

Word Of Life Ministries

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Issue 44

Chicago, Illinois 60614

March—June 15, 2006

Fruit of The Spirit

Galatians 5:22–23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Fruit of the Spirit hasn't been given as much emphasis as the Gifts of the Spirit. Gifts of the Spirit come without repentance. In other words one can be gifted and live a life of disobedience to the word of God. The Fruit of the Spirit comes by being Spirit filled. Fruit of the Spirit comes by dedication to the will of God, whereas the Gifts of the Spirit can be in manifestation in an individual, and at the same time, the individual practices a life style of sin.

Fruit of the Spirit is the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit produces these characteristics that are found in the Father and Son. Fruit of the Spirit can't be faked or used as the other gifts without being submitted to the will of God which is His word.

So many times we authenticate a Christian by them speaking in tongues, and yes, the Bible teaches that speaking in tongues is a sign to those that don't believe. However, it doesn't say it's a sign that a person is born-again. The scripture is indicating it's a sign of the Gift of the Holy Spirit in operation by speaking in tongues. You can have a gift and not be Spirit filled. Gifts do not indicate the person has been born-again. Many will have Gifts and will be rejected by Jesus because they didn't submit to Him.

The Bible also teaches, every good tree (man) brings forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. Saved as well as the unsaved is producing fruit. The fruit we produce will show evidence of whose servant we are. Whoever we yield our members to, that's who we are obeying. We can be born-again and yet yield ourselves to be used by Satan. As Christians we want to have our lives indwelt in Christ to the point that Satan will no longer have a place in us, that it will be no more us, but Christ that lives in us!

Before a plant can produce fruit, there must first be a seed. Once the seed has been planted it will produce numerous amounts of fruit after its kind. The seed will only produce that has been planted. An apple seed will not produce oranges, just as an ungodly seed will not produce a godly seed.

Fruit of the Spirit can only be in manifestation by the Holy Spirit and not by our human ability, therefore the individual must be born-again of the Spirit of God.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

The Spirit of God assists us in carrying out God's plan on earth as well as in our lives by submitting to God's plan and not ours'. One can receive Jesus for salvation, but not make Him Lord and king in their life. Every king rules his kingdom, and if we say we are His children, then we need to be letting Him rule His kingdom.

A king makes decisions in what should be in their kingdom and what must be thrown out of the kingdom. If the Fruit of the Spirit is not being manifested in our lives, this means we have some excess baggage that needs to be removed, and if we let the King rule, He will get rid of the excess baggage. We have to decide whether or not we want to be baggage carriers or the co-pilot following the instructions of the Pilot.

Speaking in tongues is good, operating in the Gifts of the Spirit is great, but if the Fruit of the Spirit is not in operation with these Gifts, the person either needs to be born-again or in need of deliverance from spirits that oppress and suppress the will, mind and spirit. Notice I didn't say possess, because demonic spirits cannot possess a born-again Christian, but they can oppress and suppress and hinder the person from flowing in the Spirit. God has given us a portion of His Spirit, and we should exemplify our Father in whatever situation we're in. We should have so much love for God, that we will produce Fruit of the Spirit that will draw, entice, provoke and make others want what a Christian lifestyle that we have instead of making them cringe when we say we're Christians.

The first Fruit we produce should be **Love**. As our Father has unconditional love for us, we too should have unconditional love towards our brothers and sisters in the Lord as well as those that are far from the Lord. Love isn't as passive as some make it. Love worketh no harm towards his

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neighbor. In other words, Love doesn't lower or degrade another's character. Love will be there for those that the world has thrown to the curve. Love doesn't have jealousy or envy. Love will make you be quiet when your flesh will tell you to say what's on your mind. Love will have us loving our enemies and praying blessing on them rather than curses. Love will give us a spirit to submit to those that have authority over us, like our husbands and spiritual leaders, as well as our worldly leaders. Love will have you praying for others when you may not want to pray for the individual. Love will have you to serve others while not looking for a pat on the back.

Joy—Can only be given by God. Joy differs from happiness. One can be happy and an event can change the happiness to tears. Joy will make you cry and there's nothing wrong, the heart is unspeakably full of joy. Joy will be in your heart during trials and tribulations. Joy will make you lift your voice in praise when your heart may be broken. Joy will make you shout and dance even though your body may be full of pain. Joy will have you lifting your hands in praise when you don't have a dime in your pocket, just got laid off from your job, car stopped on the way home, cut off notice on the door, spouse left you, children acting as though they have lost their minds, but you can still lift your hands and praise God for His goodness because your heart is full of joy. Man didn't give it to you and they can't take it away. Joy will make you rejoice in time of trouble. It will give you the strength to praise God no matter what's going on in your life's circumstances. The God you serve can heal the hurt, heal the pain, open a door of employment, provide the way to pay the bills, restore the marriage, **redirect the children's desire and craving and knowing this** - joy floods your heart and soul. Joy doesn't diminish because of lack or a need. Joy sees that everything you may be going through is working together for your good because God's thoughts towards you are good,

and He will make you come out with victory. In a fire, but didn't get burned. In a storm, but didn't get soaked. We must know the awesomeness of God, as we have knowledge of this, we will know when we go through trials and tribulation, its only to produce godly Fruit so we will exemplify our Father.

Peace—Is when everything around you is in confusion, but the peace and the serenity of God is in you. Peace is free from fear and worry. Peace will make you free of quarrels and disagreements. Peace will eliminate us from being easy to anger. Peace will make us dominate our emotions rather than our emotions dominating us. Peace is a quietness that can't be disturb by the circumstances of life. God will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him.

Long Suffering—Is something the Saints don't want to go through and the unbeliever will not go through. In order to be created in the image of God, long-suffering must visit each of us. Long suffering is a virtue that shows patience with others without being short tempered. Long suffering is waiting on God for unanswered prayers to be answered. Long-suffering is merciful to others, shows compassions to those that are committing abominable acts, loving the person, but hating the sin. Long-suffering is waiting for others to come into the knowledge of the truth without sending them to Hades bound and gagged. Long-suffering is waiting on God to send you a spouse and not someone else's spouse or gratifying your sexual desires by any other means. Long-suffering is waiting without murmuring or complaining or losing faith. Long-suffering helps you to turn the other cheek when your flesh is telling you to slap their cheek.

Gentleness—Brings about a soft answer when harsh words has been spoken. Gentleness is considerate, and shows kindness even while rebuking. Gentleness is of quiet and meek spirit. Gentleness doesn't hurt intentionally. Gentleness searches and seeks ways to follow peace with all men. Gentleness is when you can show kindness no matter what may be going on in your life. Gentleness isn't snapping and being inconsiderate of others. Our tone of voice, our mannerism will draw people rather than have them run from us.

Goodness—Showing kindness or charitable acts is a Christian duty. How many times have we helped someone, but someday, somehow we have to tell others what we did for a certain person? When we offer charitable acts, let it be with the right motive, it shouldn't be "how will I benefit from this". Very few Christians show kindness when they're in a trial or going through a test. No matter what we may be going through we should always take the time to show kindness, the very person we didn't show kindness to, could be the very person God would have us to witness to. There should always be a readiness in us to help others; showing love and compassion towards others. If it's not in us, then we need to pray until the Fruit of Goodness is operating in us.

Faith—Is believing for what is impossible with you is possible with God. It's a realization of things hope for, the conviction of things not seen. It's continuing in the faith of what you ask God for, He will grant it no matter how long it takes. It's believing God for answered prayers when you finished praying. It's believing God when your mind and emotions is telling you something other than what the Word of God says. Faith is knowing and believing God's

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promises. Faith is when you give your tithes and offering cheerfully. It's knowing that He will rebuke the devourer of poverty, sickness, disease, infirmities, mental and emotional distress, failed marriage, failed relationships. Faith is taking the word of God and applying it to our lives as well as the situations in our lives. Faith is seeing the unseen bringing it to the natural realm. Faith is believing God watches over His word and He hasten to perform His word.

Meekness—Is a gentleness, that is courtesy and consideration in one's relationship with others. It's not overbearing, controlling or domineering. It's not having to get your point across although you may be right.

Meekness isn't cowardness, but it's strength through God to empower us to control our emotions and our tongue. Meekness is treating others the way we desire to be treated.

Meekness isn't haughty and knowing all. Meekness is deferentially respectful. In other words, it's a submission, courteous yielding to the opinions and wishes of others. Meekness indicates you don't have to be called by your spiritual title to know who you are. Meekness is instructing those that is in opposition of the faith in a humble spirit that will draw them rather than drive them. Meekness is rebuking and correcting those that have fallen from Grace in loving kindness. Meekness is although you might not understand or agree with something, you're willing to follow peace with all men in godliness. Praying and waiting to hear from God to get an understanding or waiting on God to correct the situation.

Temperance— is moderation and self-restraint. the ability to take control of one's passion and emotions. Temperance is dressing in a manner that will not draw people to you with lust. Temperance is having patience with those that have not arrived to the level of spirituality you maybe at.

Temperance is having the ability to control your appetite, the ability to know when you should spend time with your family and not always be at work or in the church. God wants His people to have a balance, even while doing things that are spiritual there must be a balance. Too many times as Christians we don't have a balance, we run ourselves ragged, and we wonder why we don't see the move of God in our lives. We must have time with God in prayer, reading, studying and sitting before Him, to hear what He has to say. If we're always on the run, what time are we spending with God? So there must be a balance.

Every Christian should have the Fruit of the Spirit just as every Christian must be born-again of the Spirit of God. Those that worship God must worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

Matthew 7:20

Wherefore by their fruit ye shall know them.

Saints, lets stay focus on what we could do for Christ and not what He can do for us. Let's be doers of the word of God. Let's live a life that will be an example to the unbeliever, and a vessel that can hold the anointing to set the captive free!

Be more concerned about the manifestation of the Fruit of the Spirit than the Gift. Once the Fruit is in manifestation, the Gift will operate to be a blessing to both the receiver and the giver! Be the best example that a Christian can be.

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