

# Bearing the FRUIT of God's Holy SPIRIT

## Galatians 5:22-23



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*SUMMARY: God loves FRUIT. He gave us His Holy Spirit and expects us to have FRUIT of His Spirit. How would you define “the fruit of the Spirit” in its simplest terms? Can you strive to bear the fruit of the Spirit – or does it work differently than that? WHO produces the fruit? ARE we bearing much fruit or do we remain the same year after year? This message shows what Scripture says are the steps to producing and bearing more and more fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives.*

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Hello everyone, shalom and Yahweh's peace and fruit of His spirit – to all of you. This is Philip Shields from Orlando, FL with another message from God's word. If today's message helps you, tell others about our free website. Don't keep us a secret. There are many of you in Ukraine, Canada, all over the USA, Britain, France, Russia, Poland, Romania and China and 50+ other countries who visit this site. Welcome. Please **check out our BLOGS too.**

**As usual, I recommend you hear the audio as there's always more nuance in the audio –PLUS print out the notes** and follow along. This sermon moves quickly with lots of scriptures and so having notes with you will help you keep up with scriptures.

**If you keep the holydays, you've recently kept Pentecost.** I have many sermons about the Day of Pentecost on this website so please avail yourselves of them. Just type in “Pentecost” and see what pops up. Also enter “RUTH” – as that pertains to Pentecost too.

**Pentecost is both the anniversary of the giving of God's Torah – the Law and his teachings at Mt Sinai in Arabia as well as the anniversary of God's down-payment of His Spirit** – the giving of God's Holy Spirit.

Early believers are often described as being *FILLED* with God's spirit. Do YOU feel that way? **Are YOU full of God's spirit?** Would you describe the believers you sit next to in Church as being “full of God's spirit”? Do we even use that phrase among believers you hang out with?

Scriptures on being **filled with the spirit:** John the Baptist from birth (Luke 1:15); Acts 2:14; 4:31; Acts 10:44-48; etc.)

Many of us also feel that Pentecost is the day on which God Most **High will perform the Wedding of the Son of God and His Bride (Rev 19).** YHVH married Israel at Mt

Sinai and Ruth and Boaz got married around Pentecost season as well – both pointing to the REAL wedding of weddings, the marriage of the Lamb to his Bride.

**In Acts 2** and beyond, we see God giving a down payment – an earnest (“**arrabon**” in Greek-- Strong's 728) of His intentions to finish the work He has started in us. The modern Greek word for **engagement ring is “arrabona”** by the way. God intends for His Son to marry the ekklesia. They spoke in other languages. They were all filled with the Spirit.

Today I'd like to speak on bearing the fruit of the Spirit of God. (Opening prayer)

**I love fruit.** Don't you? Gotta have fruit around the house. When I was growing up in the **Philippines, my dad – Pastor Clyde V. Shields**, a missionary over there, **planted lots of fruit trees** at his mission. So I grew up with mangoes, avocados, lots of guava trees and papaya trees. We even had something called “star apples” – nothing like apples over here. We always had fruit. I just loved it. And we still do. We always have fruit on hand -- raspberries, blueberries, apples, oranges, peaches, mangoes. We love fruit.

And so does our Father. Fruit means the tree – or person – has life, real life.

Yeshua said to his 12 disciples that He chose them, not the other way around – “that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.” **John 15:16**. In verse 8 of John 15 Yeshua says bearing fruit is one of the proofs we are his disciples!

### **HOW IMPORTANT is bearing the fruit of the Spirit?**

**Mark 11:12-14** – **There was a fig tree** Yeshua examined that had no evidence of even any immature figs. It had a lot of leaves, but not even any tiny proto-figs – so he cursed it. More than anything He was teaching us that He expects us not just to grow, not just to have wonderful leaves, but fruit!

We were chosen to bear fruit – **John 15:8, 16** – and to glorify God in that. But when we take on the name “believer” or “Christian” – and still live like the rest of the world, that brings no glory to God.

#### **John 15:8**

“By this is my father glorified, that you bear *much* fruit, and so you will be my disciples.”

#### **Matthew 7:19**

“Every tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**Luke 13:6-9** – God apparently is very willing that we have time to grow and bear. (Parable of the unfruitful fig tree that the gardener wanted to work with one more year).

If we're not bearing fruit, we could be in trouble apparently! So we need to understand what that means and what it is.

**OK, that gets to the heart of the angst of this topic: Does each of us know for sure we even have God's spirit? Have you ever wondered that? Honestly?** For if we have God's Spirit and are letting it fill us and lead and guide us –there absolutely would be fruit.

**WHOSE FRUIT IS IT?**

There can be no spiritual life, no spiritual growth, and- no fruit – without the Holy Spirit.  
This is where some people get confused.

**Most of my adult life the sermons on this topic were all wrong. I heard sermons – and gave sermons – about “striving” to become more and more like God.** Strive to be more loving, strive to be more joyful...”I’m trying to be happier”....strive to be more patient.

***That has it all wrong.*** Some people can become better people by force of will and effort. Yes. That’s true. But that’s the fruit of *their* effort, not the fruit of the spirit. Do you see the difference? The first one is YOUR fruit. The second one is the Spirit’s fruit.

And SELF-effort ends up as “works of the flesh” – it’s your doing, not the Spirit’s. And it ends up in death.

What I’m talking about today is how to let the Holy Spirit’s FRUIT shine in you and me. It’s been a real revelation over recent years: **The fruit of the Spirit is the fruit of the SPIRIT – it’s not my fruit.** It’s not your fruit. It’s the fruit of Christ in me by His Spirit. It’s HIM, HIS fruit.

It’s so basic and yet is not always understood, so it can be profound too: the fruit of the spirit is the SPIRIT’S FRUIT. It’s what GOD is doing in us – not what we’re doing. It’s the result of God’s work, not ours. Oh, we have some work to do – and I’ll get to that later in the sermon, but bearing fruit is something GOD does.

**The fruit of the spirit is simply the evidence of Christ living in you and me more and more.** The more we abide in Christ, the more we are filled with His spirit, the more evident the fruit of the spirit will be in our lives.

But it’s KEY to realize that God’s fruit is *from GOD* – not from you!

**1 Cor 3:5**

“I planted (seed), Apollos watered (nurture) – **and GOD gave the increase.**”

**Philippians 1:11**

“...being filled with the fruit of righteousness **which ARE BY Jesus Christ, to** the glory and praise of God.”

Pretty clear, isn’t it? And yet I still hear minister after minister talk about striving to bear more fruit. By the time we’re done today you’ll see how misguided that is.

The fruit of the Spirit happens because God the Father and Yeshua his Son have come to live in you – by the Spirit. There is one Spirit (Ephesians 4:4). It’s referred to as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ in Romans 8. It’s all the one and the same spirit. But when you receive that Spirit you now become the residence of the Divine Presence, of God the Father and Yeshua.

**John 14:23, 25-27**

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and **My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and make OUR home with him.**"

**Your life, your heart, your MIND, your BEING, your SOUL – is HOME for God.** Isn't that an awesome thought? God the father sends His Holy Spirit in Yeshua's name.

**SO WHAT is the fruit of GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT we are to be evidencing?**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**"But the fruit of the Spirit IS (singular) love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."**

The GIFTS of the SPIRIT is different from the FRUIT of the spirit.

**"The fruit (singular) of the spirit IS": notice it is singular** with a 9-fold manifestation. It says "fruit, not "fruits". And it says the fruit of the spirit IS... and then lists 9 parts of it. One fruit, 9 manifestations, like an apple has a stem, skin, juice, the main fiber, the seeds, core, and so on.

BEARING FRUIT of the spirit is **described as more the MANNER OF LIFE we live – the kind of person we become because of the indwelling of God's spirit, our character traits** – than the doctrines we have come to accept. **When GOD comes to live in us by His spirit, HE wants to transform us, make us like HE is – HOLY, good, kind, joyous, at peace, not worrying, always loving. He wants us to bear evidence of His indwelling holy presence.**

**The fruit of the Spirit is demonstrated as CHARACTER traits** – what we become, what we are. It's NOT so much that we no longer keep Christmas or Easter or worship in church on Sunday. It's who and what we are as people filled with God's spirit.

**NOR are these fruit qualities something someone has from birth** just because they were born with nice personalities – and some people are. These are super-natural qualities that can weather the storm when the person is mature fruit.

**That Christ-like life will evidence itself NATURALLY - as naturally as oranges appear on an orange tree.** I'll say more later, but let's set that stage first. So if we aren't looking like the fruit of the spirit, maybe we have let the Spirit dry up in us, or God's spirit has left us – as it did King Saul, or maybe we've never even had it—and we wonder why it's been so hard. **Many Christians are striving to be more Christ-like, without Christ or His spirit filling their lives first.** We cannot be like Christ without Christ in us by his spirit.

So God gives us his Holy Spirit and it is the means by which God and Yeshua come LIVE inside us. If God's residing in us, surely God will produce fruit. These 9 qualities are deep spiritual qualities – way, way beyond human love, joy, peace and so on -- possible only with the indwelling of God's spirit.

**The fruit of the spirit in its simplest definition is the life of Christ being obviously lived in us. It is evident.** The teaching about the fruit of the spirit shows up in the Sermon on the Mount. It shows up in 1 Cor 13 – about how godly LOVE works, for LOVE is the core of this fruit, as love is God and God is love. With true love, all the other 8

manifestations will come about. The whole New Covenant writings of the apostles is about ultimately living like Christ would live; showing HIM and his life in our actions.

If someone cuts you off in traffic and you give him “the finger” and holler some things through your rolled-down window – that is NOT Christ living in you and that is not evidencing the Holy Spirit’s fruit. That’s the works of the flesh – outbursts of wrath!

- Fuming at someone not giving you service – and then letting them have it when they get back on the phone – that is not the life of Christ or His fruit either. The fruit of the spirit is love – and gentleness – and goodness, kindness.
- Certainly finding pleasure in watching fornication and adultery on TV or internet, or doing it yourself – is not the fruit of the spirit – but works of the flesh.

### **RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**There’s no fruit of the spirit without first *having* the Holy Spirit. We have to each be sure we *have* the Spirit of God and keep it. So how does that happen?**

**Peter says in Acts 2:38 – repent, believe on the Lord Jesus/Yeshua and be baptized (water immersion) in the Name of Yeshua” and then we learn later that we have to have hands laid on us to receive the Holy Spirit. Cornelius’ household was an exception.**

In **Acts 8**, we can read how Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ (**Acts 8:5, 12**)—leading to many repenting and being baptized for the remission of sins. But they did not receive the Holy Spirit until the church sent Peter and John – apostles, truly ordained ministers – to go lay hands on them (Acts 18:14-17). Philip baptized but did not lay hands on them. So be sure you have had the laying on of hands from an ordained minister.

There can be no fruit without the Holy Spirit in you first. There won’t be any Holy Spirit residing in you until you first repent and surrender 100% to Christ as your Master and accept Him as your Savior. Then be properly immersed under water and then have hands laid on you by true ministers of God. Maybe some of us – like those disciples in **Acts 19:1-10** – should be re-baptized, and properly this time with the laying on of hands by a true minister of God – especially if you didn’t properly repent or get immersed or were baptized by a true spirit-led and spirit-filled servant of God.

**Acts 5:32** also adds that God **gives his spirit to those who obey him**; who have ceased wanting a life of sin or living in sin.

### **When did you last ask for more of this precious GIFT of God?**

How would you like to be filled with God’s Holy Spirit? Our Father *wants* us to have His spirit. So he tells us to ASK HIM for more of it and He will give you more of it.

**Luke 11:13**

**“...how much more will your heavenly father give the Holy spirit to those who ASK HIM.”**

So we have to ask! ASK and you shall receive. When was the last time you even asked for more of His Spirit? What’s keeping you from doing it? Ask for more – right now! And let’s

do it daily. I sometimes wonder why Adam and Eve didn't avail themselves of the tree of Life – but days we don't ask for more of the Spirit, aren't we doing something similar?

### **But we also have to KEEP the Holy Spirit active**

Once we have received the Holy Spirit, *there are things we can do*. Timothy was told to fan into flame the gift of God's spirit. KJV says "stir up" but the Greek is much stronger. It means to stir up the gift into a roaring flame.

**2 Timothy 1:6—**

**"therefore I remind you to STIR UP [kindle into a hot flame] the gift of God which is in you thru the laying on of my hands."**

- Holman – "Keep ablaze the gift of God..."
- CJB – "to fan the flame of God's gift.."

**Remember the parable of the 10 Virgins in Matthew 25? The OIL in their lamps represents the Holy Spirit. When our lamps are ablaze from the oil – we are giving warmth and light to all around us. When we quench the flame of the spirit or aren't replenishing the Spirit, our light begins to dim and eventually go out. So one big way to replenish is to ask for more – and keep your fires burning, be HOT for God.**

### **ONGOING unrepented sin – disastrous to godly fruit of the Spirit**

Several things can diminish the Spirit's working in us. We can refuse to hear, heed or obey the leading of the Holy Spirit. That will keep it inactive in our lives. Also having **unrepented sin** diminishes the power of the Spirit – and eventually eliminates it. So we read in King David's prayer of repentance for murdering Uriah and committing adultery on Uriah's wife.

**Psalms 51:11** "take not your spirit from me."

David knew that **King Saul was once given God's spirit** but when Saul continued a life of sin, eventually the Holy spirit left Paul. Let's learn a lesson from this! In **1 Samuel 10:9-10** it actually says God gave Samuel "**another heart**" and that God's spirit came upon him and he prophesied with the prophets! Imagine that. **A NEW HEART** – conversion, and the Holy Spirit. But Saul – through his continued sins and not seeking after God – LOST the Holy Spirit. This can happen to you and to me too!

**1 Samuel 16:5**

**"But the Spirit of YHVH departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him."**

**What sins are we allowing in our lives – the secret sins? If we're not resisting the Devil, the spirit will diminish in its power in our lives.** What are the secret sins? Sabbath laxness? Porn? Flirting at work or in church? Or not praying and studying? Worry? What is it? Have you stopped tithing? Have you quit praying and studying God's word?

Even disrespecting our wife can lead to hindered prayers. I gave a whole sermon on hindered prayers (**I Peter 3:7**). NOT letting Christ shine through us grieves God's spirit. (I prefer that to "reflecting Christ in our lives". He should be our light!)

**God's Holy Spirit can be grieved – Isaiah 63:10** – “But they (Israel) rebelled and **grieved** His Holy Spirit, and he turned Himself against them as an enemy....”

**Ephesians 4:29-32**

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **30 And do not grieve God's Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31 (how?) Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.** **32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another**, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Those things make God – through His Spirit – HAPPY)

When we gossip or listen to trash, when we spread garbage about others – guess what? You're working for the Devil, which means “accuser” or “slanderer”. **DON'T** be a part of that. It dams the flow of the Spirit. Whenever you are being told gossip or garbage about someone, if you keep listening and being receptive to it (especially if it's from long ago and the person has repented), you are an accomplice in this horrible sin that grieves God.

It grieves the Holy Spirit in us. It upsets God. God hates, absolutely hates it when we divide brothers and friends. And sin upsets the Spirit in us and keeps it from being fruitful. God hates sin, pride and anything contrary to his nature. *The fruit of the spirit is HIS nature being revealed.*

Scripture is clear: Natural man – without God's spirit – cannot ever hope to become like God or to exhibit his true character, the fruit of the Spirit. There's a contrast between the fruit of the spirit and the WORKS (or deeds) of the flesh.

**How we receive the SEED – that becomes fruit**

**In the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13** --- the seed of God's word is received differently by different people. Which one are you? How are WE receiving God's word?

- Some are like **stony ground** and can't take the heat because not rooted in Christ.
- **Some are like thorns** that receive the seed – and then choke the new growth and fruit with thorns and weeds, which Yeshua said pictures the cares of this life, the pursuit of pleasures, riches, or having worries and concerns – and they *become* unfruitful and “bring no fruit to maturity” (**Luke 8:14; Matt 13:22; Mark 4:18-19**)

Where are you focusing your time? Facebook? Texting? Video games? TV? What and where? Could these be choking the word and keeping you from bearing fruit?

- **GOOD ground: receives it, understands it, bears fruit. (v. 23) These are people who spend time in the word of God every day, keeping the word, hearing God's voice, receiving instruction – and bear fruit.**

**Galatians 5:16-26**

**I say then: WALK in the Spirit , and you shall NOT fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

**(A war going on) 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.**

**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.**

Getting totally rid of the works of the flesh does not happen suddenly. Paul admitted that even he still at times did the things he hated (**Romans 7:15**), but at least he HATED them now. Pure carnality is someone relishing sin. And here in **Gal 5:16-17** admits that when we feed carnality in us, “*you do not do the things you wish.*” We are short-tempered instead of patient. We are lustful instead of being content with our wife or what God has given us. We are mean – instead of gentle and kind. I’ve certainly seen the works of the flesh in my life in my past and want that forever to be past! *But they won’t stay in the past unless we seek God’s spirit with all our heart, ask for more of the Spirit, and abide in Christ!*

### **FEEDING GOD’S SPIRIT IN US**

**There’s a ferocious spiritual war raging and you’re in it, whether we always realize it or not.**

One of the strategies of General MacArthur in the Pacific was to island-hop and **starve the Japanese soldiers** on some islands by cutting off their supplies. They became weak and ineffective. **Whatever we feed is what gets stronger in our life. Do we feed the flesh – and sin – or do we feed the Spirit?**

We feed the flesh when we focus our time on wastes of time, on sin, on anything that would be displeasing to God. We feed the Spirit when we focus time on prayer, study, encouraging others, and heeding the urges we receive from God’s spirit.

**In Luke 13** – there’s the **story of the fig tree** that after many years it continued to bear no fruit, so the master said to cut it down. But he was persuaded to let the worker till



it, dung it, feed it and see if that could change things. So we must FEED God's presence in us with Bible Study and prayer and good works – and digging out the “weeds” of our lives.

**You and I can only feed God's spirit if we're feasting on God's word every single day and seeking our Master on our knees daily!**

**The WORD is Christ in print. He was also pictured by the MANNA from heaven (John 6:32-41).** Israel had to gather their manna every single day. They couldn't save extra to keep from going out the next day. What a lesson: We must be feasting in God's word daily.

**Back to the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13: the seed that sprung up and bore lots of fruit – was the ground that received the word and kept it, guarded it. Does that describe YOU? We have so many ways to fill our minds with God's word!** We can have the Bible on audio and listen to IT on our smart phones, or on a cd, while we drive, while we weed the garden, while we sit on the patio chairs. Let alone all the various Bibles we have laying around the house.

The more we USE, FEED and ASK for more – the more God will grant us of His spirit. The principle is throughout the Bible: work with, develop and use what God gives you – and He will give you more (the parable of the Pounds and the Parable of the talents).

### **WHERE IS YOUR LIFE CENTERED?**

WHERE is your life centered? The problem with “striving to become more like God” is that the focus really is on YOURSELF. YOU are the one trying to make it happen. But in the end, the more you focus on what YOU do, the more you will be discouraged and fail. Paul came to that conclusion in Romans

**The struggle is really between who is master of your life? Is it Christ – or is it yourself?** We really don't like giving up control. So then we end up with the SELF at the center – and we end up being SELFish, self-centered, self-satisfied, self-pitying and ultimately – as we fail – self-hating. And in the end – we get worse and die.

Paul said the more he focused on his own efforts not to covet, the more he seemed to covet! (Romans 7:7-11) He is telling us his focus was wrong. But when he focused on his Savior, things went much better and he actually LIVED better. Naturally.

BEARING FRUIT of the spirit is **described as more the MANNER OF LIFE we live – the kind of person we become because of the indwelling of God's spirit, our character traits** -- **When GOD comes to live in us by His spirit, HE wants to transform us, make us like HE is** – HOLY, good, kind, joyous, at peace, never worrying, loving.... He wants us **to bear evidence of His indwelling holy presence.**

**We can have the Holy Spirit and still fail to produce its fruit. That's what we're talking about today.**

**The real fruit is about becoming a totally new creation, an entirely new person IN Christ.** REAL fruit of the Spirit is that now you are such a loving, kind, gentle, joyful, peaceful – not anxious and worried anymore, but a patient and awesome person ... that you weren't before! People who knew you before will often say – to a person displaying the fruit of the spirit – “Wow, you're so different from the man/woman I used to know. What's happening?”

**And as you tell people about the good news** of how Christ came to save the world – and you – and that HE is making you and thousands more, brand new people by his spirit and preparing a people for the kingdom of GOD – **you will have CREDIBILITY.** Because they can see God's fruit in you – right now, today.

### **THE KEY TO BEARING MUCH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

**Yeshua himself gave us the single biggest KEY to developing fruit.** Others I've mentioned several already:

- be sure you have received the seed of God. You've repented and been immersed in baptism and had hands laid on you.
- Be sure to ask for more of God Spirit.
- Be sure to fan it into flames and follow its leading – which means we have to be tuned in to God.
- We have to be putting sin out of our lives and resisting sin and the devil, or we grieve the Spirit.
- We have to be seeking God daily. More on this point now.

Now the BIGGEST key of all:

**John 15:1-8 the keys to bearing fruit of the Spirit are revealed right here.**

**"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.**

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**

**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."**

**What I'm about to say is the core, the single biggest key to bearing Godly fruit. Please listen carefully.**

**YESHUA SAID THE KEY is to abide in him. Too many are trying to bear the SPIRIT'S FRUIT through their own natural efforts and character-building... by STRIVING to become more loving, striving to be more joyous or peaceful, more kind, more long-suffering...**

**But that is focusing on ourselves, and what *we* must do.** So those doing that resolve each day to somehow have more peace, somehow have more love. And we work at it. But that's not what scripture says produces real fruit. In the end, focusing on what we do would result in YOU producing the fruit.

Focusing on what WE do is like **going to the supermarket** and buying a lot of apples and duct-taping them to an apple tree. We are working at it bearing some fruit. We can "play-act" love, joy, peace – etc.- for a TIME, but real fruit is real, NOT an act.

**FRUIT is borne – get this now – naturally in its due season – as long as the tree has enough sun and water.**

**Psalms 1:3** – “The godly man “is like a tree **planted by the rivers of water (Holy Spirit), that brings forth its fruit in its season**, whose leaf will not wither....”

**But the key is centering on Christ and what He's doing in your life – and not on what we're doing.** When we center on Christ, the fruit of that way will have to start being evident clearly tells us that as we gaze upon HIM, and focus on HIM, we are being transformed into his glory by the Spirit. It's HIS work. He is the author and finisher of our salvation. HE is our life. We died, and the life we live now is in and by Christ. I have an entire sermon on this - “I John 4:17b—“...as HE is, so are we in this world.” Look it up.

### **2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

FOCUS on Him. But when we focus on SELF: we get a lot of carnality; SELF-ish, Self-centered, even self-hating.

**The fruit of our own efforts of using will power**, education, even hypnosis -- can look like the fruit of the spirit, and can produce some changes in one's life – but they're not the fruit that results in eternal life and are not the fruit of the Spirit.

**FRUIT is produced on the branches NATURALLY. It's not the branch striving to produce fruit. It's the natural course of events produced by the VINE, or the TREE.**

**So when Christ is being formed in us via the indwelling of the Spirit, truly displaying a life that is Christ-like SHOULD be as natural as a peach appearing on a peach tree -- in season, AT THE RIGHT TIME.** And at first the initial “fruit” hardly looks like a peach and is hard. But it's a start. It will happen if we spend the time with Yeshua/Jesus as we should.

- **IF we're abiding in Christ, fruit of that relationship CANNOT be hidden.** A spiritual person is governed by God's Holy Spirit. A carnal person is not governed by God's spirit – but by their “self”.
- **In the same way, someone without Christ will display the WORKS of the flesh (Gal 5:19-21)** – including immorality, strife, dissensions, outbursts of pure anger, factions, envying, ... and are we not seeing that in the way church groups act to each other?

**The fruit of the spirit can be seen in 1 Cor 13 – when agape love is described. It is seen in the Sermon on the Mount – the Beatitudes. It is seen in Phil 4:8** – whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, good repute, excellent, praise-worthy – dwell on these things. **It's seen in Phil 4:6-7** to be anxious for nothing but to let the peace of God come upon us as we thank Him for and in all things. The fruit of the spirit frankly – is seen all throughout the entire new covenant scriptures.

**THE FRUIT of the SPIRIT should be evident no matter what is happening**

*BEARING GOD'S FRUIT is not dependent on what's going on to us and around us. We don't lose our temper and give someone the “finger”; nor do we EVER use profanity and “F” words. Those are evidence of carnality when we do that. And yes, even Paul said he was still carnal at times (“...but I am carnal...” Romans 7:14). When and if we do, we must deeply repent and ask Christ to live more in us and to give blessing to those who abuse us.*

As we grow in our Father's Spirit – **we will not be *reacting* so much in life** as BEING more and more like Christ, in situation after situation. But this happens over time.

- Yeshua – affixed and healed the ear of the man who lost his ear from Peter's sword
- He had compassion on the crowds who were hungry or those needing healing
- He was a friend of sinners – and also ate with Pharisees as their guest.

**Someone filled with God's spirit more and more demonstrates STABILITY in their life.** They are spotlighting the life of Christ, no matter what is going on around them. *Or if they start off annoyed, or in fear, or in lust, or in envy or depression – they ABIDE in Christ and bounce out of those carnal emotions.* And guess what? We demonstrate love, joy, peace, longsuffering patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – no matter the fear. If we start in fear and carnal feelings, we get over it and back to center – back to our Master Yeshua.

**SO HOW DOES ONE “ABIDE IN Christ” if that is the key to producing fruit?**

**Yeshua said “abiding in” him was the key to fruit (John 15:1-8).**

**To “abide” means: Make him your abiding place, your abode.** Hang out there. Spend time there with him. Christ becomes your center and your home. And remember HIS center is God the Father, whom we also seek diligently.

*Honestly: do we sometimes abide more in Facebook, Twitter, Texting, video games, hobbies or extra hours at your job – or in Christ and his word? Where do we spend more time?*

**EVEN YESHUA HIMSELF did not do all the good works on his own.** He did all He did by the POWER of God's Holy Spirit. We are not stronger than Christ, folks. We need God's help to do the things of God.

**John 5:19**

"I can do nothing of myself."

And remember Christ said in John 15:5 that WE can do nothing apart from him. Why should we think we can do anything if we don't have a prayer room, don't worship daily or don't seek him and his word daily?

**So when you wrap it all up – the main points on how to bear the fruit of the God's spirit are these:**

- **Be sure you have repented, accepted Yeshua/Jesus as your savior, be baptized by a qualified servant of God, have hands laid on by one of God's ministers (as we find in Acts 8 and Acts 19).**
- **Regularly ask for more. God wants us asking for more of the holy Spirit.**
- **Then abide IN Christ – make staying attached to him be your focus. That's the single biggest key. More prayer, more study, less anything else. NO MATTER WHAT is happening – we always come back to HIM and our Father, our center of our lives.**
- **Don't feed the evil from the world – but feed righteousness and God's way.**
- **Stop the sins and life that hinder or grieve God's spirit or block it from flowing.**

**And more and more – you are revealing Christ in you. People see HIM, see HIS life in you.**

**In the perfect world, we should be able to say like Christ did – "IF you've seen me, you've seen the Father" (John 14:9). Or, "If you want to know what Christ is like, go watch Merrie over there or Oscar over there..."**

**And if someone tells you what a great person you are – tell them you're just a fruit bearer for the real one working in you: tell them about Christ.** Focus on him. HE produces the fruit, you simply display it. HE get the glory. And believe me, in the very end, he will share his glory with you as you grow in displaying the fruit of God in you, the fruit of God's Holy Spirit.

I'm looking forward to all of us evidencing not just fruit, but MUCH fruit.

**In a nutshell, a fruit-filled life is one that is evidencing Christ in our lives more and more each day, as we abide in him, look to him, praise him, live in his presence.**

**Closing prayer and blessing.** Please tell others about this website if it has blessed you.