

The Fruit Of The Spirit

Lesson 1

Introduction.

I. This lesson is an introduction to a series of lessons on "The Fruit Of The Spirit."

A. The "fruit of the Spirit" is found in Galatians 5:19-23.

GAL 5:19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

GAL 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

GAL 5:21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

GAL 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

GAL 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

B. In this passage Paul contrasts "the deeds (works) of the flesh" with "the fruit of the Spirit."

- It is interesting that Paul talks about the "works [plural] of the flesh," but contrasts this with "the fruit [singular] of the Spirit."
 1. Those who are led by the impulses of the flesh will produce the sins enumerated in verses 19-21.
 - a. Paul affirms they are lost.
 - b. He contends "that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5: 21). "The kingdom of God" is used here to refer to heaven. The same idea is found in 2 Peter 1:11 where those who develop the Christian graces are promised "entrance into the eternal kingdom."
 2. Those who are led by the Spirit of God will produce the 9 characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22,23.
 3. Failure to produce this fruit (harvest) evidences one is not led by the Spirit.
 4. No feeling or dream or human teaching can erase the failure to produce this fruit manifests one is not led by the Spirit.

II. Before we enter a discussion of these 9 characteristics, it is important that we show how the Spirit

produces this fruit in the Christian.

I. Holy Spirit Dwells In Each Christian

A. The scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit dwells in each Christian. (John 7:38-39a; Acts 2:38; 5:32; Rom. 8:9-11,12-15; 1 Cor. 6:19; Gal. 3:2; 1Thess.4:8; 1 Jn. 3:34; 4:13; Jude 19).

JOH 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"

JOH 7:39 **But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive;** for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

ACT 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and **you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** This passage does not tell us if we are talking about the Holy Spirit Himself, or a gift from Him. It could be understood either way, but the following verse shows it is the Holy Spirit Himself. He is "given to those who obey Him." See Acts 5:32.

ACT 5:32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and **so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.**" The words "to those who obey Him" are not limited to the apostles.

ROM 8:9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

ROM 8:10 And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet **the spirit** is alive because of righteousness. Lit. "but the spirit [or Spirit] life because of righteousness." Romans 8:10 may refer to the redeemed human spirit or the Holy Spirit. The idea may be "the Spirit" *gives* "life."

ROM 8:11 **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,** He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through His Spirit who indwells you.**

ROM 8:12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

ROM 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; **but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

ROM 8:14 **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God,** these are sons of God.

ROM 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, **but you have received a spirit [or Spirit] of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"**

- **1CO 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,** whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? "your" and "you" are both singular referring to the body of a Christian.

GAL 3:2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: **did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?** The words "hearing with faith" are literally "hearing of faith." This is a reference to their acceptance of the gospel. They had been saved by receiving the gospel (Rom. 1:16). This is the way the Corinthians were saved. (Acts 18:8). Upon obedience to the gospel they had received "the Spirit." This was when they had become "sons of God" by faith and baptism. (Gal. 3:26, 27).

1TH 4:8 Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man **but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.**

1JO 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. **And we know by this that**

He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1JO 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, **because He has given us of His Spirit.**

JUD 1:19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, **devoid of the Spirit.**

B. How does the Holy Spirit dwell in us?

1. Some state through **the word only.**

- Some very good and conservative Christians hold this position, and have used Ephesians 5:18 and Colossians 3:16 as a major argument.

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| EPH 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, | COL 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. |
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- The two above chapters are very similar, and some believe that the words “be filled with the Spirit” and “let the word of Christ richly dwell within you” mean exactly the same thing.
- They believe that when the word of God or Christ dwells in the Christian richly that this is what is meant by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit or being “filled with the Spirit.”
 - a. It is plain the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of the word are simultaneous, though there must be the hearing and obedience to word prior to receiving the “the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The fact that both facts are true does not mean that the indwelling of “the word of Christ” exhausts the meaning of “be filled with the Spirit” and the indwelling of Holy is fully explained by the presence of God’s word in the Christian.
 - b. It is not true the Spirit dwells in the Christian through the word only though one “filled with the Spirit” will certainly have the word of God abundantly laid up in his heart.
 - c. One must receive the word to become a Christian. (Acts 2:41; Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23; Jas. 1:18; Acts 2:37, 38; 18:8).
 - 1) Some coming to Christ have a limited knowledge of the word of God, but this word is motivating them to seek to please God and keep His commandments. This limited knowledge keeps growing. See 1 Pet. 2:1,2.
 - 2) Some coming to Christ have a extensive knowledge of the word of God and have it stored in their hearts. Their delay in coming to Christ might be for various reasons including a lack of understanding of how to become a Christian.
 - 3) The knowledge one has in coming to Christ whether vast or limited and even that word being treasured in their hearts and motivating godly actions and attitudes is not a full explanation of

the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

- d. The Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) is promised to those who have accepted the word.
2. Other say **through faith**, that is, the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian by believing in Him and receiving His teachings.
 3. Others state **personally**.
 - a. They believe that Deity (the Holy Spirit) literally dwells in each Christian.
 - b. They cannot explain it, but believe it.
 - c. Those who hold this position vary greatly in their affirmations of what the Holy Spirit does in the Christian.
 - d. Some who hold this position believe the Holy Spirit works through the word; others contend the Spirit speaks to them, gives them special illumination, and miraculous power.
 - e. It is interesting that those who hold to a miraculous indwelling often contradict one another and oppose one another and even refuse to fellowship one another.
 - 1) They most often deny the teachings of one another and sometimes the alleged miracles of one another.
 - 2) They make the Holy Spirit the author of contradictory teaching and the Author of confusion.
 - 3) Some even claim the Spirit gives them certain miraculous abilities or powers, but deny the Holy Spirit gives additional powers to others. They expect people to believe their claims, but deny the claims of others.

C. The Bible does not say.

1. It affirms that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, but it does not explain the mode (that is exactly how the Spirit dwells in us).
2. We should accept it, but not try to explain it because we cannot know that any human explanation is right.
3. We can only assume the manner or mode of the indwelling Holy Spirit through our fallible knowledge and deductions.
4. All my feeble logic cannot explain how the Holy Spirit who is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient dwells in my frail body. The Christian certainly is none of these things, and the Christian often sins despite the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
5. **How can one explain what is not revealed?**

6. It is sad that there have been so many divisions **among conservative Christians** over the mode of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Conservative Christians do not believe that the Holy Spirit gives the Christian miraculous power or guidance. They do not believe the Holy Spirit gives us new revelations, empowers us to speak in tongues, gives us the power to heal.
 - b. There are many who disagree on the manner of the Holy Spirit's indwelling who do not believe the Holy Spirit works miraculously in the Christian.
 - c. We should not divide over the manner of the Spirit's indwelling, that is, whether He dwells in us through the word, or through faith, or personally or in some way we do not understand or can explain. This statement is made in regard to the differences among conservative Christians who do not believe the Holy Spirit gives the Christian miraculous power or guidance.
- D. The Bible also states God and Christ dwell in us. (Jn.14:20, 23; 1 Jn. 4:12,15; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Col.1:27).

1. How do God and Christ dwell in us?

2. The Bible says they dwell in us "through faith." (Eph. 3:17).

“so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

- a. Note Paul did not say "faith" and "Christ" are to be equated.
- b. He said it is “through faith” that Christ abides in our hearts.
- c. The Bible does not reveal the mode of their indwelling (that is how they dwell in us), but this does not change the fact.
- d. It is through faith that they come to dwell in us, but the mode of indwelling is not revealed.

Note:

- Some contend God and Christ dwell in the Christian representatively through the Holy Spirit.
- This could be true, but the Bible does not clearly affirm this.
- Ephesians 2:22 is used to prove this position, but this scripture in context in talking about the church and not individual Christians.

EPH 2:20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, **This verse is a description of the foundation of the church.**

EPH 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

EPH 2:22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

- The church is also called “the temple of God” having the Holy Spirit indwelling in it.

1CO 3:16 Do you not know that **you** are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in **you**?

1CO 3:17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. "you" is plural in Greek both times it is used here. It is singular in 1 Corinthians 6:19,20.

II. Purpose Of The Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit.

A. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit does not give the Christian the **power to speak in tongues or to perform miracles.**

1. This came to the apostles through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-4). See Acts 1:5.
2. It also came upon Cornelius and his family through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:44).
 - a. This was to manifest that Gentiles would candidates of salvation. (Acts 10:47).

ACT 10:47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?"

- b. It convinced Peter that God is not a "respector of persons." (Acts 10:44, 45).
- c. That the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon Gentiles showed they could be saved is also revealed in Peter's report to the church.

ACT 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning.

ACT 11:16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

ACT 11:17 "If God therefore gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

ACT 11:18 And when they heard this, they quieted down, and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."

3. Miraculous power, with this exception, came to believers through the laying on of the hands of the apostles. (Acts 6:6; 8:17-20; 19:6).
4. Spiritual gifts ended with the apostles who were the only ones in the early church who could impart spiritual gifts. (Acts 8:17-20).
5. There is no record of anyone other than the apostles passing on these spiritual gifts.

B. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit does not give the **Christian supernatural strength or revelations.**

1. The Christian must fight temptation and depend on God. (Jas. 4:7,8; 1 Cor. 10:13).
2. The Christian could blame the Holy Spirit for his sins if the Spirit imparts supernatural strength to him.

3. He could say, "I sinned because the Spirit did not give me enough strength."
4. "All truth" was given to the apostles (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13), and inspired prophecy has ceased. (1 Cor. 13:8-10). See Jude 3.

C. Why The Holy Spirit Dwells In The Christian?

1. The Holy Spirit is a **sign of sonship**. (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:14,16).

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| <p>GAL 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" The Holy Spirit is here called "the Spirit of His Son" He is called "the Spirit of Christ" in 2 Peter 1:11.</p> | <p>ROM 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ROM 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,</p> |
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2. The Holy Spirit is an **earnest or pledge of our inheritance and a pledge [guarantee] of our resurrection**. (Eph. 1:14; Rom. 8:11).

- a. NASB says, "given as a pledge of our inheritance."
- b. The presence of the Spirit is assurance of our redemption.
- c. It is possible for us to "grieve" the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), and to "quench" [put out the influence of] the Holy Spirit. (1 Thess. 5:19).

EPH 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1TH 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;

- d. It is possible to turn from the Holy Spirit and practice "the works of the flesh." (Gal. 5:19-21).
- e. It is possible so sin as to reach the point of no return. (Heb. 6:4-6).

HEB 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

HEB 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

HEB 6:6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.

- f. It is vital that we follow the influence of the Holy Spirit through the word of God.

- 1) The Spirit uses the word of truth to convert us. (Jas. 1:18-21).

- 2) He uses the word of truth to strengthen us and help us overcome "the deeds of the body."

Rom. 8:13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; **but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

3. The Holy Spirit **strengthens the inner man** through the word of God. (Eph. 3:16; 6:17).

- a. The Christian must laid up the word in his heart. (Psa. 119:11).
- b. We must let the word richly indwell us. (Eph. 3:16).
- c. The word of God is our light. (Psa. 119:105).
- d. It is “the truth” that sets us free. (Jn. 8:32).

4. The Holy Spirit in an **incentive to keep our bodies holy**. (1 Cor. 6:19,20).

- When one is tempted to fornicate he/she should remember that the body is “the temple of the Holy Spirit.”
- One should remember he/she has been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ. See 1 Pet. 1:18, 19.
 - a. “ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” (Gal. 5:16).
 - 1) This is not an absolute statement. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).
 - 2) It means that one living under the influence of the Holy Spirit is not controlled by the flesh.
 - 3) Sin is more the exception than the rule.
 - 4) **Christ is the Ruler of the Christian’s life**. (Matt. 28:18).
 - b. The Spirit motivates us to avoid the "works of the flesh." (Gal. 5:19-21).

5. The Holy Spirit **helps us to pray**. (Rom. 8:26,27).

ROM 8:26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;
ROM 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- a. There are times we know how to pray. (Matt. 6:9-13; 1 Tim. 2:1-2).
- b. Romans 8:26, 27 is not saying we never know how to pray, there are times we do not know how to pray, and express our needs in words.
- c. The Spirit presents these “groanings” [our groanings, things we cannot put into words] to God in accordance with God’s will. These are not the “groanings” of the Omnipotent Holy Spirit. He is always able to express Himself, and never has difficulty in articulating anything. He is never lost for words.
 - 1) We may not always be able to verbalize the needs and feelings of our hearts.

2) The Spirit knows the meanings of these groanings, and presents them to God the Father.

3) The Holy Spirit “intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

d. God knows the meaning of these groanings [our groanings] presented by the Holy Spirit, and He answers our prayers.

6. The Holy Spirit **produces the fruit of the Spirit in us.**

a. He does this through the word of God. (Col. 3:16; Eph. 6:17).

COL 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

EPH 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

b. There is not any evidence that the Spirit works directly upon the heart, apart from the word, to produce this fruit.

c. The Christian who is filled with the Spirit of God is filled with the indwelling word of Christ. (Eph. 5:18, 19; Col. 3:16).

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| EPH 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit , EPH 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; | COL 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you , with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. |
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d. These verses are parallel and the word “but be filled with the Spirit” and “let the word of Christ richly dwell within you” are expressing the same thing.

e. By this it is meant that one “filled with the Spirit” will “let the word of Christ” richly dwell in him.

f. By this it is not meant that letting “the word of Christ” dwell in you fully explains the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

III. **Proof The Holy Spirit Dwells In Us**

A. The proof is not:

1. Visions, miraculous powers, speaking in tongues, etc.

2. Feelings or testimonials

B. The proof is:

1. The proof is the testimony of the word of God. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Gal. 4:6; 1 Cor. 6:19,20).

2. The proof is a transformed nature. (Gal. 5:22, 23).

a. It is certain that those who live Spirit filled lives do not pursue the flesh.

GAL 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

b. It is certain that those who live Spirit filled lives demonstrate this by manifesting “the fruit of the Spirit.”

3. The word "fruit" is singular.

a. It has the idea of "harvest."

b. The "harvest" of the Spirit is all 9 of the characteristics set forth in Galatians 5:22,23.

c. The Christian will never perfect these characteristics, but he must exhibit all of them.

d. These divine qualities grow simultaneously in the life of one who has God's Spirit dwelling in him.

e. The Christian cannot just major in one or more of these qualities.

f. They are a single “fruit.”

g. We sometimes must work on one or more of these traits more than the others, but we must manifest all 9 to be approved of God.

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