



The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit” (John 15:2).

Bulletin VCM-063

27 January 2013

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-25).

Fruitfulness is a sign of life. Every living thing bears fruits in line with God's original mandate at creation (Genesis 1:22,28). Salvation brings new life to mankind (2 Corinthians 5:17) and a seal of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30). The Christian then becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Trinity (John 14:23) and glorifies God through fruitfulness (John 15:8) - the qualitative fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) and the quantitative fruit of reproduction after his/her kind (i.e. fruits of soulwinning (John 15:8,16) that abides (i.e. stands the test of time). Our focus in this study is on the qualitative fruit of the Spirit.

Like a coin with more than one side, a crystal with many faces or a substances occurring in more than one form (e.g. water in solid, liquid or gaseous states), the Holy Spirit produces ONE fruit which is manifested in various forms - a reflection of the character of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11) as well as a foreshadow of the tree of life that produces twelve manner of fruits **every month** (Revelation 22:2); the 'every month' synonymous with 'fruits that abide'. The fruit of the serves as an index for measuring our knowledge of God. It is a mirror for examining how we reflect the character of God in:




“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8).

[1]**Love:-** God is love (1 John 4:8,16), and demands His children to be like Him (Matthew 10:24-25) manifesting the God type of love (Agape) which is the highest form of love compared to Phileo (like) and Eros (emotional love) - two other types of love mentioned in the Bible. Agape is an unconditional / sacrificial love emanating from choice and characterised by undefeatable benevolence and goodwill that always seeks the highest best of the other no matter what s/he does or his/her worth (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 13). Agape love gives freely without asking anything in return. Love for God leads to unconditional and prompt obedience (John 14:15; 2 John 1:6).

[2]**Joy:-** True joy originates from the operation of the grace of God in our lives and flourishes irrespective of external circumstances imparting health and divine strength (Romans 14:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Nehemiah 8:10).

[3]**Peace:-** Peace is a state of rest, wholeness, completeness and tranquillity that comes from a living and trusting relationship in God; that is not affected by external circumstances or pressures (Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27). A peaceful person radiates inner calm, stability and composure.

[4]**Longsuffering:-** The root word for longsuffering (also translated as patience or



endurance) has the meaning of “long” and “temper”, and denotes the power or fortitude to hold on under persecution, difficult circumstances or ill-treatment, while at the same time actively resisting weariness but also actively reaching forth to maintain constancy, perseverance, continuance, steadfastness in the love of God and divine service (Hebrews 10:36).

[5]**Gentleness:-** This is moderating influence of the Holy Spirit in controlling our character enabling one to act for the welfare of those that tax our patience. It makes the believer to be compassionate, considerate, sympathetic, humane, kind and adaptable (rather than harsh) towards others.

[6]**Goodness:-** “For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth” (Ephesians 5:9). Goodness produces a state of kindly feeling, kindness, generosity and general state of being good.

[7]**Faith:-** Faith is restful trust in divine ability for now and the future irrespective of the circumstances (Proverbs 3:5). It stems from a persuasive belief that God is and is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

[8]**Meekness:-** The world thinks of meekness as weakness but they are wrong because meekness is power / strength under the control of the Holy Spirit that enables one to maintain an even-tempered, tranquil and divinely balanced spirit (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22-25). A meek person forgives readily, corrects others while keeping a check on himself / herself (Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:1-3).

[9]**Temperance:-** Temperance is self control by allowing the Holy Spirit to have rule of our spirit, behaviour and tempers (Proverbs 25:28) producing tolerance but without com-

promise. A temperate person is not easily offended nor critical.

The believer is not only required to manifest all the ramifications of the fruit of the Spirit but also to grow in them. “**According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. 10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: 11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!**” (2 Peter 1:3-11).

It is our daily responsibility to diligently examine our lives to ensure that ALL ramifications of the fruit of the Spirit are evident in our lives, and that any shortfall is immediately and effectively addressed. We also have a responsibility not only to grow in these but to also become agents that transmit them to others in contact with us. The more fruit a tree bears, the happier the farmer is. Similarly, the more fruit we bear the happier God is.