

Outline of Study of the Holy Spirit

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Who is He?
 - B. What is He like? (His attributes)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
 - 1. In Worship (Jn 4:23-24)
 - 2. In Unity (Eph 4)
 - 3. In mobilizing for outreach ("filling")
 - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
 - 1. In salvation (regeneration--John 3) (baptism--I Cor 12:13)
 - 2. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - 3. Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - 4. Sanctification (II Cor 3:18)
 - 5. Sets free from Habits (Eph 4-5)
 - C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World
 - 1. Convicting of sin (John 16)
 - 2. Restraining (II Thes 1)

Tonight: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

What is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit? What does He do? In the last couple of weeks, we've considered 12 activities the Spirit performs in the life of the individual Christian. Tonight, we want to explore a related topic, one which we could devote many weeks. We might call it "Fruit Inspection 101."

Tonight: The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

Q: According to v 16, the Christian life involves a choice we must make daily. What is it? "Walk in the Spirit."

The word "in" suggests a sphere. If I draw a circle on the floor, I am either standing "in" it, or I'm not "in" it. I must make a daily choice to walk (i.e. "live") in the sphere of the Holy Spirit.

Q: What does that mean? V 25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." How do we live in the Spirit? We get to know what pleases Him, and do those things. We keep in step with Him. We cooperate with Him.

Notice the strong contrast in v 16. We will either "walk in the Spirit" or we will what? "Fulfill the lust of the flesh." We will either yield the controls to the Spirit, or to our own "lusts" (desires).

Q: What product will be seen in my life if I live by the flesh?

A: "The works of the flesh" (19-21)

Q: What product will be seen in my life if I yield to the Spirit?

A: "The Fruit of the Spirit" (22-23)

I. Observations about the Fruit of the Spirit

A. The fruit of the Spirit is FRUIT, not fruits.

Q: Why is that significant?

It's a package deal. The nine virtues go together. Together they represent the complete life.

Q: By the way, what person exhibited these nine virtues perfectly? Jesus!

When we cooperate with the Spirit, and allow Him to produce His Fruit in us, we are actually allowing Him to reproduce the life of Christ in us. We are becoming Christ-like.

B. The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, not us.

The Spirit is the source of the fruit.

Q: Notice the difference. There are WORKS of the flesh, and there is FRUIT of the Spirit. Why is that significant? We don't need any help to produce the works of the flesh! But we can't produce the fruit of the Spirit. He must. And stated positively, if we have the Spirit, we have the potential for fruit!

II. The Demonstration of the Fruit of the Spirit

When the Spirit is in control of our lives, His fruit is seen in 3 areas.

A. Our Relationship with God

Q: What is the first thing the Spirit produces in us? Love

Q: Why is that significant, acc to Jn 13:34? It's the mark of true disciples.

Genuine disciples of Christ love God, and love one another. Love is the decision I make to do what's right towards another person.

Application: If I say, "I just can't seem to do the right things in my life. I'm saved, and I want to live for God, but I keep failing." What should I do? Recognize that if I'm not living for God, then I'm not giving Him His rightful place in my life. And if that's the case, I'm not loving Him. I need to confess that, and ask the Spirit to produce love in me.

The Spirit produces joy, namely, the joy of the Lord.

Check out: Rom 14:17; 15:13; 1 Thess 1:6

Q: What is joy? What does it look like in a Christian?

Q: Is joy an option for a Christian?

Q: If joy is missing, what must I do?

The Spirit produces peace. Peace with God. The peace of God.

Q: How does He do it? Phil 4:6-7 "Be anxious for nothing...And the peace..."

Some people think that if they've got a great relationship with God, they must be successful Christians. Is that true? It may or may not be. The second area the Spirit produces His fruit is in...

B. Our Relationship with Others

Q: What does the Spirit produce in our relationships with people?

--Long-suffering (patience) -- not short fused;

--Gentleness (kindness) -- not moody and selfish

--Goodness (moral excellence and virtue) -- not shady

Key: When the Spirit is in control of my life, you'll see it in the way I relate to you. So, too, in the way you relate to others.

Q: Does the Spirit produce this fruit only in people who are "extroverts"? No.

Q: Is it a mark of the Spirit to come to church, sit in our own little pew, and ignore my brothers and sisters in Christ? Personalities differ, but if the Spirit's in control of our lives, His presence will be seen in our relationships.

Application: Suppose I got burnt once in a relationship. How will this truth help me to tear down the wall, and take risks again in relationships with people?

C. In Ourselves

Q: What qualities does the Spirit produce in us?

--faith (or faithfulness) -- the capacity to trust and be trusted (be a person who is dependable; reliable; truthful; integrity)

--meekness (gentleness) -- great power under great control (Plato uses the illustration of the watchdog, who is hostile to strangers, but friendly to those he knows and loves; So, a meek person is always angry at the right time, but never at the wrong time)

How can I tell if I am a meek person? Ask yourself:

1. What do you do when you don't get your way?
2. How do you respond when things don't go the way YOU want? Pout? Fly off the handle?

--self-control -- self restraint; self-discipline; living with your tastes in submission to Christ (That goes for food, for the latest computer software, for the latest fad in clothing, and for inappropriate sexual desires; Do you control your desires, or do they control you?)

Remember, self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. So are the other eight virtues. We can't manufacture them in our own strength.

Challenge: It's possible to experience these virtues! We CAN change. The Holy Spirit is the "change agent." How does He do it? Next week... Be reading Eph 4-5.

Next Week: The Holy Spirit sets us free from Habits (Eph 4-5).