

The Fruit of Holy Spirit

1. Introduction

- a. John 7:37-39 - [37](#) On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38](#) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” [39](#) Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 - i. During His ministry, Jesus promised the Spirit to those who believe in Him.
 - ii. “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water”.
 - iii. As the Scripture has said.
 1. The phrase could apply to “Whoever believes in me”
 - a. Deut. 18:15 - [15](#) “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—
 - b. Micah 5:2 - But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
 2. Or it could apply to “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water”.
 - a. Isaiah 12:3 - [3](#) With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
 - b. Joel 3:18 – [18](#) “And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim.
 - iv. “*The last and greatest day of the Feast*” probably refers to the eighth day. According to Jewish tradition, on the eighth day the people would go to the Pool of Siloam. As the priest dipped his golden pitcher in the pool and lifted it out, the people chanted from Isaiah 12:3 - “*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*” By doing this they were reminded of the harvest they had experienced. They were also praying for rain for the coming season. As the priest emptied the water at the base of the altar, and poured it out, Jesus cried “*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.*” Out of the

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emphasis on things that were physical, Jesus turned their attention to that which was spiritual and eternal. He meant that He would give a stream of living water that would flow into eternal life. Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit who would be given to those who believed on Him. The Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

- b. One may ask, “In what way does the receiving of the Holy Spirit produce rivers of living water?”
 - i. Consider the fruit of the Spirit, brought forth by:
 - 1. One who has received the gift of the Spirit
 - 2. One who benefits from the indwelling of the Spirit
 - 3. One who is led by the Spirit
 - ii. The fruit then blesses them and those around him.

2. Defining the fruit of the Spirit

- a. Nine “Graces” (Graces – characterized by fitness and propriety)
 - i. Love – active good will toward God and man
 - ii. Joy – delight in response to God’s grace
 - iii. Peace – harmony with God and man, , in response to reconciliation with God
 - iv. Patience – when faced with trials, self-restraint when provoked
 - v. Kindness – sweet-tempered in all circumstances rather than given to harsh displays of temper.
 - vi. Goodness – disposed to do good to others, (whether they deserve it or not).
 - vii. Faithfulness – fidelity in all things, promises, contracts, marriage vows, trust and confidentiality.
 - viii. Gentleness – meekness, which is patience in the reception of injuries. It is neither meanness nor a surrender of our rights, nor cowardice; but it is the opposite of sudden anger, of malice, of long-harbored vengeance.
 - ix. Self-control – mastery of desires and appetites. Beyond temperance, it is dominion over all evil propensities, and may denote continence, chastity, self-government, control of the tongue, moderation in regard to all indulgences as well as abstinence from intoxicating drinks.
- b. A singular “fruit”
 - i. The “graces” comprise one fruit.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit produces all of them.
 - iii. Some, but not all Christians, excel in every grace.
 - iv. The works of the flesh proceed from the human heart.

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- v. These graces come from an external influence – the Holy Spirit.
 - vi. They are spiritually refreshing, life streams of living water, to the self and those around them.
 - c. Other products of the Holy Spirit
 - i. Rom. 14:17 - For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Righteousness is included in Rom. 14; perhaps implied in Gal. 5.
 - ii. Rom. 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
 - iii. 2 Pet. 1:5-8 - [5](#) For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, [6](#) and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, [7](#) and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. [8](#) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. “For this very reason” –
 - a. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 - [3](#) His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, [4](#) by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
 - 2. If these qualities --- are increasing – be more than you are.
- 3. How can we ensure that the Spirit produces this “fruit” in our lives?**
 - a. Walk in the Spirit
 - i. Gal. 5:16-17, 25-26 - [16](#) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17](#) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ... [25](#) If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. [26](#) Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

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- ii. Otherwise, we will fulfill the lust of the flesh, which will keep us from doing the things we want to do.
- iii. The works of the flesh prevent love, joy, peace, ... gentleness, self-control.
- iv. It is not a competition.
 - 1. Rom. 12:9b - Outdo one another in showing honor.
 - a. Outdo – lead on by example, go before
 - 2. Comparison to others, pride in self, leads back to the works of the flesh: strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy,
- v. Heb. 10:24 - [24](#) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
- b. Mind the things of the Spirit.
 - i. Rom. 8:5-6 - [5](#) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. [6](#) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
 - 1. When we read and study the word of God, we learn how to live in harmony with what the Spirit has revealed to apostles and prophets.
- c. Be led by the Spirit.
 - i. Rom. 8:12-14 - [12](#) So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13](#) For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. [14](#) For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
 - 1. To be sons of God
 - 2. No longer enslaved to the flesh.
 - 3. Be able to put to death the deeds of the body.
 - ii. Externally, through the word of God.
 - 1. Eph. 6:17 - [17](#) and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
 - iii. Internally, through the indwelling of the Spirit.
 - 1. Eph. 3:16 - [16](#) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,
 - iv. Prayer
 - 1. Eph. 3:14-21 - [14](#) For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15](#) from whom every family in heaven and on

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earth is named, [16](#) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17](#) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18](#) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19](#) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20](#) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21](#) to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

4. Conclusion

- a. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit on the last day of the Feast of Booths, and gave a spiritual lesson for those observing the physical, ritual event.
- b. The promise would be delayed until after Jesus had been glorified.
 - i. Just as Jesus promised the apostles
 1. John 16:7 - [7](#) Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
- c. The singular fruit of the Spirit consists of nine parts, called “graces”, which are produced by the Holy Spirit.
 - i. These do not come from the human heart, but from the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. We should be increasing in these graces, to be more than we are.
- d. In order to bear the fruit of the Spirit, we need to:
 - i. Walk by the Spirit, and not gratify the desires of the flesh.
 - ii. Mind the things of the Spirit.
 - iii. Be led by the Spirit
 1. By the word of God
 2. By the indwelling of the Spirit
 3. By prayer.