



SERMON NOTES

US N^o. 155

Date: August 31st, 2014

Title: The Fruit & Gifts of the Spirit

#8 in the series on the Spirit Filled Church

1. Review

- a. The greatest commandments: love God with everything and love our neighbors
- b. The Spirit is absolutely required for us to lead holy & pleasing lives for God, to lead lives of abundant life.
- c. Know who the Holy Spirit is; no matter denomination or theology, He is the presence of God.
- d. God has had a plan since the beginning and to fulfill it He has placed His Spirit within each disciple so that they (*each one*) may be equipped for every good that His Kingdom may advance.
- e. Two objects cannot occupy the same space, there we must forsake all and follow Christ. Our growth is hindered by: opinion of the others, corruption within our own hearts and souls, a vibrant self-life, bad reception of God's will and word, strong belief in self-reliance, and refusing the path of Christ-like humility in our lives.
- f. Who is in the driver's seat of our lives? Is the Spirit only a paying passenger, or is He driving?
- g. The blessing of the Spirit is not a result of being a Super Christian, just our hunger. How desperate are we really? Open the floodgates to the full life and power of God through you to the world.
- h. Beware of nibbling the "apple pies" of the table of this world that fill. Begin by expressing your desire for God, and then increase your attentiveness, capacity and sensitivity. Or put another way – plant good seed, nurture, protect and then harvest a hundred fold.
- i. We are commanded to both walk in the Spirit, producing the Fruit in our lives (sanctification), and to be filled (controlled) by the Spirit and seek to operate in the gifts (ministry). As disciples we ought to produce good & abundant Fruit and be free to operate in the Gifts. In fact, we're commanded to eagerly desire the spiritual gifts.

2. The Fruit of the Spirit; Gal. 5:22-25, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

- a. The fruit of the Spirit are much more important than the gifts are, because they have to do with God imparting part of His divine nature into the core of our personalities to help make us into a much better and holy people. God's ultimate aim for all of us is our sanctification in Him, and part of that sanctification process has to do with the Spirit Himself transmitting specific divine qualities and attributes into our personalities.
- b. Product of living in the Vine. Jn. 15:1-5, *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 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. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 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. 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."

c. The fruit

i. Love;

1. 1 Cor. 13:4-8, "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away."

ii. Joy;

1. Neh. 8:10, "the joy of the LORD is your strength."
2. Heb. 12:2, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

iii. Peace;

1. Rom. 15:13, "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

iv. Longsuffering (patience);

1. Col. 1:11, "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;"
2. Eph. 4:2, "with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,"

v. Kindness;

1. Heb. 5:2, "He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness."
2. 2 Pet. 1:7, "to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."
3. 1 Jn. 3:17-18, "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

vi. Goodness;

1. Rom. 11:22, "Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off."

vii. Faithfulness;

1. Heb. 11:1-2, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony."

2. Mt. 24:45-47, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."

viii. Gentleness;

1. Mt. 5:5, "*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*"
2. Luke 6:35, "*But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.*"
3. 2 Cor. 10:1, "Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you"

ix. Self-control;

1. 2 Pet. 1:5-7, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."
 2. 1 Cor. 9:25, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
3. The Gifts of the Spirit; 1 Cor. 12:7-10, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."
- a. Cessationism is the position that there is a stopping, a permanent discontinuance of the supernatural displays of God's power through miracles or healings etc. Some have taken the position that everything supernatural ended with the last written word of Scripture (the canon established) and with the passing of the twelve Apostles no more miracles occurred.
 - i. Mark 16:15-18, "*And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 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.'*"
 - b. The Spirit can manifest any one of these gifts through any believer anytime that He will want to do so. Each one is a major power gift that is a specific, supernatural, miraculous manifestation

coming directly from the Holy Spirit. Every Christian should be in a proper place to operate in these gifts.

c. Categories of gifts: Revelation, Power, and Spoken

d. The gifts

i. Word of wisdom

1. Supernatural perspective to understand the means for accomplishing God's will in given situations. "*Similar*" to an appropriate spiritual intuition in problem solving.
2. Wisdom is knowledge rightly applied; wisdom works with both knowledge and discernment.

ii. Word of knowledge

1. Supernatural revelation of God's will and plan, or an insight or understanding of circumstances. Moral wisdom for right living.
2. Objective understanding concerning divine things in human duties.

iii. Faith

1. Supernatural ability to believe God without doubt, to combat unbelief, and to meet adverse circumstances with trust in God's messages and word. An inner conviction impelled by an urgent and higher calling.

iv. Healing

1. Supernatural healing without human aid, but may include divinely assisted creative gifts.

v. Miracles

1. Supernatural power to intervene and counteract earthly and evil forces.
2. Literally a display of power; operates closely with faith and healings to bring God's authority over sin, Satan, sickness, creation, etc.

vi. Prophecy

1. Divinely inspired and anointed utterance in a known language; the *rhema* word.
2. Intellect, faith and will combine to work together, but the words are of divine inspiration.

vii. Discerning of spirits

1. Supernatural ability to detect the realm of the spirits and their activities, as well as spiritual insight and revelation of the plans and purposes of the Enemy.

viii. Tongues (*cf.* Is. 28:11, Mark 16:17, Acts 2:4, 10:44-48, 19:1-7; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28-31, 13:1-3, 14:2, 4-22, 26-32)

1. Supernatural utterance in languages not known to the speaker. They may be existing languages, revived from some past culture, or "unknown" in the sense that they are a means of communication inspired by the HS.

ix. Interpretation of tongues (*this is also a gift, implying a supernatural ability to interpret, therefore not limited to known human tongues.*)

1. Supernatural power to reveal the meaning of tongues, not as an operation of the mind of man but of the mind of God. This is not a translation, but a declaration of meaning.

- 2. Combined with tongues, it is similar to the gift of prophecy in that they're both divine utterances of God.
 - e. We're also commanded to eagerly desire the gifts.
 - i. 1 Cor. 12:31, *"But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way."*
 - ii. 1 Cor. 14:1, 39, *"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy... Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues."*
 - iii. 1 Thess. 5:19-20, *"Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies."*
 - f. Synagogue y Temple
4. Take-aways
- a. Walk in and be Filled by the Holy Spirit
 - b. Fruit is a natural result of living in the Vine
 - c. The Fruit is produced through sanctification
 - d. Yes, even today eagerly desire the gifts
 - e. Multiple jobs require multiple gifts
 - f. Be filled, not just with the word, but also the Presence of God