



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#39)

If the Holy Spirit is in us... what will happen?

\* **IT'S YOUR CHOICE!** \*

✓ You're going to be **CONTROLLED** by someone/something.

<p><b>[SINFUL NATURE / SIN]</b></p> <p>Those <b>controlled</b> by the sinful nature cannot please God.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Romans 8:8 (NIV)</p>	<p><b>[SPIRIT / RIGHTEOUSNESS]</b></p> <p>... the mind <b>controlled</b> by the Spirit is life and peace; ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Romans 8:6b (NIV)</p>
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✓ You're going to **OFFER** yourself to someone/something.

<p><b>[SINFUL NATURE / SIN]</b></p> <p>Do not <b>offer</b> the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Romans 6:13 (NIV)</p>	<p><b>[SPIRIT / RIGHTEOUSNESS]</b></p> <p>... <b>offer</b> yourselves to God, [and] the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Romans 6:13b (NIV)</p>
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**THOSE CONTROLLED BY THE SINFUL NATURE / SIN**

- You aren't necessarily doing all those "bad" things that the "worst of sinners" does.
- You may simply be neglecting to put God *first* in all things... unwilling to let his Word influence everything you do and all the decisions you make.

**YOU MAY BE NEGLECTING TO DO THIS:**

Whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, you must do all for the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31 (NLT)

We who **DO** have the Spirit realize that we are not perfect in this matter. We are still growing in Christ.

!!! 🖐️ **The next slide shows our goal!**

**THOSE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT/RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL HAVE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT/RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>... filled with the <b>fruit</b> of righteousness ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Philippians 1:11a (ESV)</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>But the <b>fruit</b> of the Spirit is ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Galatians 5:22a (NASB)</p> </div>
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**ONE'S FRUIT, NOT ONE'S CLAIMS WILL SHOW A PERSON'S TRUE NATURE.**

You will recognize them by their **fruit**.

Matthew 7:16a (NET)

We **NEED** the Spirit, if we want the Spirit's fruit!!!

??? 🖐️ **So what is the "fruit" we are looking for?**

\* **THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER!** \*

WE CAN CLAIM WHAT WE WANT... BUT IF THE FRUIT ISN'T THERE...

**SOMEDAY...**

So then, you will recognize them by their **fruit**.

Matthew 7:20 (NET)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of heaven—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.


On that day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons and do many powerful deeds?'

Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!'"

Matthew 7:21-23 (NET)

WE WILL BE HAVING A HORRIBLE SURPRISE.

**IS THIS WHAT WE WANT?** →



[ IF NOT... ] ↓

NO THANKS!! I'D RATHER NOT!

**WE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE "FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT,"\* SINCE SCRIPTURE SAYS THAT THE FRUIT WILL BE PRESENT IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE SAVED.**

\* { The fruit of the Spirit  
The fruit of salvation  
The fruit of righteousness } These ALL go together, and will ALL be present.

### WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRESENT... THINGS HAPPEN!

⇒ To individuals, and to the church as a whole.

My message and my preaching ... a demonstration of the Spirit's **power**, ...  
1 Cor. 2:4 (NIV)

... **power** through his Spirit.  
Ephes. 3:16b (GW)

... the **encouragement** of the Holy Spirit.  
Acts 9:31b (ISV)

... the **love** of the Spirit, ...  
Romans 15:30b (NASB)

... so that you may overflow with hope by the **power** of the Holy Spirit.  
Ro 15:13b (CSB)

### BUT THERE IS ALSO RESPONSIBILITY ON OUR PART!

So I say, **live by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.  
Galatians 5:16 (NIV) COMMAND

Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step with the Spirit**.  
Galatians 5:25 (NIV) COMMAND

... the one who sows to **please the Spirit**, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.  
Galatians 6:8b (NIV) FACT

⇒ Some verses will state **FACTS**. (God's people *are doing* it.)  
⇒ Some verses will give **COMMANDS**. (They *must do* it.)

## ??? 🖱️ So what is this "fruit"?

TWO FOCUSES TO LOOK AT:

TODAY

✓ The **NEW TESTAMENT** (overview) ⇒ A general look at the whole issue.

NEXT TIME

✓ The book of **ACTS** ⇒ A greater focus on specific fruit related to the growth of the church.

[PARENTHESIS – 2 THINGS TO REMEMBER]

### 1) SALVATION INVOLVES GROWTH AND MATURITY.

- ✓ As we **grow** in our salvation, the Spirit's Fruit will also **grow**.
- ✓ Since **growing** is a lifelong process, we can always find ways to improve – doing the things that reflect the Spirit's presence. (It is our responsibility to do this.)
- ✓ It's the ongoing absence of fruit, or continued stagnation (lack of increase), that we need to be most concerned about.

[PARENTHESIS – 2 THINGS TO REMEMBER]

### 2) WE CANNOT CHOOSE TO HAVE SOME OF THE SPIRIT'S FRUIT AND IGNORE OTHERS!

I WANT LOVE AND JOY, BUT **NOT** PATIENCE AND SELF-CONTROL!

**THIS IS NOT AN OPTION!**

- ✓ That would be like saying you want *God* to control part of your life, and the *devil* to control the rest!
- ✓ The Spirit *isn't* willing to share your soul with the devil! So you'll have to choose one or the other.

IF WE ARE SAVED

⇒

The **HOLY SPIRIT** will be in us.

IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN US

⇒

The **FRUIT** of the Spirit will be in us.

## SO WHAT IS THIS FRUIT?

**If it's in me, what should I be looking for?**

### WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR ...

✓ **MORAL VIRTUES / CHARACTER TRAITS \***

These represent the type of characteristics that will be present.

But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...

Galatians 5:22-23b (NASB)

**ARE THESE CHARACTER TRAITS VISIBLE IN YOUR LIFE?**

- ✓ If they are, focus on increasing their presence in your life.
- ✓ If they aren't, what are you doing to grow in them?

\* (These traits are specifically called "fruit of the Spirit." In a more general sense, anything that the Spirit accomplishes in us can be called "fruit.")

## BEWARE

### OF FAKE AND COUNTERFEIT "FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"



- \* For EVERY godly character trait, the world/devil will invent a fake/counterfeit.
- \* Make sure you pursue these character traits as defined by the BIBLE!

The devil will attempt to counterfeit EVERYTHING that the Spirit does in your life. Only by knowing Scripture will you be able to know if it is actually from God.

### AVOIDING THE WORLD'S FAKES

**EXAMPLE #1 – JOY that comes from God**

It's NOT based on circumstances, but can exist in difficult situations.

JOY FROM THE SPIRIT WILL INFLUENCE YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SUFFERING

So you received the message with **joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering** it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.

1 Thes. 1:6 (NLT)

THIS IS HOW PAUL DESCRIBED HIS SITUATION

... as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, ...

2 Cor. 6:10a (NASB)

[He didn't pretend the sorrow didn't exist.]

### AVOIDING THE WORLD'S FAKES

**EXAMPLE #2 – LOVE that comes from God**

A desire for the long-term good of others; based on the nature and actions of God.  
A concern for their well-being, regardless of how they respond back.

IT APPLIES EVEN TO ENEMIES

But I tell you, **love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Mt 5:44-45a (CSB)

EXAMPLES OF HOW PAUL EXPRESSED LOVE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

When we are verbally abused, we respond with a blessing, when persecuted, we endure, when people lie about us, we answer in a friendly manner.

1 Co 4:12b-13a (NET)

### ANOTHER TYPE OF "FRUIT" THAT WILL BE PRESENT:

(= The results of the Spirit's presence)

✓ **CAPABILITIES, ABILITIES FOR BUILDING-UP OTHERS**

THE SPIRIT GIVES US ABILITIES – NOT FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR BUILDING UP THE WHOLE GROUP

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same **Spirit**.  
Now to each one the manifestation of the **Spirit** is given for the common good.

1 Cor. 12:4, 7 (NIV)

WE, AS THE "BODY OF CHRIST," ARE TO WORK TOGETHER, SO THAT WE, AS A GROUP, GROW

As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Ephes. 4:16b (NLT)

### SHARING OUR ABILITIES WITH OTHERS

- **THE SPIRIT GIVES EACH OF US ABILITIES.**
  - ✓ Some may be quite visible, others will be "behind the scenes."
  - ✓ Some may have a greater focus on spiritual needs; others will be more focused on material needs.
- **GOD DOES NOT INTEND FOR US TO DO EVERYTHING BY OURSELVES – AS INDIVIDUALS ACTING ALONE!**
  - ✓ We need to recognize the abilities of others, and let them do their part!
  - ✓ Encourage others to do their part, instead of trying to do it for them!

## ANOTHER "FRUIT" OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE:

### ✓ POWER

Everything that God commands us to do... the Spirit EMPOWERS us so we can do it.

... a demonstration of the Spirit's **power**, ...  
1 Cor. 2:4b (NIV)

POWER TO OBEY GOD

And I will put my **Spirit** in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.

Ezekiel 36:27 (NLT)

POWER THAT INFLUENCES OUR CONDUCT

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Tim. 1:7 (NLT)

## ARE THERE EVEN MORE "FRUIT"? YES!

✓ **THERE IS SO MUCH MORE** that the Spirit does in the life of Jesus' followers! (This was just a short overview.)

- Grows us in our salvation; makes us holy.
- Guides us; restrains us; convicts us of sin.
- Makes us able to live as a child of God.
- Teaches us through God's Word.
- Bears witness to our salvation (when these expressions of the Spirit are growing in our lives).
- Enables prayer (also prays in our behalf).

**Every aspect of life is either influenced by the Spirit... or by the sinful nature.**

## THE KEY ISSUES TO FOCUS ON:



✓ When the Spirit is at work in our lives, his work will be visible. It will influence how we think and how we live!

✓ THIS MEANS (if we want to call ourselves Jesus' followers) WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION:

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the **sinful nature**.

Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the **Spirit**.

Galatians 5:25 (NIV)

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