

- Don't let the ghost stories of others hinder your **<u>experience</u>** with the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit in me doesn't make <u>me</u> better than anyone; He makes me better than <u>me</u>.
- The gifts of the Spirit without the fruit of the Spirit are useless.

If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about *everything*, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever. 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

The gifts without the fruit mean we are living from our <u>human</u> nature rather than our <u>spiritual</u> nature.

Spiritual Gifts display my <u>ministry</u> – Spiritual fruit displays my <u>maturity</u>.

Why the fruit of the Spirit so important:

The fruit of the Spirit is the <u>character</u> of Christ.

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son...Romans 8:29 (TLB)

The fruit of the Spirit is the character that shapes our actions.

The fruit of the Spirit <u>identifies</u> me as a child of God.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and <u>whoever loves has been born of God and knows God</u>. 1 John 4:7

- The fruit of the Spirit <u>blesses</u> others.
- The fruit of the Spirit makes me a light to the world.

...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 $\,$

The fruit of the Spirit makes us a light to the world because we're **<u>different</u>** than the world.

•As we follow Christ and walk in the Spirit, He will grow this fruit in our lives.

But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)

God is working in us:

- · Love that seeks the greatest good for those around us.
- Love that is free of attitudes and disrespect.
- An exuberance about life because we know that God in us is greater than what's going on around us.
- Peace that God is in control of what I can't control.
- Patience that trusts God's process and timing.
- · Kindness that seeks to care for the needs of those around me.
- Goodness that seeks to treat others the way we want to be treated.
- Faithfulness that seeks to be loyal and committed to others.
- · Gentleness that seeks to understand others.
- · Self-control over my sinful desires and selfish attitudes.

Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. Matthew 7:20 (NLT)

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:24-25

To cultivate the fruit of the Spirit:

• We live from the cross.

If anyone would come after me (Follow Me), let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

... I die daily. 1 Corinthians 15:31

We live <u>engaged</u> with the Spirit.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Galatians 5:25

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE In a growing relationship with Jesus.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups: These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- How does the Holy Spirit make you better than who you are without Him?
- What does it mean that the gifts of the Spirit without the fruit of the Spirit are useless? (If you need to, read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
- What does it mean that Spiritual fruit displays our maturity?
- · Give some examples of how the fruit of the Spirit is the character of Christ?
- Do you find the fruit of the Spirit is shaping your actions towards others?
- · How does the Fruit of the Spirit bless others?
- · How does the fruit of the Spirit make us a light to the world?
- Go over the points under the sub-heading: "God is working in us". Do you see God working these into your life?
- What does it mean to live from the cross and why is this important?
- · How do we live engaged with the Spirit?

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Coming Up:







Doing life together

Today's Talk..



Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit

Sunday, October 30th, 2022



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