

The Fruit of The Holy Spirit

Dying to self and living for Christ gives us freedom

Starting from where we had left off, we die to our natural self and live for Christ. This means that we need to choose to live in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul said in **2 Corinthians 3:17**, *“¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”*

So that means we have liberty – freedom in fact, to walk and live in the Holy Spirit. Freedom to live for Christ! **Galatians 5:1** says, *“¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”*

He is the vine – we need to abide in Him in order to bear much fruit.

In order to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit, we need to choose to remain, walk and live in Him. In **John 15**, Jesus said, *“⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*

Bearing fruit is part of being in Christ

Too many Christians seem to believe that they must do the works of God to be approved, to have more faith, to be in Him, to have our intimacy with Him. In fact, a common mistake is to think that doing our ministry is how we grow our faith in Christ – how we be. This is what I call Doing and then Believing – Do Be. Frankly it is a massive mistake that leads to a religious spirit and builds on human efforts – not the on the power of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures clearly point out that we need to first believe. Paul said in **Romans 10:9-13** that we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and that in doing so, we are thus saved. Not by works but by grace, through faith. *“⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Believing is key, then doing! Be Do!

Believing is the most important part of our walk with God. Believe that you are a child of the King. Believe that He is for you! Believe that the Holy Spirit lives within you. Believe that His miraculous power is available to you. In **Mark 16:17-18**, Jesus said, *“¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* We need to be “Be Dos”, meaning we need to believe and out of our belief in Jesus and His mighty power, do the works He has set out for us.

God is for you! He loves you and wants to bless you!

The song “The Blessing” is a great example from the Scriptures of how God is for you and how He loves you and wants to bless you.

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴ “The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

²⁶ The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’

Exodus 20:6

“⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

Deuteronomy 7:9

⁹ “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”

Psalms 103:17-18

“¹⁷ But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting

On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children’s children,

¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant,

And to those who remember His commandments to do them.”

Know what you believe!

So if God is for us, who can be against us? Again, we are presented with the opportunity to believe that God is for us. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament declare that God is for you. **Romans 8:31** says, *“³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”* God has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. **Deuteronomy 31:6** says, *“⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

The fruit of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21 says, *“¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* The fruit of the flesh sprouts from pride and fear. Both of these are polar opposites of believing in the Word of God.

The fruit of the Spirit

But when we believe the promises of God, and live and walk in those beliefs, then our lives will automatically bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. It just exudes out of us naturally! **Galatians 5:22-24** says, *“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”*

Living the Spirit

Galatians 5:25 says, *“²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”* So what is the difference between living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit? **Romans 1:13** has a lot to say about living in the Spirit. First there is no condemnations for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not live according to the flesh but live according to the Spirit (Romans 8:1). So living in the Spirit involves our belief – knowing and believing the promises of God.

Walking in the Spirit involves our daily walk and the active life choices we make. **Colossians 2:6-7** says, *“⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”* **Galatians 5:16-18** says, *“¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”*

Conclusion

- Dying to self for Christ gives us life and liberty
- We need to dwell in Christ. He is the vine and we are His branches.
- When we're in Christ, bearing His fruit is a natural part of our spiritual lives
- Believing God at His word is key
 - Belief bring salvation and His power is unlocked through our belief and actions based on our belief
- God is for you, He wants to bless you, His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting
- Know what you believe! Hold onto it – declare it, fight for it in your heart!
- Fruit of the flesh
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Live in the Spirit
- Walk in the Spirit