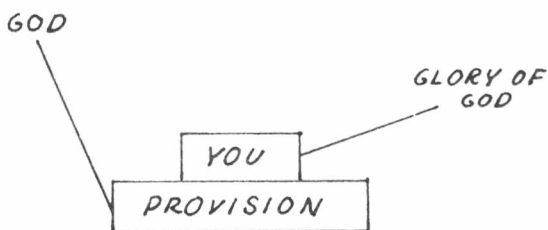


Lesson #7—The Fruit of the Holy Spirit in Daily Life.



Introduction

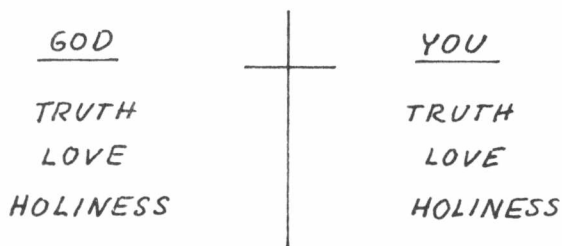
- A. One cannot read the Bible without being impressed with the importance that is placed upon being the right kind of a person and living the right kind of a life.
 - 1. The secret of our daily life is found in the character of the "inner man". This is an inescapable principle—we cannot hide the kind of a person we are.
 - 2. In all of this we are reminded that God desires to cleanse, renew, and transform us within. It is the "heart" the "inner man" that must come first.
- B. One of the most important facets of God's provision for us in this area is the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. He has come to bring to us the most radical, inner transformation that any individual could receive—the new birth (John 3:3,5).
 - 2. In that act of spiritual birth He has taken up residency within us. His presence in our life has been designed by God to provide a way whereby we can increasingly be brought into an understanding of the will of God for the daily life.
 - 3. The manifestation of this work of the Holy Spirit is what the Bible defines as "fruit". It is a very broad designation and refers to all the facets of our spiritual life and service.

I. The Biblical Definition of the Fruit of the Spirit, Ephesians 5:9.

For **the fruit of the Spirit** is in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**.

Observations:

- 1. There is a question in this verse as to whether the word translated "Spirit" should rather be "light". The latter seems to fit the context better and is found in the best of the more recent translations (NAS and NIV). The essential point, in the verse, has to do with the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.
- 2. It is important to see that "fruit" in this verse is defined as "goodness", "righteousness", and "truth".

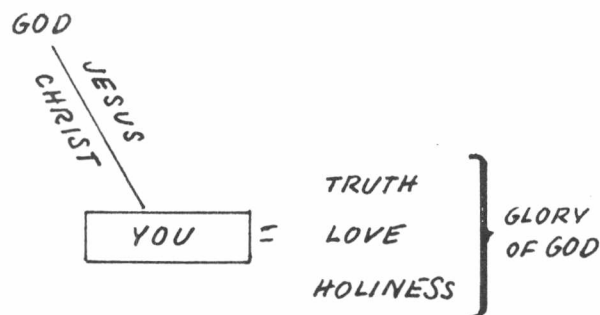


- 3. There are many great truths taught in this passage. We are here reminded of the practicality of the Holy Spirit's ministry, of its value, and the spiritual nature of the new birth. We also must recognize this verse to explain the exhortation in the preceding statement, wherein we are told, "... Walk as children of light".
- 4. However, the most important truth in this verse has to do with the relationship of this "fruit" to the moral attributes of God.

- a. God created us in His image so that we could live a life that would be in harmony with His very character. He is absolute in truth, love and holiness.
 - b. In the Fall we lost the ability to live for God and now we manifest pretense and error instead of truth; selfishness and self-centeredness instead of love; and sensuality and immorality instead of holiness.
 - c. Now, however, as repentant and believing sinners, we can again live in harmony with God. All of this is due to the ministry of the Holy Spirit applying to us the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an indication of the radical character of the new birth.
5. All of this brings us to the realization of what God desires to do in your life and mine. He wants to work with us, by the Holy Spirit, so that we will understand Who He is—in His moral attributes—and choose to live in harmony with Him. There is nothing more important in all of life than this!
- a. God is truth - that must be expressed in our daily life in all forms of truthfulness. Every expression of error, pretense, lying, cheating, deception, and the manipulating of people—must be repented of and utterly forsaken.
 - b. God is love - that must be expressed in our daily life in all forms of goodness. Every expression of selfishness, self-centeredness, hatred, bearing of grudges, gossip, and lack of compassion—must be repented of and utterly forsaken.
 - c. God is Holiness - that must be expressed in our daily life in all forms of holiness. Every expression of sensuality, sinful desires, immorality, lust, and worldliness—must be repented of and utterly forsaken.
6. This verse presents us with a blueprint of how we may live so that we are pleasing to God. We must choose to adopt the attitudes and actions which would be characterized by goodness, righteousness, and truth. This may not be easy. Confessions may have to be given, restitution may have to be made, life-styles may have to be changed, priorities may have to be reevaluated, time and money may have to be spent differently, actions and attitudes may have to be stopped, and actions and attitudes may have to be started!

II. The Biblical Interpretation of the Fruit of the Spirit, John 15:5.

I am the vine, ye are the branches, He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much **fruit**, for without Me ye can do nothing.



Observations:

1. When the Lord Jesus spoke of Himself as the "vine" He was referring to all of the vine—root, trunk, branches, leaves, fruit, and seed. In this parable He is reminding us that we are as intimately related to Him as the branches to the vine.
2. One of the most important truths in this verse has to do with the meaning of "fruit". It is obvious in nature that we do not pick grapes from an apple tree nor plums from a rhubarb plant. The Lord Jesus, in stating that He is the vine—is here instructing us that He is also the fruit—produced through the branch.
3. This immediately clarifies how the Holy Spirit seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:13, 14) through your life and mine. He endeavors to reproduce within us and through us the very char-

acter of the Son of God. As we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, our "Helper", the truth, love, and holiness of the Son of God becomes more and more manifested in our attitudes and actions.

4. The Scripture continually reminds us that this principle is the very foundation of the successful Christian life.

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He (the Lord Jesus) might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are **changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord**. II Corinthians 3:18

I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**, and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Galatians 2:20

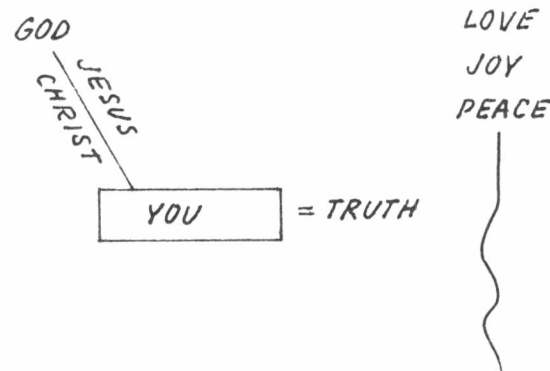
My little children, of whom I travail in birth again **until Christ be formed in you**. Galatians 4:19

That I might know Him, and the power of His Resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being made conformable unto His death**. Philippians 3:10

III. The Biblical Application of the Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22, 23.

- A. The Fruit of the Spirit in the area of **personal experience**: Love, Joy and Peace.

But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace**



Observations:

1. God has made the provision for us so that we might not only believe what is truth—but to experience the meaning of truth—in love, joy, and peace.
2. It is sad but true—many believers live a life devoid of these facets of the Holy Spirit's fruit. This does not have to be.
3. The Biblical explanation of the experience of love.
 - a. Love is first of all a decision which is manifested in action. The emotion of love is the result of this decision-action.
 - b. Love is a decision to recognize another person as a person, give that person rightful place in your life, and do what is right by them. This is how God loves us and how we are to love Him, one another, and ourselves.
 - c. Love, as the fruit of the Spirit, is the experience of being loved by God and by others. We must consider what this really means. It is the truth—we are loved by God. (Malachi 1:2)
 - d. The Holy Spirit seeks to lead us into a deepening experience of love so we may manifest the attributes of God to one another as described in I Corinthians 13:4-8. (See Rev. 2:4, 5)

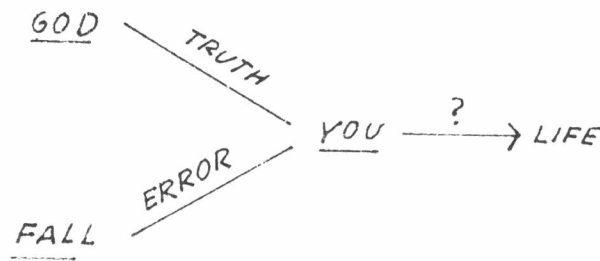
4. The Biblical explanation of the experience of joy.
 - a. This is not the contented feeling we have when the family is in good health, the pay-checks are coming in, and things are going well on the job and in the church. It is an enjoyment of God and of spiritual things.
 - b. The Bible reminds us that this joy is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

John 15:11 - It is a joy related to abiding in Christ.
 John 16:24 - It is a joy related to prayer.
 John 17:13 - It is a joy related to knowing the truth.
 Romans 14:17 - It is a joy related to the new birth.
 Romans 15:13 - It is a joy related to the life of faith.
 I John 1:4 - It is a joy related to knowing the Scriptures.
 - c. It is the will of God that we have joy. If we live without this facet of the fruit of the Spirit—we are to some degree out of His will!
 - d. There are three things we must do to experience this joy—if we are honestly walking in fellowship with God.
 - 1). Reject, by faith, what you have in the place of joy.
 - 2). Choose, by faith, to believe you have His joy (it is His gift of salvation so believe it and accept it).
 - 3). Choose, by faith, to live according to this joy in attitude and action. This is not pretending—it is practicing the truth. What would you do if you had the joy of the Lord? Then do that—by faith.
5. The Biblical explanation of the experience of peace.
 - a. Peace is first of all a relationship with God based on His grace (Romans 5:1), and secondly, an emotional awareness of wholeness or well-being which is derived from that relationship (Philippians 4:6, 7).
 - b. We may lose the emotional facet of this experience but never the relationship upon which it is based (Roman 8:31-39).
 - c. The Bible reminds us that this peace is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

Isaiah 9:6 - It is a peace found in the person of the Messiah.
 Isaiah 53:6 - It is a peace found in the atonement of Jesus Christ.
 Luke 2:14 - It is a peace found through the Incarnation of Christ.
 John 14:27 - It is a peace found in the gift of Jesus Christ.
 John 16:33 - It is a peace found in the victory of Jesus Christ.
 Romans 1:7 - It is a peace found in the grace of God.
 Romans 14:17 - It is a peace found in the new birth.
 Romans 15:13 - It is a peace found in the life of faith.
 Romans 15:33 - It is a peace found in the God of peace.
 - d. Many times we lose the emotional experience of peace because of the pressure of circumstances or personal need. This may cause us to interpret our relationship with God incorrectly.
 - 1). For example, discouragement may lead us to question our salvation.
 - 2). In such a time it is important to remind ourselves that the relationship of grace in salvation is based only upon the person and work of Jesus Christ—and in no way upon us.
 - 3). We must reject such doubt as error and choose by faith to believe God—simply because He has spoken to us (Romans 4:18-21).

B. The Fruit of the Spirit in the area of personal relationships: Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness.

But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . **longsuffering, gentleness, goodness**



Observations:

1. Due to our sinful state it is very common for a person to experience deep rejection in some area of life. Often situations in the home, school, or work will underline these feelings of rejection and cause us to believe that we are inferior and worthless. This, in turn, usually leads to anxiety, guilt, hostility, frustration, confusion, bitterness, covetousness, self-centeredness, and hopelessness.

2. By the grace of God a believer need not have such sinful relationships. The Holy Spirit is our "Helper".

3. The Biblical explanation of the relationship of longsuffering.

a. The term "longsuffering" designates that enablement of the Holy Spirit whereby we have the wisdom and ability to be patient with people, to "endure", and "suffer-long" with them. It is manifesting to others of what God has done and constantly does with us!

b. Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint, in the face of provocation, which does not retaliate with hostility. It is the very opposite of anger. It is a good example of the meaning of love.

c. The Bible reminds us that longsuffering is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

I Corinthians 13:4 - Longsuffering is an expression of love.
Ephesians 4:2 - Longsuffering is an example of honoring God.
Colossians 1:11 - Longsuffering is an expression of God's will.
Colossians 3:12 - Longsuffering is a mark of spiritual maturity.

4. The Biblical explanation of the relationship of gentleness.

a. This facet of the fruit of the Holy Spirit may be translated as "kindness" or "graciousness". It is what we commonly call the "goodness-of-heart" attitude.

b. Gentleness is the opposite of a crabby, calloused, uncaring, selfish attitude.

c. The Bible reminds us that gentleness is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

I Corinthians 13:4 - Gentleness is an expression of love.
II Corinthians 6:6 - Gentleness is a mark of a true minister.
Galatians 5:22 - Gentleness is an evidence of the Holy Spirit's fruit.
Colossians 3:12 - Gentleness is an indication of spiritual growth.

5. The Biblical explanation of the relationship of goodness.

a. Goodness, as the fruit of the Spirit, is that attitude of life which initiates and sustains relationships that are characterized by unselfishness, righteousness, and truth.

b. Goodness is the opposite of that attitude that waits hypocritically for an opportunity to gain a personal advantage, to exploit, to manipulate another person or their problem for selfish benefit.

- c. The Bible reminds us that goodness is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

Romans 15:14 - Goodness is a characteristic of a true Christian.
Galatians 6:10 - Goodness is a goal to be achieved among believers.
Ephesians 5:9 - Goodness is a manifestation of the attribute of love.
I Thessalonians 5:15 - Goodness is a pattern of life for the believer.

C. The Fruit of the Spirit in the area of **personal development:**
faithfulness, meekness, and self-control.

But the fruit of the Spirit is . . . **faithfulness, meekness, temperance** (self-control).

Observations:

1. This study of the fruit of the Spirit, particularly the three facets before us, remind us that God cares for us as persons and has made every provision for our spiritual development.
2. One important part of the Holy Spirit's work is to lead us ever deeper into an understanding of the truth and its practical outworking in our daily life.
3. The Biblical explanation of the virtue of faithfulness.
 - a. The characteristic of faithfulness designates one who is trustworthy, honest, dependable, and truthful.
 - b. The faithful person is the very opposite of the one whose word you cannot trust, whose motives you always question, and whose reputation can only be recited with embarrassment.
 - c. The Bible reminds us that faithfulness is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

Matthew 25:21 - Faithfulness characterizes a true servant.
Luke 16:10 - Faithfulness is a virtue highly prized by God.
I Corinthians 4:17 - Faithfulness marks the true man of God.
I Corinthians 7:25 - Faithfulness indicates spiritual success.

4. The Biblical explanation of the virtue of meekness.
 - a. The word "meekness" describes that inner spiritual attitude which accepts the trials and discipline of God's apprenticeship with a quiet and submissive gratitude.
 - b. This virtue is the very opposite to the inner attitude of rebellion, hostility, and whining self-pity which accuses God of being unkind.

Matthew 5:5 - Meekness is an attitude pronounced "blessed" by God.
Matthew 11:29 - Meekness is a virtue manifested by Jesus Christ.
I Corinthians 4:21 - Meekness is intimately related to love.
Ephesians 4:2 - Meekness characterizes one who is honoring God.
Colossians 3:12 - Meekness is a mark of spiritual maturity.

5. The Biblical explanation of the virtue of self-control.
 - a. The term "self-control" indicates the character of one who has taken charge of himself, his functions, and his life, through the enablement of the Holy Spirit, and consistently makes the decisions necessary to live in harmony with the truth.
 - b. This virtue is the very opposite of the person who is controlled by his random thoughts and emotions, the demands of his body, and the pressure presented by the circumstances of life.
 - c. The Bible reminds us that self-control is related to our Savior and the truths regarding His salvation.

Acts 24:25 - Self-control is a characteristic of the true believer.
I Corinthians 9:25 - Self-control is a necessity for success.
Titus 1:8 - Self-control is a mark of the man of God.
II Peter 1:6 - Self-control will bring glory to the Lord Jesus.

Conclusion:

- A. The fruit of the Spirit is presented to us as a pattern for spiritual success. We must use this list, not only to measure our maturity, but also as a blueprint for prayer and our daily life.
- B. As we consider these nine facets of the Holy Spirit's work we are quite overwhelmed with the extent of God's provision for us. We must pray with and for one another that we will hunger and thirst for this kind of fruitfulness.
- C. To live without the fruit of the Spirit is to miss the real meaning of life.