



TEXT: ARE YOUR FRUITS IN OPERATION?

James Harris sermon 9-21-2014

Gifts of the Spirit

¹⁹ But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, ²⁰ idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group—and there will be wrong doctrine, ²¹ envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there Galatians is the 9th book in the New Testament that gives us an account of the 9 fruits of the spirit. 9 is the number that represents the fullness of blessings. In this particular periscope Paul the writer is concerned with the controversy surrounding Gentile Christians and the Mosaic Law.

As we see in the text it is God's desire to impart 9 specific fruits of the Holy Spirit into our lives that will ultimately infuse or personalities. Which in turn makes us a living representation of Christ. God wants us to enter into a process where he is ruler of our lives. Christ can not only be savior but must be Lord over or lives. As Lord there is a rulership that takes place, which causes us to be molded, causes us to be shaped, and causes us to be transformed into Christ's image. This transformation takes place through the Holy Spirit which renews our minds. "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds"

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

We must be willing to cooperate with the process of yielding to the Holy Spirit. We all know what characteristics we possess that are not Christ-like. Take a moment to think of some places in your life where you could be a better example of Christ. None of us like to admit that there are some places in our lives that need to be transformed; this is the most painful part of the process. Whether its jealousy, envy, hatred towards a marginalized group of individuals in our society, or constant complaints about where we are in life, comparing ourselves to others, lack of love for a family members who you want to think and behave according to our standards in our timing which causes us to be judgmental.



We all have places where we want God to clean us up and some places where we need God to fill us up. The fruits of the spirit can do just that and dramatically change the quality of our lives. The fruits of the spirit have the ability to get us into places where educational degrees, family status, and personal works can't get us.

There will be times when we are tested and we have to activate the gifts that God wants to us to use through the Holy Spirit. The problem that many of us face is acknowledgement of the Holy Spirit.

Many have had misconceptions or ideas of what the Holy Spirit is. We are a part of a society that is heavily driven by the media that has painted a picture of the Holy Spirit in a way that is loud, rambunctious; that many may find disruptive. I must admit growing up in a Pentecostal background that I have experienced the shouting, speaking of tongues, and expressive praise that many equate as the Holy Spirit. I must also admit that I have prayed in tongues given an expressive praise, but I have also experienced the Holy Spirit in a still small voice. Like God we can all experience the Holy Spirit in different ways. The Holy Spirit comes in a still small voice, can speak to you through a dream, and or through a sermon that speaks right to your situation. Don't allow your misunderstanding or others misinterpretations, of the Holy Spirit allow you to ignore its importance.

You cannot activate anything you don't receive or acknowledge. If UPS came by your house today and required your signature and you refused to sign, know that item is going back to the warehouse although it's paid for. May I suggest that your acknowledgment of the Holy Spirit is your SIGNATURE.

Once you receive the Holy Spirit or come into a consciousness that the Holy Spirit is available to you then you can activate the fruits. God would not have shared the 9 fruits of the Spirit if we were not expected to ACKNOWLEDGE and use them. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are a great check list for Christians to make sure we are living examples of Christ.

Love is the first fruit listed in Galatians 5:22 because it is the greatest commandment.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

⁴ Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, ⁵ never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. ⁶ It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. ⁷ If you love someone, you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him. "Are you really walking in love?"

Even when we were unlovable, God allowed his son to die for our sins. We are to love others even when it seems they are unlovable. This task would not be so difficult if we allowed the Holy Spirit to lead and guide our lives. This takes tremendous faith!

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Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God(imitators) of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.

1John 1:20

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Joy is the second.

Joy is not just happiness, caused by external events. Joy is something that takes place on the inside, when you have joy it takes place regardless of external circumstances that aren't so great. If you are concerned about paying a child's tuition, if you get a bad health report, if your car can't be repaired, if your child did not turn out the way you expected, there's a joy that lives beyond the circumstance because we trust in what God can do.

Scripture: The bible also declares in **Nehemiah 8:10** the joy of the Lord is your strength. What's so great about God is that he requires something of us that is also be beneficial to our very existence. God knows that we will need strength during times of uncertainty and turmoil, so in his infinite wisdom he asks that we tap into the fruit of the spirit Joy

Romans 15:31 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Peace- Peace we obtain as a spiritual fruit is not easily interrupted. When you have the peace of God it surpasses all understanding. You can be in a chaotic situation and place but the peace of God will produce a strength that your human mind can't comprehend. Have you ever been in a situation under normal circumstances you would freak out but there is a calmness and trust in God that everything will be fine and if not, we trust his plans are greater and better than our plan. I'll give my own personal testimony where I knew the peace of God was operating in my life. The day of my interview here at Aldersgate on my way my truck died found out later on it could not be repaired. I had a choice to freak out and loose it but there was a peace that came over me.

Patience- God has proven to be patience with us time and time again. Everyone has a separate journey and experience with God. Just because someone does not operate the way we do, or grow at the pace we grow, doesn't mean impatience and frustration should be expressed. We have to practice patience driving in traffic, at a restaurant hungry, or training a pet. I know parents God will exercise your patience while raising a child.



There are also times we are asking God for things right away as if he is Santa Clause. Some things we will have to wait for because we are simply not ready and we will mess it up if it's not granted in God's timing.

James 1:3... Knowing this, that the trying of your **faith worketh patience. ...**

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Gentleness- The kindness towards others regardless of their attitude towards you. To easily manage or handle an individual/situation.

Just be kind, we cannot allow things that have taken place in our lives to cause us to become mean. We never know if our gentle smile and kind attitude will positively affect someone and in turn make our day a lot better

Goodness- Moral excellence, kindness, and generosity.

We should make choices that would be pleasing to God rather our flesh. Sometimes we want to be selfish and make choices that affect our lives positively but negatively affect our neighbors and peers.

FAITH-without faith it is impossible to please the Lord. Walking in the spirit helps grow our faith.

1 Corinthians 16:13- that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but the Power of God. We cannot put our faith in man's thoughts because man has the ability to fail us.

Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. This scriptures blesses me because it is quite helpful to understand even when I want to operate in the flesh my faith can quench the darts of the enemy. And cause me to live a life that will not only be pleasing to God but a blessing to everyone I come in contact with.

James 2:17, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. I can have faith that God bless me with a job, but I need to apply, I can have faith to have an awesome youth ministry, but that requires work, I have faith that God will bless my children to get into great schools, but I have to make sure I make sure they have the tools and social skills to make that happen.

Our very religion rests on the shoulders of faith. Faith, that God sent his son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Then bless us with the Holy Spirit as a Paraclete a, helper.

MEEKNESS- tamed, kind, the ability to be taught. One that lacks a haughty attitude and self-sufficiency, our sufficiency is in God. We know that the creator knows more than we do, so we go to him in meekness, with a desire to know more concerning his will for our lives. We must be willing to humble ourselves. Many of us have stayed in the same place because we were unable to be humble/meek. We cannot allow the possessions we have gained in this world to cause us to become haughty.

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Temperance-Self-control – moderation or self-restraint in action, statement, etc.; self-control.

The more spiritual we become the more control we have over our thoughts and actions.

We can't always say what we are thinking. There is a time and place for everything. Imagine how out of control this world would be if we said everything we wanted, purchased everything we wanted, dated everyone we were attracted to? There would be no boundaries and it would leave us with a society of self-indulging individuals that would never care to commit to anything.

Our bodies are our temple and we must have temperance and self-control to be wise stewards over the body we are given. We must practice temperance in everything we enjoy because we can easily go overboard with the things that are satisfying to us, Just because! We have walked through all 9 fruits of the Spirit LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEAKNESS, TEMPERANCE

Remember the Holy Spirit is gentle and will not force entry into our lives. It is our assignment as followers of Christ to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit. Think of it this way every time we go for a run, or go to the gym we condition our bodies to become more healthy and fit. You can't walk into the gym look at the equipment, ignore it, and expect results. You have to operate the equipment that has been given to you. The world we live in is our gym full of situations that activate the fruits of the spirit. Every day in some form or fashion we are faced with situations that allow us to use at least one or all of THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT. Are your fruits in operation?