

Introduction:

- What we know is that the Fruit of the Spirit is not behavior modification.
- We do know that it is the nature of God.
- We know that God wants that nature, His nature, visible in us and through us.
- We also saw that it shines brightest in tested situations. The bigger the test the bigger the testimony!
- *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"* (Galatians 5:22-23, NLT)
- 1 Cor 13:1-7 Love is... Without the fruit of the Spirit Paul is basically saying that all the stuff we do is meaningless.

I. What Is Required To Grow The Fruit of the Spirit? Partnership and Abiding.

- A. Growing the fruit of the Spirit is a partnership between the believer and the Holy Spirit.
1. The Holy Spirit seals us when we are born again. Eph 1:13, 4:30; 1 Cor. 1:22
 2. The Holy Spirit:
 - a) leads/directs us. *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."* (Romans 8:14, NLT)
 - b) convicts us. *"And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."* (John 16:8, NLT)
 - c) teaches and reminds us. *"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you."* (John 14:26, NLT)
 - d) guides us into all truth. *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."* (John 16:13, NLT)
 - (1) He brings Kingdom alignment into our lives.
 - (2) He does not accept bent (perverted) places in our lives. To be out of order. Phil. 2:15 crooked and perverse - Gr. for crooked is 'skolios' twisted, crooked not straight.
 - e) From the moment of salvation until the end of our lives on this earth, the Spirit of God works in believers to transform our nature and character into that of Christ's. "fruit of the Spirit" is the development of Christ's character in the life of a believer.
- B. Growing the fruit of the Spirit requires that I abide in the vine. John 15: 1-ff
1. John 15:2 He cuts off what is not produce fruit. "Airo" to remove, to lift in order to carry off.
 2. John 15:2 He prunes branches that do. "kathairo" to cleanse. "What is clean is adapted for fellowship with God." TDNT The purpose is to be more productive.
 3. John 15:3 We are pruned and purified by the messages/word Jesus has given.
 4. John 15:4 Remain in the vine! You cant produce fruit away from the vine.
 5. John 15:8 True disciples produce much fruit. *"When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."* (John 15:8, NLT)

II. Like A Seed

- A. Life is in the seed. The born again man has received the Seed because he has received the Word and the nature of God in salvation.
1. *"The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, NLT)
 2. We do not understand this life in the seed but when the right situation occurs the seed brings forth new life.
- B. The Seed is God's word. *"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word."* (Luke 8:11, NLT) This ties back to Jn 15:3 where we are purified by the word/message.
- C. Seeds need the right environment (water and warmth to produce.)
1. Humility is the soils of God's word. It is found in the human heart that is submitted to Him.
 2. Prayer - is like water on the Word! *"The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring."* (Isaiah 58:11, NLT) Ps 42 the deer pants for the water brooks.
 3. Meditation - Joshua 1:7 & 8.
 - a) Meditate is to think, picture, what that Word looks like in your life. It muses over the presence of God in your life through His Word, promises, and thoughts.
 - b) I picture the word working for me.
 - c) I picture me applying the Word to my life.
 4. Tending - Mark 4
 - a) Pull weeds choosing not to be mean but be gentle.
 - b) remove rocks - things that crowd out God you remove to bring in God.
 - c) add fertilizers
 - d) All has to do with paying attention to the growth.

III. Like A Muscle

Heb 5:14 through reason of use we train. *"Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong."* (Hebrews 5:14, NLT) If we can practice the gifts of the Spirit how much more can we practice the fruit of the Spirit.

- A. The Mature have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.
1. Skill from the Gr. is perception. Perception to recognize.
 2. They are able to recognize what is accurate in Christ and what is not.
 3. Recognize: Gr. diakrisin - to judge, to decide between. It is a 'big deal' to be able to decide between that which is right and wrong. The more mature one is the easier this is supposed to be. IE. Emotionally I think this true. When we were young so many things mattered to us that when you are older they are not near as important.
- B. Like a muscle your spiritual life will atrophy without use. Can I say it this way, "Your maturity will atrophy if you do not use it. IE. Shoulder and knee. Atrophe sets in quickly. You have to start using it and press through the pain. Step up...hurt at first. Keep going it quit. If you stop, it hurts. Keep going.
- C. Choose to use it. Start

1. *“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!” (Deuteronomy 30:19, NLT)*
2. *“But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then **choose today** whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”* (Joshua 24:15, NLT)
3. You make a choice to follow Christ. You make a choice to not be offended. You make a choice to manifest the fruit of the Spirit. The moment you choose is the moment you start.
- D. Choose to exercise it. Strengthen. Gr: gymnasia - naked, to stripe bare, to exercise. We are to be stripped down Heb. 12 and throw off everything that so easily entangle and run the race.
- E. Choose to grow it. Perfect it.
 1. IE. Coffee in a cup. If you get shaken what spills from the cup? Coffee. If the cup has tea in it what and it is shaken what do you spill? Tea. What come out of your cup when you are shaken. Anger, bitterness, self pity, or peace, gentleness, kindness.
- F. Don't quit.

IV. Like God Breaking Out In Your Life

- A. The Born again man is already on his way. He is free from shackles of darkness. He has broke out of the lies. He is not longer a prisoner to fear.
- B. Spirit, Soul Body - from the core (inner circle) to the soul (next circle) to body (outer circle)
- C. The Spirit of God desires to manifest/make himself visible through us. We can't make it happen but we can cooperate with the One who is making it happen.

Conclusion:

- The next time you get shaken what will be spilled from your cup?