

The Holy Spirit: Growing The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction

Review: Person → Salvation → Holiness → Evangelism → Spirit Baptism → **Fruit of the Spirit** → Spiritual Gifts, Parts 1 and 2

“It’s never too late to learn, but sometimes too early.” Charlie Brown

The big idea this week: the Christian is to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit.

1 God Is Looking for Spiritual Fruit (Isaiah 27:2-6; John 15:1-4)

Israel produced little fruit, but someday their descendants would.

Isaiah predicted a time of fruitfulness.

Jesus said he was the vine that would enable them to bear fruit. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in believers after Jesus ascended.

2 Keep on Being Filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18-20, ESV)

It is not meant to be just a one-time thing.

Drink is not a stimulus, it is a depressant.

Spirit baptism was the highest goal of my life. Consequently, when I received it, I promptly relaxed.¹

3 Grow the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)

The enumeration of the nine spiritual fruit has been called a perfect portrait of Jesus Christ.²

Growing the fruit of the Spirit requires a production mindset, not a consumer mindset.³

In the fruit, Wood sees a sequence beginning with love and finally reaching the hardest, self control.

None of the fruit of the Spirit is something you get in an instant or in an experience. Fruit is cultivated. As you look in the New Testament carefully, you will see that bearing fruit is often in direct proportion to our difficulties.⁴

Conclusion

Like the century plant, which takes 20-30 years to bloom, some things in our lives may take a while to be revealed.

The Lord wants us to be his tasty fruit in the world.

¹ George O. Wood, *Living by the Spirit: Drawing Us to God, Sending Us to the World* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 2009), 50.

² L. Thomas Holdcroft, *The Holy Spirit: A Pentecostal Interpretation* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1979), 185.

³ Ben Sasse, *The Vanishing American Adult: Our Coming of Age Crisis and How to Rebuild a Culture of Self-Reliance* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2017), 124.

⁴ Wood, 109