
The Purpose of the Fruit (Paying the Cost to Win the Lost)

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

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Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: The Purpose of the Fruit (Paying the Cost to Win the Lost)

New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit”

- **How do we know the Holy Spirit is Working?**
- Scripture: Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- Subject: Where’s the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)
- Subject: What’s the Fruit? (Good or Evil)
 - Grapes or Thorns? (Blessings vs. Sorrow)
 - Figs or Thistles? (Needs vs. Misery)
 - Sheep or Wolves? (Prey or Predator)

Lesson Text

Luke 6:27–36 (AV)²⁷ But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, ²⁸ Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. ²⁹ And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not *to take thy* coat also. ³⁰ Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask *them* not again. ³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. ³² For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. ³³ And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. ³⁴ And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil. ³⁶ Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Introduction

At the beginning of the year when we started studying the Holy Spirit, we looked at a general purpose of the Holy Spirit.

We stated that it was in His name, “Holy Spirit”. Holy means to be set apart or separated; and Spirit means invisible wind or breath that causes movement. ***The Holy Spirit is the invisible power of the Godhead that separates (sanctifies) us from the world of sin, and moves us to Christ so that we become like him.***

Now the Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit support this purpose in very different ways

Gifts of the Spirit:

- Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV)¹¹And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- The purpose of the Gifts of the Spirit is to strengthen the church for the Christian mission

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Fruit of the Spirit:

- Galatians 5: ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- The purpose of the Fruit of the Spirit is for the actual Christian mission itself.

Gifts are for the Church; Fruit is for the World. Gifts are given to us free of charge; Fruit costs us and must be produced through work.

A Preacher decided to go into the community to get to know the people. He didn't wear a collar and begin to play ball with a group at the park. One of the men intentionally bumped him, tripping him, knocking him to the ground. Everyone began to laugh. Fighting to control his temper, he got up and smiled dusting himself off. The one who had bumped him, noticed his good nature and begin to help him up.

- His tormenter turned into his helper. As they talked, a connection was made, and they hung out after the game. He learned that the man, who looked down and out, used to be a doctor, but because of alcohol, had lost both his practice and his family.
- The outcome of this story is that the preacher was able to lead him to Christ and eventually see him reunite with his family.

Perhaps this is the purpose of the Fruit of the Spirit: to give us the power to draw others to Christ, especially our enemies.

Acts 1:8 (AV)⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

It is the Holy Spirit that gives us power to do something that without Him we can't do!

Matthew 5:43–44 (AV)⁴³ Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

The Fruit of the Spirit cost; it costs us persecution, hatred, spite, and being cursed. But if we are to win the lost, we have to be willing to pay the cost.

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: The Purpose of the Fruit (Paying the Cost to Win the Lost)

“The Function, The Cost, and The Reward of the Fruit”

I. The Function of the Fruit

Luke 6: ²⁷ But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, ²⁸ Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. ²⁹ And unto him that smiteth thee on the *one* cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. ³⁰ Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy

goods ask *them* not again. ³¹ And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Our churches have become so fixated on the Gifts of the Spirit, that many never develop or access the power and purpose of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Winning others to Christ can't be limited to family and friends. The function of the fruit is to supernaturally win people to Christ whom we otherwise would have no dealings with.

The truth is people are not always kind, not always pleasant. They can be rude, mean, ugly, hateful, disrespectful, wicked, and even evil.

It is at these times that the Fruit springs into action. As a matter of fact, without these times we would not even know that a person had any Fruit of the Spirit.

It is the function, job, or task of the Holy Spirit to reveal the supernatural power of God under the most stressful situation.

The Fruit of the Spirit is what allows us to pray for spiteful people, to turn away when we're being attacked, to give to those who take from us, bless people who curse us, and love those who curse us.

Jeremiah 31:3 (AV)³ The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

The fruit is working when we can display and express Love in hate, Joy when depressed, Peace in trouble, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Meekness, and Temperance.

II. The Cost of the Fruit

Luke 6: ³² For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. ³³ And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. ³⁴ And if ye lend *to them* of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

As we stated earlier, without the stressful times and situations of hatred, betrayal, depressing, rude, and evil situations the Fruit of the Spirit would not be necessary or revealed.

If our love is limited to those that love us, if our goodness is only given to those who are good to us, if we only help those that help us then we have no power. Because sinners without the Holy Spirit can do this.

There's a cost to the Fruit of the Spirit, and that cost is the Hell, the drama, the frustration, the betrayal, the ugliness, the wickedness we must go through to produce and utilize it.

The cost of the Fruit of the Spirit is you have to Work to get it, and Work to use it!

James 2:14–17 (AV)¹⁴ What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled;

notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Which is why James taught us in the previous chapter to count it joy when you're working.

James 1:2–3 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

III. The Reward of the Fruit

Luke 6: ³⁵ But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to the evil*. ³⁶ Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

But the beauty of the Fruit of the Spirit is that if you pay the cost, then you reap the reward.

Too many people want to get paid for their gifts, missing the whole point that it's a gift.

But fruit must be worked, they have a cost, and if you pay the cost, you will reap the reward.

And it's not just a reward, but a great reward.

Revelation 22:12 (AV)¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

The Reward from Giving:

Matthew 19:29 (AV)²⁹ And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

The Reward from Suffering:

Romans 8:18 (AV)¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Purpose of the Fruit (Paying the Cost to Win the Lost))

Study Tools:

- Sermon Video and Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/>
- Bibles, Commentaries, and Dictionaries: <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>
- Book Source: ["The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit"](#); Read the Following Chapters:
 - "Part 2: Fruit of the Spirit"
 - "Purpose and Expectations of Fruit"
 - "Building a "Fenced" Garden"
 - "Yielding Faith and Works"

Lesson Text

- Luke 6:27–36

Sermon Outline

- I. The Function of the Fruit
- II. The Cost of the Fruit
- III. The Reward of the Fruit

Questions

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Which of the Fruit of the Spirit do you need to allow the Holy Spirit to produce most in you?
2. Are you more likely to avoid conflict or engage in it head-on?

II. Into the Bible

1. Case Study: Stephen. Acts 7:54-60 tells the story of the stoning of Stephen. Who was Stephen? What does the Bible tell us about him in the previous chapter? What does Stephen do that shows the fruit of the Spirit produced in his life? Describe the elements of the fruit of the Spirit you see.
2. In Luke 9:23, Jesus said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." What does it mean for us to "take up our cross"?

III. Life Application

1. Challenging people and situations can produce pressure in our lives. Based on the principles taught in the sermon this week, has your perspective on your working the Fruit of the Spirit changed? How? Does this require you to make any changes?
2. What can you do to produce more fruit in you to draw others to Christ?

Prayer:

- **Prayer Request:**
- **Personal Prayer:**