelings tell us. However, when we are faithful and do what God tells us to do; we will be rewarded; for the Bible says that if we're faithful over little things, God will make us rulers of much.

### JOY

Joy is defined as "cheerfulness or calm delight;" however, it has nothing to do with your emotions. Joy is something that is manifested in the spiritual realm; it is a supernatural joy that gives spiritual strength (**Nehemiah 8:10**). The Psalmist and the Prophet Isaiah both refer to it as the joy of salvation (**Psalms 51:12; Isaiah 12:3**). It is divine joy that results from an experimental knowledge of God's Word (**John 15:11; Jeremiah 15:16**).

### GENTLENESS

The Apostle Paul illustrates gentleness by the example of a mother nourishing her children (**I Thessalonians 2:7**). Gentleness is a quality that makes you great in God's sight (**II Samuel 22:36**).

### **MEEKNESS**

Meekness is not "weakness", but rather a slave-like submission to God. Your spirit is free from rebellion and pride. It is the hidden man of the heart - a meek and quiet spirit - which is greatly valued by God (**I Peter 3:4**). Meekness or humility is defined as "freedom from pride and arrogance; modest estimation of our own worth." Humility or meekness is the opposite of pride. The Bible says that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (**I Peter 5:5**), and it is the meek which will inherit the earth (**Psalms 37:11**).

### **PEACE**

We must learn to maintain peace in three important relationships: with God, with our fellow man, and with ourselves. We maintain peace with God by believing and trusting Him. We maintain peace with our fellow man by not allowing strife to be a part of our relationships with other people. We maintain peace with ourselves by refusing to live in guilt or condemnation thus recognizing that God is greater than all of our sins. This kind of peace doesn't come through drugs, alcohol, sex, wealth, or entertainment. It is a supernatural (not worldly) peace that is a gift of God (**John 14:27**). The spiritual fruit of peace results from being justified by faith (**Romans 5:1**), and loving God's law. (**Psalms 119:165**) This is a peace that surpasses all human understanding, and it keeps your heart and mind through Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:7**)

### **GOODNESS**

Goodness is holiness put into practice and results from knowing God. Once you have this knowledge, goodness is supernaturally produced in you (**Romans 15:14**) Goodness enables you to do good to those who hate you (**Luke 6:27**) as well as those of the household of faith (**Galatians 6:10**). It is the goodness of God that leads men to repentance. That's why we need to be good to people. Our witness won't have any power unless we are kind. We are called to be light in a dark world, and we must make up our minds that we are going to shine!

### **TEMPERANCE**

Temperance means self-control. It is control over the whole man (spirit, soul, and body) which enables us to live a victorious life (**I Corinthians 9:25**). A person who has self-control is mild and calm, avoids extreme behavior, and exercises self-restraint in both actions and speech. Although restraint and self-control aren't easy, they are necessary if one ever wants to operate in the fruit of the Spirit. After all, temperance and love are the bookends that hold all the other fruit in place.