

The Fruit of the Spirit-Filled Life (Part One)

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Review of Galatians 5:13-21

- Galatians 5:13-15 "Christian Freedom: Balancing on the Bridge"
- Galatians 5:16-18 "Life Management 101: An Introduction to Life Skill Transformation"
- Galatians 5:19-21 "A Catalog of Sin"

The Fruit of the Spirit-Filled Life = The abundant harvest of Christ-like qualities that the indwelling Holy Spirit produces in the regenerated heart.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

The Seven Principles of Spiritual Pomology

pomologist – one who is an expert in producing fruit

Principle #1 The fruit of the Spirit is not automatic. "...the fruit of the SPIRIT..." (Gal. 5:22)

The fruit of the Spirit = the harvest of the heart that comes ONLY from the Holy Spirit of the One True God.

The Fruit of the Human Spirit vs. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Step #1 The right seed must be planted in our hearts

• In order to experience the DIVINE fruit of the Spirit, we must have the Holy Spirit of God living inside of us. In order to have the Spirit of God living inside of us, we must become a born-again followers of Jesus Christ.

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."

Step #2 The soil of our hearts must be properly cared for

- Water it daily...by meditating on the Word of God
- Weed it daily...by dealing with our sin
- Nourish it daily...by obeying God's will
- Be filled WITH the Spirit and walk BY the Spirit
cf. Gal. 5:16-18; 5:24-25

Principle #2. The fruit of the Spirit is not limited. "...such things" (Gal 5:23)

• The fruit of the Spirit-filled life is...

- ...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23)
- ...the conviction of sin I feel when I offend God (Jn 16:8, etc.)
- ...enjoying resurrection and abundant life (cf. Rom. 8:11; John 10:10)
- ...experiencing the power of God in my life (cf. Acts 1:8)
- ...everything that is the opposite of the deeds of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21)
- ...is enduring hope, intimate fellowship with God and His people, ceaseless mercy, lasting endurance, effective service, world-impacting evangelism, life-changing discipleship and persevering prayer

The fruit of the Spirit is not just a list of qualities. It is the FULL work of the Holy Spirit in our lives as He correct us, equips us, empowers us and grows us.

Principle #3 The fruit of the Spirit is not fully produced in us immediately.

Manifesting fully the fruit of the Spirit is a life-long process.

Ps. 92:12-14 "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, They will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green..."

As we grow more mature in Christ we develop deep-seated love, abiding joy, incomprehensible peace, enduring patience, overwhelming kindness, sacrificial goodness, lasting faithfulness, amazing gentleness and unexpected self-control

Principle #4. The fruit of the Spirit is all one harvest of the heart.

"...the ONE fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..."

Unlike the GIFTS of the Spirit which are given one by one to different people (cf. 1 Cor. 12; Romans 12; etc.) ALL of these individual fruits of the Spirit listed in Gal 5:22-23 are to be found in ALL Christians

Principle #5. The fruit of the Spirit represents the life of Christ in us.

Each of the fruit of the Spirit can be found perfectly exemplified in Our Lord Jesus Christ. And when the Spirit produces them in our lives, we look like Him, too (e.g. Christ-like love, Christ-like joy...Christ-like peace...etc.)

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Principle #6 The fruit of the Spirit is a sweet harvest.

Gal. 5:23 "...against such things there is no law..."

The fruit of the Spirit-filled life is always a sweet harvest...a sweet work of grace. We don't need more religion or man-made regulations to sweeten our lives. We need the succulent ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Principle #7 The fruit of the Spirit attracts others to Christ.

Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls."

One of the greatest evangelistic tool for winning souls is "Living the spirit-filled life" evangelism.

May our lives be a horn of plenty - a cornucopia to the world that is overflowing with the sweet aroma of all of these Christ-like qualities.

Concluding Challenge: