

Making Disciples Aflame for Christ

NOVEMBER 2021

Jesus said: "...you will recognize them by their fruits". (Matthew 7:20)



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

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

VINE's defines FRUIT as: the visible expression of the power working inwardly and invisibly; the character

of the fruit being evidence of the character of the power producing it.



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AT THANKSGIVING, WE SEE THE CORNUCOPIA "HORNS OF PLENTY" FILLED WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. It's a beautiful, colorful array that prompts a heart of Thanksgiving for God's abundant harvest.

CHRISTIANS SHOULD BEAR AN ABUNDANCE OF GOOD FRUIT! Jesus told us in Matthew 7:16-20 that every good tree bears good fruit and bad trees cannot produce good fruit.

A TRUE BORN-FROM-ABOVE CHRISTIAN IS A GOOD TREE THAT SHOULD BEAR GOOD FRUIT BECAUSE THEIR LIFE HAS BEEN BROUGHT BY GOD INTO A LIVING UNION WITH JESUS CHRIST. God gives new life to a Christian. He gives a new heart, a new spirit, AND HE PLACES HIS HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN. **It is the indwelling, invisible power of the Holy Spirit that produces GOOD, GODLY FRUIT in the life of a Christian** that is abiding in Christ and yielding their heart to fully trust Him in all circumstances and to obey His Word. THE AMOUNT OF FRUIT PRODUCED IS DETERMINED BY THE BELIEVER'S LIFE OF ABIDING IN CHRIST AND WALKING BY THE SPIRIT (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:16).

Unfortunately, our natural fallen flesh produces bad fruit such as impurity, idolatry, irritability, bitterness, anger, cruelty, rudeness, faultfinding, temper, resentfulness, jealousy, and more. Our flesh is self-absorbed and "self sins" dwell deep! These include self-love, self-admiration, self-promotion, self-sufficiency, self-righteousness, self-pity, and more.



SO, WHAT KIND OF FRUIT SHOULD BE EXHIBITED BY A CHRISTIAN?

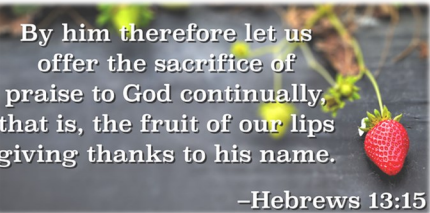
FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE (Matthew 3:8) — Continually turning away from personal sin and turning to God by faith and in obedience to Him.



FRUIT OF THE LIGHT AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT (Ephesians 5:8-21) — A life of goodness and righteousness and truth such as knowing and understanding God's will through His Word and living and walking wisely in obedience to it; making the most of our time on this earth for God's worship and service; having a heart of praise and thanksgiving to God for who He is and for what He has done through Christ; and living humbly before God and others.



FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Philippians 1:11) — Uprightness; Purity; Christlike thinking, feeling and acting; A life of virtue and integrity.



FRUIT OF OUR LIPS (Hebrews 13:15) — Our speech should be holy and godly (never immoral, obscene or degrading) and should continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God and thanksgiving to His Name.



WHAT ABOUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT? What is the Biblical definition of these 9 fruits?



LOVE – This agape love comes only from the Spirit. It is not familial or emotional affection or physical attraction. This love is selfless and self-sacrificing and chooses to be kind and to consider another’s needs greater than one’s own. (John 15:13, Luke 6:35, 1 Corinthians 13)



JOY – The fullness of joy that comes from the confident assurance that flows out of being in union with Christ and having Christ alive in us. This abundance of joy even occurs in times of trial because it is the joy that comes from living in an abiding, eternal relationship with God enabled by the redeeming work of Christ on the cross. (John 15:11, Psalm 16:11)



PEACE – This peace is the inner calm that comes from absolute confidence in Christ, His salvific work, and His Word. It begins with trusting in His substitutionary death on the cross as the only way for Holy God to remove our sin guilt and bring us into a harmonious relationship with Himself. This peace goes beyond salvation and is the daily confident assurance in Christ that transcends our circumstances. (Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:6-7, Isaiah 26:3)



PATIENCE – Longsuffering, steadfastness, perseverance. It is the ability to endure irritating or painful situations without complaint or loss of temper. God’s patience is evidenced by self-restraint and careful thinking. It’s the stillness of a soul before God as it resigns it’s self-will and trusts in God’s perfect will. (James 5:7-11, Colossians 1:10-11)



KINDNESS – This is a tender concern for others that is reflected in a desire to treat others with moral excellence and integrity. It’s a kindness of heart and action. (Colossians 3:12, Titus 3:4-5, 2 Corinthians 6:4-6)



GOODNESS – This is moral excellence and holiness in action. It’s uprightness in the heart manifested in life. It’s acting selflessly for both the present benefit as well as the eternal good of others. This includes acts of benevolence, but it also includes confronting someone about sin and eternity. (Romans 15:14, Ephesians 5:9-10, 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)



FAITHFULNESS – A living, enduring trust in God. Steadfast and continuing belief that God is Who He says He is despite the unpredictable challenges of life. It’s steadfast confidence in God and His Word even when can’t see or understand. (Hebrews 11, 2 Corinthians 5:7)



GENTLENESS – A meek attitude toward God that includes patiently submitting to His will; being teachable; and being considerate of others. Meekness surrenders to God’s control and recognizes that God’s ways and thoughts are high above our own. (Isaiah 55:9, James 1:21, Ephesians 4:2)



SELF-CONTROL – The ability to restrain one’s passions and appetites. It’s the ability to control our thoughts, words and actions. It’s the ability to say “no” and to refuse the temptation to sin. This gift actually frees us to love and live as we were meant to. (James 5:7-11, Colossians 1:10-11)

THIS IS THE FRUIT OF A CHRISTLIKE LIFE! Have you inspected the quality of your life’s fruit? If there is no good fruit at all, you just might need to embrace God’s Gospel in Jesus and be saved!

If you are a true disciple of Jesus Christ, let the Holy Spirit take full control of your daily life so that He can bear much spiritual fruit to the glory of the Father and the accomplishment of His purpose.

Always laboring for the salvation and sanctification of precious souls,

Ray, Tressa & Gwen, Laborers Aflame for Christ



Visit us at: www.TheLighthouseofHope.net Or E-mail us at: TShaw@thelighthouseofhope.net or GCornman@thelighthouseofhope.net



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The Christian Life is Christ in you!