



# The Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

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# Introduction

- The **work** of the Spirit is the direct result of the Spirit's active ministry. The **fruit** of the Spirit is the outcome of His indwelling and our yielding to Him
- Galatians 5:17-23 contrasts the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.
- The fruit of the Spirit is spoken of in singular, so the fruit is not complete until all nine are present (i.e. love, joy, peace, patience...)



# Part I: The Fruit of the Spirit



# 1. Kinds of fruit

**Galatians 5:22-23** lists the nine graces as a single unit, one fruit:

- A. **Love.** This is divine love, an attribute of the indwelling God, I John 4:16; I Cor. 13.
- B. **Joy,** not the so-called happiness of the world but deep, deep gladness, Phil. 4:4.
- C. **Peace.** This is the peace of God that satisfies the soul completely, Col. 3:15.
- D. **Longsuffering** (patience). The natural man is impatient. Saints are the opposite.



# 1. Kinds of fruit

- E. **Gentleness** (kindness or graciousness). Jesus was known by His graciousness.
- F. **Goodness** (benevolence). This virtue makes the Christian full of good works.
- G. **Faith** (faithfulness). He is dependable and can be relied on at all times.
- H. **Meekness** (mildness of temper). He is humble, particularly true of us, II Tim.2:25
- I. **Temperance** (self control), moderate in drink, appetite, dress, habit and fashion.



## 2. Fruit is an evidence of death

### John 12:24

- If we are not dead we will merely bring forth the works of the flesh.
- Fruit is the evidence because self has not be crucified as in the believer.
- Many are fruitless because self has not been crucified so they continue to abide alone.
- The new life alone is capable of bringing forth fruit to the glory of God.



## 3. Fruit is necessary

### **John 15:2, Luke 13:9**

- The only reason for our existence here after conversion is to bear fruit.
- The fruitless cannot long enjoy the privileges of the fruitful. Fruitlessness and favour with God cannot live together.
- Luke 13:7 - He Will not be satisfied with anything less than spiritual fruit.
- James 5:7 - The Lord Jesus Christ is waiting for true fruit (Gal. 5:22-23) from our lives.



## 4. Fruit affords identification

### Matthew 12:33

- In Numbers 13:26, the spies showed the fruit of Canaan to prove that it was a good land.
- In the New Testament, the vital evidence is the fruit to identify whether saint or hypocrite.
- Matt. 7:16-20 - Saints ought not to bear any of the works of the flesh, Gal. 5:17-21.
- James 3:9-12 - If our lives are a paradox of fruit (e.g. sweetness and bitterness) is it any wonder that the world is perplexed?



## 5. Purpose of the fruit

### **Matthew 21:34**

- Fruit is not exclusively for the tree; others see our good works and glorify God.
- To produce sweet fruit for our own benefit alone is to dishonour the Father.



## 6. Source of the fruit

### Hosea 14:8

- The source is in God. John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."
- Natural fruit is wild fleshly works.
- The saint abounds in fruit as he is rooted and grounded in Christ, Eph 3:17-18.



# 7. Fruit is the source of propagation

Genesis 1:11

- The seed is the fruit. If there is no fruit there is no seed or reproduction.
- If there is no spiritual fruit in our lives, then we cannot reproduce.
- Rather than being a blessing, our lives become a hindrance to the Gospel.
- Col. 1:10 - Have we reproduced? Is it because we have never borne fruit of the Spirit?



# Part II: The Gifts of the Spirit



# 1. Kinds of Gifts

**1 Corinthians 12:8-10** - the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

- 1 Cor. 12:28, the gifts that fit one to be an apostle, prophet, teacher, miracle-worker, healer, helper, administrator or linguist.
- Eph. 4:11-16, adds the following: gifts of evangelism, pastoral and gift of ministry.
- Rom. 12:6-8, adds: gifts of exhortation, gift of giving, gift of ruling, and the gift of showing mercy. (probably about 24 different gifts)



## **2. Gifts are sovereignly given**

### **1 Corinthians 12:11**

- The Holy Spirit places the new convert in the Body of Christ and appropriately endows him for that particular location in the Body -- Eph. 2:21-22.
- It is the prerogative of God to choose the location. It is His sovereign will alone.
- As He chooses the location, so He continues to fashion and fit the new cell.



## 3. Gifts are for profit

**1 Corinthians 12:7** - It is given to make the cell more useful and profitable

- The human body does not have unnecessary parts and neither should the Body of Christ.
- Our conversion and baptism into the Body (1 Cor. 12:13) was also so that we would be a help/blessing to the body.
- The Body of Christ (the church) should be stronger because you have been placed in it and qualified by special gifts from the Holy Spirit.



## 4. Gifts are to be desired

### I Corinthians 12:31

- Don't be satisfied with just one or two gifts. Seek and pray for others that would help you in that particular position He has given you in the Body. Paul mentions prophecy as the gift that is most desirable, I Cor. 14:1,39.
- In Matt. 25:14-30, some were given one talent (gift), others two and others five. The man who received five gained five more and the one that was hidden in the earth in Matt. 25:28, was also given to him so that he eventually had 11 gifts.



# 5. Gifts are suited to each possessor

## 1 Corinthians 7:7

- Every believer in Jesus Christ has a gift.
- Not one person has been forgotten.
- The administrator does not need the gift of preaching.
- The Holy Spirit gives the proper gift to each cell according to its functions.



## 6. Gifts must be used

### 1 Timothy 4:14

- Some hide their gifts because they are not as spectacular as those of others.
- The gift that is not used will rust and may even be taken away from us, Matt. 25:28.



# 7. Gifts are to be improved

## 2 Timothy 1:6

- The gift needs constant practice to be advantageous in the kingdom of God.
- Let's concentrate on the constant improvement of these heavenly gifts  
Col. 1:29.



# Conclusions

- These are not natural talents. These are special gifts given by the Spirit.
- Let's consistently bear fruit as we are provided by the best possible gifts.



# Review Questions

1. Why is the word "fruit" in the singular in Gal 5:22?
2. List the 9 graces that comprise the fruit of the Spirit.
3. List 3 reasons why some Christians do not bear the fruit of the Spirit.
4. List 4 paradoxes in James 3:9-12, regarding fruitbearing.
5. List 3 purposes of fruitbearing.
6. List 10 gifts of the Holy Spirit.
7. Who chooses the believer's place in the Body of Christ?
8. What evidence have we to signify that gifts can be increased after conversion?
9. Prove that every saint has at least one gift (3 verses).
10. Give two things that must be done with spiritual gifts.