THE HOLY SPIRIT
Session Five
Wednesday, December 6, 2017

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Tonight we conclude this study of the Holy Spirit with the scriptural teaching of THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. Next week our study will concern the Incarnation, Jesus, the Son of God, becoming a man.

Just before ascending back to God from Earth, Jesus taught His disciples about the importance of FRUIT BEARING. He said, John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. [2] Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. [3] Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. [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.

Jesus used the concept of a common vine to show the necessary relationship which must exist between the Holy Spirit and the believer so that Christlikeness might be produced. It is the Holy Spirit who produces this fruit.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus promised: Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive [power], after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We have studied the magnificent GIFTS of the Spirit (James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. )

• Apostles
• Prophets
• Evangelists
• Pastors/Teachers – Ephesians 4
• Prophesying
• Ministry
• Teaching
• Exhorting (encouragement)
• Giving
• Ruling (governing)
• Showing Mercy
• Helps
• The Word of Wisdom
• The Word of Knowledge
• Faith (also one of the fruit of the Spirit)
• Gifts of Healing
• Working of Miracles
• Prophecy
• Discerning of Spirits
• Tongues
• Interpretation of Tongues

These are all very important to the work of God around the world; however, there is even higher ground: Matthew 7:16 **Ye shall know them by their fruits.**

Note that! This will come as a shock to many Pentecostals. We are not known to God and man by our gifts, but rather by our FRUIT. So what are these various fruits given to us by the Holy Spirit?

Note this, too: As long as the Holy Spirit is in control of a believer, He naturally manifests His character in the believer. Romans 8:5-10 **For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.** [6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. [7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. [8] So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. [10] And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Galatians 5:22-24 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

Here are listed nine more “fruit” or “manifestations” the Holy Spirit develops in the life of a believer.
LOVE

John 13:34-35  A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. [35] By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

It is common knowledge among Bible students that scripture tells us of three kinds of love:

1. Agape Love  Agape is a Greek word that means selfless love. This is well defined in perhaps the best-known scripture of all: John 3:16  For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

This kind of love will cause us to love God and His Word - and people.

2. Philia Love  This “brotherly love.” Friendship. But it is a rather one-dimensional emotion; i.e., if you love me, I’ll love you. Jesus asked, Luke 6:32  For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

Far inferior to agape love, this is RECIPROCAL love.

3. Eros Love  This is physical love. It is vital between husband and wife. In its negative concept, it can become mere lust. But “in the Lord” it is pure, holy and wonderful.

Perhaps the best definition of love we have is found in 1 Cor. 13:1-13  Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. [2] And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. [3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. [4] Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [8] Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. [9] For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. [10] But when that which is perfect is come, then that
which is in part shall be done away. [11] When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. [12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. [13] And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

JOY

I once did a TV show with Dale Evans (Queen of the Cowgirls!). She always seemed so happy. I asked her about it and she replied, “Oh, it’s much more than being ‘happy.’ It’s JOY!” Profound answer. She and her husband, Roy Rogers, experienced a great deal of sorrow in their lifetimes; but those challenges could not extinguish the deep, Christ-given joy in their lives.

God created a world of joy and gladness; however, Satan wrecked that with his insidious attack on Adam and Eve. Their fall brought about terrible sadness into the world. We who are Christians are not exempt from troubles, sickness or sorrow. Scripture teaches that clearly: 2 Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. So where do we get the joy?

I like this definition of Spirit-produced joy:  JOY AS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS A QUALITY OF CHEERFULNESS, DELIGHT, AND GLADNESS WHICH IS NOT DETERMINED BY CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IS A CONSTANT QUALITY IN EVERY SITUATION, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD, BECAUSE ITS FOUNDATION IS GOD.

It could be said, rightly so, that the joy of the Lord is found in assurance of salvation. When a person receives pardon for all his sin, it is as though the weight of the whole world is lifted from his shoulders. David expressed joy for salvation: Psalm 13:5  But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

Isaiah had the same testimony: Isaiah 61:10  I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

God Himself is the source of all joy. Philip. 4:4  Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Here is a key source of Spirit-produced Joy: Jeremiah 15:16  Thy words were found,
and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

PEACE

I believe that PEACE is one of the most sought-after and difficult-to-attain attributes of all. I am not speaking of the momentary relief of a quiet time beside a mountain lake or the temporary distraction of amusements of earth. I speak of a peace that develops within you as you have the Holy Spirit abiding in you. This peace comes from WITHIN you, not what is happening around you.

The peace of the Holy Spirit refers to a state or condition of tranquility or quietness. It speaks of security or trust. God is our shelter. Psalm 91:1-16 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. [3] Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. [4] He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. [5] Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; [6] Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. [7] A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. [8] Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. [9] Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; [10] There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. [11] For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. [12] They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. [13] Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. [14] Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. [15] He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. [16] With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

As believers, we have the awareness that we are in a right relationship with God. We have the assurance of Philip. 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

While very illusive, outside of Christ, peace is the delight of our souls in Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us. It is that very peace that guides us in times of indecision: Philip. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your
hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

There is an OUTWARD result of this Spirit-given peace and it is this: Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Peter put it even more clearly: 1 Peter 3:11 .... do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

Try to live in a situation that is peaceful. We are not free to do as we please. Mature Christians learn to respect and accept others. Jesus said, Matthew 5:9, Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

LONGSUFFERING (PATIENCE)

“Lord, give me patience - and I want it RIGHT NOW!” Ah, patience! So difficult to maintain for many of us! We want things to happen now, not down the road somewhere. But great things happen through patience: A doctor must study for years to realize his or her goal; a parent spends years in the development of the child. A Spirit-filled Christian must learn the secret of patience if a Christ-like character is to be developed in him or her.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering..... (Patience)

Patience as the fruit of the Spirit enables a believer to exercise self-restraint. It does not allow the believer to fall apart under sustained trials. It is a developed trait: 2 Peter 1:5-8 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; [6] And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; [7] And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. [8] 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.

Patience operates outwardly toward our fellowman and inwardly toward ourselves. Hebrews tells us to accept life’s challenges as discipline: Hebrews 12:7-11 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? [8] But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. [9] Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? [10] For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might
be partakers of his holiness. [11] Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Patience is essential at home, in the family relationship. Great patience with each other and for training children with love and correct discipline. Husbands and wives need to be patient with one another to sustain a loving relationship.

KINDNESS AND GOODNESS - THE TWIN FRUIT

Kindness and goodness are so closely related that sometimes it is not easy to distinguish between them. A kind person is also a good person; a good person is by his very nature a kind person. These characteristics are produced in us by the Holy Spirit and have to do with our relationship to others.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,

Another term used by scripture for kindness is GENTLENESS. A Christian man is a gentleman; a Christian woman is a gentle woman. This involves graciousness, tenderness, sweetness, compassion. Christ is our example!

Jesus gave of Himself in tenderness, compassion, and sweetness because He loved us. He demonstrated in its highest form the meaning of being kind and compassionate to one another.

Goodness speaks of service or ministry to one another.

FAITH

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

When it comes to this Fruit of the Spirit we are speaking of faithfulness. A person of faith is faithful. We are told by Paul that this faith or faithfulness is developed as we consume Scripture into our hearts and minds: Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Nothing builds or develops your faith as much as your knowledge of the Word. How so?
• We read of Joseph in Genesis, an outstanding leader and faithful servant of God. He preferred to be incarcerated than be unfaithful to his master, Potiphar. The record of his incredible faithfulness is found in Genesis chapters 37-48.

• Joshua was chosen to lead the Jews into the Promised Land of Israel upon the death of Moses. Throughout the book of Joshua we read of his faithfulness to God and the people he was commissioned to lead.

• Moses performed wonders sin the presence of Pharaoh, yet he almost blew it all when he failed to be obedient in a small action, that of circumcising his son Exodus 4:24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the Lord met him, and sought to kill him. But he was spared for he had shown faithfulness n so many aspects of his life: 1) He refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh at the cost of losing his relationship to God and His people; 2) He chose to be mistreated along with the rest of the Jews; 3) He left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger. He was almost invariably faithful and obedient to God.

SELF-CONTROL

You and I are created full of mental, physical, emotional and spiritual energy. When used properly, as God intended, they are very beneficial. When out of control, disaster can result. Self-control is the fruit of discipline in which the Holy Spirit conforms us into the image of Jesus.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Paul’s witness in this regard was this: 1 Cor. 9:24-27 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. [25] And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. [26] I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: [27] But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

The athlete (I am told for I have never been one!) who works hard to train his body only when his coach is watching will never win the contest. The driver who obeys traffic laws only when a state patrolman is watching will probably kill somebody. It is the consistent control over one’s thoughts, emotions and actions that mark the follower of
Jesus Christ.

A self-controlled person is one who has powerful passions but keeps them under control. How is this revealed in a Christian? Romans 8:5-9 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. [6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. [7] Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. [8] So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

In common English: those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature wants; but those who live in accordance with the Holy Spirit have their minds set on what HE wants!

I love the word “balance.” A great church is a balanced one. A great spiritual life is a balanced one. For example, Paul wrote I Corinthians 12, 13 and 14 (chapters) to stress the importance of balance in the church in the exercise of the spiritual gifts. Even in the natural gifts we have, there is the possibility of imbalance. A balanced life is one of TEMPERANCE and MODERATION. The Holy Spirit assists us with control of our tongues....control of sexual desire....control in eating...control in the use of time....control of our minds, etc.

Jesus said in Acts 1:8 that we would receive power for living on this earth until we die or He come back to get us (the Rapture). That power is shown in:

- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
- And the power of His mind in ours to use them all properly and for His glory.

Next week: A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM