

Fruit of the Spirit – Part 3

What a joy it is to come to you and share with you the Word of God. In recent days we've been studying about the local church. We talked about how that people are born again. That means that they've trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they're sorry for their sin, they asked Jesus to come into their heart, and as a result, the Bible says, whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved, and if you've done that, if you've asked Jesus to save you, then you are a child of God.

I encourage you as a child of God to get into a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching local church, a church that stands upon the Word of God. If you do not have a local church or you do not have one close by, I always say that: Don't go to the church of your choice. As a human being, we often choose the wrong things, the wrong church a lot of times. We need to go into the Scriptures and find out what that church is teaching. When we find a church, we need to compare that church to the Word of God, the preaching that goes on there, to see if it's coming from the Word of God.

Now, I've often said this: When you find a local church, you need to realize that God has placed certain individuals within that local body to do the job, and as we've been looking... once again we've studied about the local church... but now, we're looking at the fruit of the Spirit. So many people are confused as to what the fruit of the Spirit is. In the body of Christ there are many diversities of gifts, and we're not talking about the gifts of the Spirit now. I'm going to read about that in just a moment. What we're speaking of here is fruit of the Spirit.

Once again, if you do not have a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching local church close to you or within a certain area and you feel the

need of having a good Bible-believing, Bible-preaching local church, if you'll get in touch with me, I'll be glad to help you start a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching local church, and if I can't help you, I'll find somebody who can.

If you'll write to me, just simply write LRW, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Listen at the end of the program and you'll be given the information again, the address again, and also our Websites where you can contact me. Contact the ministry where we can help you. And if we can help you in any way, in prayer, a church, whatever you have need of, then get in touch with us so we'll know how to pray with you and for you. And also if you need a local church established in your area, let us know and we'll do everything we can to help you get that local church started, a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching local church.

Now, in the Scriptures that we've been looking at, we've looked at the fruit of the Spirit in these past sessions that we've been in, and it says in Matthew 7:20, *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.* But I want to carry that thought on just a little further here. If you see apples hanging on a tree... and we talked about this last time... if you see apples hanging on a tree, you can be sure it is an apple tree. If you see a vine-like plant growing in your garden, you may not recognize it, but once you see a watermelon growing on the vine, then identification of the plant is easy. And if you see tomatoes hanging on a plant, you can be sure it is a tomato plant.

Well, the genuine fruit of the Spirit when it's manifested you can be sure that the Spirit of God is working in that person. And sometimes the question is asked: How can a person give evidence of the fact that the Spirit of God dwells

within? Well, I believe the greatest evidence and the greatest proof is not that the person speaks in tongues, as some believe or have had some emotional experience... I believe the greatest evidence is fruit.

Now, once again, do not get confused and think that the fruit of the Spirit is the same as the gifts of the Spirit. We'll discuss that later on in another study, but Paul says in I Corinthians 12:1, *¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.*

I believe the largest growing denomination in the world today is the First Church of the Ignorant Brethren. And the Bible says that we're not to be ignorant. You say, "Well, that's being pretty unkind of you, saying that people are ignorant." Well, not really, because ignorant doesn't mean that a person is really dumb or what you might think of. It simply means that people need to study the Word of God so that they will not be ignorant. Paul says, "I would not have you to be ignorant."

Well, in II Timothy 3:16, it says, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* That's how each of us... we become, if I would use the term, "unignorant." We study the Word of God.

In II Timothy 3:17, it says that this is the reason that we study, *That the man of God...* and that means the woman, as well... *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly... or thoroughly... furnished unto all good works.*

Paul, once again back in I Corinthians 12, he says he does not want us to be ignorant, and of course, this is written under the inspiration of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Lord does not want us to be ignorant concerning the things that He has for us as Christians. And II Corinthians 12:2 says, *Ye*

know that ye were Gentiles, carried away... And this word "Gentiles" here means unsaved, that you were once unsaved... *carried away unto these dumb idols...* that means worshipping something that is not a real god, worshipping someone or something that can do nothing for you, that cannot take you to Heaven as Jesus can, but he says you were carried away with these dumb idols, *even as ye were led.*

³Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

In other words, the Bible says that we call upon the name of the Lord to be saved. Paul the apostle, once again, in Acts chapter 9, he said, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" And this was on the road to Damascus, you remember if you've studied the Word of God, and I pray that you have studied and you are studying. If you go back and read Acts chapter 9, you'll see that Paul the apostle met the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.

You say, "Well, I thought Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected and went back to Heaven." He did. He's alive today, but I'll have you know that He appeared to Paul on that road to Damascus, and Paul said, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" And that's the way you and I as children of God, that's what we, in essence, have done when we come to that saving knowledge. We came to that saving knowledge, realizing that He is Lord and that we are to devote ourselves to Him. And when we start realizing that, even as a saved person, that Jesus is Lord, He's the Lord of our lives, then I believe that we will be able to serve Him more completely in this life.

Paul the apostle says that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit convicts hearts. The Holy Spirit deals with a person's heart and they realize

they're lost and they need a Savior. Prayerfully, they receive Jesus as Savior, and then, after a person gets saved, the Holy Spirit still deals with that individual. The Holy Spirit deals with each of us and says look, "There's more to the Christian life than just getting saved and waiting around, waiting for the Rapture, or waiting to go home to be with the Lord. We're still here on this earth, and while we're here, we have work to do as the children of God.

Paul the apostle is trying to get that across to us through his writings, and we're reading in Chapter 12 of I Corinthians where he does not want us to be ignorant, but he wants us to learn. And I Corinthians 12:4 says, *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.* Now, once again, we're studying right now about the fruit of the Spirit, not the gifts of the Spirit. I just want you to realize there's a difference in the fruit and the gifts. He says, ⁶*And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.* ⁷*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

Every human being that has named Jesus Christ as Savior has a gift from God, at least one spiritual gift. And we're not going to go into naming those spiritual gifts right now, because we're going to study that later on, the gifts of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit are given so that God can work in His local church to get the job done that He has for us to do.

Remember, the job that He has for us to do as individuals is to tell others about Jesus, it's to help other people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and then help that new Christian, that person who is not grounded in the Word of God, to study the Word of God and work with them and uphold them in prayer and just let them know that they're not alone, and as a Christian who is studying the Word of God, we

need to let others know that by helping them learn the things of God.

I'm not saying that, when you get saved and you study the Word of God, you're going to know everything, because we're still learning. I don't care how old we get, we still learn from the Word of God, and each of us needs to study the Scriptures daily so that we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ and help that person who is unsaved to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

The fruit of the Spirit is the outward and visible evidence of that inner life and power and Person that lives within, namely God, the Holy Spirit. The Bible says in Galatians 5:22-23, ²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³*Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

I would ask you to study and look at the Word of God until we get together the next time and we go through the Scriptures. One of the verses that I want you to look at is Galatians 5:22. The word "fruit" is singular here. It does not say "the fruits of the Spirit," even though there are nine virtues listed in these verses. We'll be studying those nine virtues to see what the nine virtues of the Spirit consist of.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Have you trusted Jesus Christ? If you have not done that, you need to ask Him to come into your heart right now. "Lord, I'm sorry for my sin. Please save me so I can go to Heaven and so I can serve You here while I'm on this earth, Lord. Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul." And if you pray a prayer like that and mean it in your heart, the Bible says that you'll get saved, that you will be saved. It's a gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast. It's a free gift, and God wants to give you that right now through His Son Jesus Christ. Let's pray.

Father, thank You for this time we've had together. May You use these words, not my words but Your words from Your Scriptures, to deal with our hearts to help us, Lord, to be increased in knowledge and to bless our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly in our prayer.