

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

LESSON 01 - LIFE

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction:

1. There is a contrast made between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.
2. The great battle of our lives here upon Earth is between the flesh and the Spirit.
3. Ultimately, this is a conflict over who will reign and rule in our lives – man (the flesh) or God (the Spirit).
4. When we choose to walk after the Spirit, we will bear His fruit in our lives.
5. “The fruit of the Spirit is love.”

I. Fruit – the Method of Christianity

- A. The word “fruit” implies life.
 1. Fruit is the product of life and ensures the propagation of life.
 2. This is in contrast with the “works of the flesh” which operate in the realm of death.
 - a. Spiritually (Gal. 5:19-21)
 - b. Physically – the works of men (cf. Ecc. 2:11, 17-18, 22-23)
 3. “The word *works* suggests the factory; the word *fruit* suggests the garden.”
 4. The source of life is God; thus, production of fruit is dependent upon Him (John 1:4).
- B. The word “fruit” implies cultivation.
 1. Fruit trees are pruned to promote greater production.
 2. Likewise, the production of the fruit of the Spirit requires cultivation.
 3. This pruning is the work of God.
 - a. By the Word (John 15:1-3)
 - b. By discipline (Heb. 12:5-7, 11)
 4. This cultivation requires our participation (Gal. 5:16-18, 24-25; 6:7-10).
- C. The word “fruit” implies sustenance.
 1. The fruit of the Spirit will sustain spiritual life within us.
 2. Yet, it also satisfies the hunger of God for man’s love (cf. Gen. 3:9).

II. Spirit – the Means of Christianity

- A. One becomes a Christian by being born of water and of the Spirit – a new birth that creates new life (John 3:5-7; 1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:22-25).
- B. It is the Holy Spirit that produces and cultivates fruit in the Christian (Rom. 8; 2 Cor. 3:3; Eph. 3:16).
- C. It is the Holy Spirit who is grieved when we disobey God’s Word (Eph. 4:30).
- D. Thus, the Holy Spirit – working through the Word of God – makes salvation and faithful living possible (yet, not without the individual’s participation).

III. Love – the Mark of Christianity

- A. Note that the words “fruit” and “is” are singular – only one fruit.
- B. Yet there are nine characteristics listed in describing the fruit of the Spirit.
- C. It seems that the word “love” is all-encompassing and the other eight traits are various aspects of love.
- D. The following lessons will show how these attributes demonstrate love, thus, the fruit of the Spirit.