

SERMON – “The Fruit of the Spirit”

The **greatest** indication that an individual has **received the Spirit** is a **changed-transformed life** (before/after scenario). If someone has **truly experienced** the **regenerating power** of the Spirit, a we will see a **RADICAL CHANGE** in **ATTITUDE** (character) and **ACTION** (lifestyle) in that person. A **truly converted heart** produces an **outward change** seen by all! **RE: Jo. 3:8 (wind); can't see Spirit but see results!**

Being **TRULY born again** by the Spirit of God **RESULTS** in **OUTWARD EVIDENCE** which goes **beyond mere lip service** to a change in actions! If the **ROOT of the heart** is **changed**, the **FRUIT of ACTION** reveals this fact! **RE: Matt. 3:8 (fruit; repent); Matt. 21:18-19 (fig tree; leaves?).** Jesus – the **fruit of one's life** is the litmus test of **one's true condition**.

MATTHEW 7:15-27 – We'll know **TRUE PROPHETS** by **their FRUIT!**

And this is **TRUE** for **ALL** Christians! And in **this passage** we see a **clear connection** between **bearing true spiritual fruit, doing the will of the Father**, and being a **DOER** of Christ's Word (Jo. 8:31-32). Since **true Christians** bear **GENUINE FRUIT** in **their lives**, what does **this fruit** look like? I suggest there are **TWO TYPES of FRUIT** – **THE FIRST TYPE?**

GALATIANS 5:19-23 – The **FIRST TYPE** of **fruit** is **Christian character!**
2 PETER 1:4-8 – Peter's Ladder of character has some overlap in fruit!

What does the **FRUIT of CHARACTER look like?** Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (**Prov. 16:32; works of flesh vs. fruit of Spirit**). These **godly character traits** are also **quantified** and **expressed** several other ways in Scripture:

- The **Beatitudes**. (Matt. 5:3-11)
- The **Ten Commandments**. (Ex. 20:3-17)
- The **Two Great Commandments**. (Matt. 22:37-40)
- The **Spirit of the Law**. (adultery/lust; covet/lust; hate/murder)
- **Acts 20:35** (give vs. receive); **Matt. 7:12** (“do unto others”).

SC 58: “Those who become **new creatures in Christ Jesus** will **bring forth the fruits of the Spirit** ... The things they once hated they now love, and the things they once loved they hate. The proud and self-assertive become meek and lowly in heart. The vain and supercilious become serious and unobtrusive. The drunken become sober, and the profligate pure.” **SECOND FRUIT** – success in sharing Jesus!

PROVERBS 11:30; MARK 4:20 – Bearing the **fruit of winning souls!**

GC 70: “The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The **very first impulse** of the **renewed heart** is to bring others also to the Saviour.”

SC 78: “No sooner does one come to Christ than there is **born in his heart a desire** to **make known to others** what a precious friend he has found in Jesus ... If we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good **we shall have something to tell.**” **COL 67:** “The **object** of the **Christian life** is **fruit bearing**—the **reproduction of Christ's character** in the believer, that it may be **reproduced in others.**”

Overall, I suggest there are **two huge indicators** above all others that show Spirit reception: (1) a radical change in disposition (**the fruit of character**); and (2) a strong desire to share Christ (**the fruit of soul-winning**). In fact, our fruit of character (how we live) leads to the fruit of soul-winning. **RE: preach the gospel; if necessary, use words!** If we have **TRULY** received the Spirit, there will be **FRUIT** to **INDICATE THIS REALITY!** **RE: Dad's Baptism (fruit of Gram's, mom's influence).**

RESPONSE: How we live **speaks louder** than our words. The fruit of our attitude and actions **RIPPLE into eternity**. What kind of person do others see in us – something different, something supernatural? Do they **SENSE** a **DIVINE ANNOINTING** on **our lives**/see the **FRUIT** of this anointing? **RE: Alltel card (no idea of impact).** We are **living epistles**, known/read by all (2 Cor. 3:2). **RE: Ron; different pastor; gave time; lived faith; won me (doctrine and influence; Jonathan-David; Elisha-Elijah; Joshua/Moses; Timothy/Paul; be different; be better; Covid).** What kind of life do you live before others, especially in your family? Do you consistently reveal **“The Fruit of the Spirit”** in your life?