
Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Pastor Wil Nichols

May 12, 2019

Victorious Praise Fellowship Church of God in Christ

2116 Page Rd. Durham NC 27703

WEBSITE: www.VictoriousPraise.org

EMAIL: PastorWil@VictoriousPraise.org, Info@VictoriousPraise.org

PHONE: (919) 957-7500

Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)

New Series Messages: "The Fruit of the Holy Spirit"

- **How do we know the Holy Spirit is Working?**
- Theme Scripture: Galatians 5:22–23

Lesson Text

Mark 11:12–21 (AV)¹² And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: ¹³ And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not *yet*. ¹⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto it, **No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.** And his disciples heard *it*. ¹⁵ And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; ¹⁶ And would not suffer that any man should carry *any* vessel through the temple. ¹⁷ And he taught, saying unto them, **Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.** ¹⁸ And the scribes and chief priests heard *it*, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine. ¹⁹ And when even was come, he went out of the city. ²⁰ And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹ And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. ²² And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.** ²³ **For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Introduction

Today we want to start a new series that deals with the Fruit of the Spirit.

(Video: Wendy's Commercial, "Where's the Beef? From 1984)

Unlike Gifts of the Spirit (Charisma) which are given to us, Fruit of the Spirit (Karpas) must be earned by us. Gifts comes without repentance, but if you don't work, you get no fruit!

This explains why some Christians can be spiritually gifted but display no love, never happy, constantly depressed, short tempered, harsh, evil, not loyalty, arrogant, with no discipline.

They are all bun with no beef! All gifts but no fruit! All style with no substance! All talent but no character!

It's like the idiom (old west colloquial saying) **All Hat and No Cattle**: It means full of big talk but lacking action, power, or substance!

The problem is that our gifts are leaves, and they say to the world come get our fruit!

In our lesson, Jesus was hungry and got happy seeing the fig tree; but it was **nothing but leaves**

The fruit of fig tree represent that which fills us up; but when the tree has “nothing but leaves”, just like Adam and Eve, all it can do is cover us up.

The World is loss, in the dark, hungry and dying; and when they come to us will they get the fruit of the spirit to fill them up, or just get nothing but leaves to cover us up!

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holy Spirit: Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)

“Where's the Ability, the Authority, and the Anointing of the Fruit?”

I. Where's the Ability of the Fruit? (Mission)

Mark 11: ¹² And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: ¹³ And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not *yet*.

The leaves represent capability! They identify and say this tree is capable of producing figs!

We have too many churches filled with too many Christians who have leaves. Their leaves say that they are capable of producing fruit to meet the needs of loss and dying world.

But the B-Clause of our scripture said all the tree had was **“Nothing But Leaves”!**

Just like the tree, our leaves say we have capability, but without fruit we have no ability!

And we have been called with a mission to meet those needs, but without Fruit we will fail!

Matthew 25:41–43 (AV) ⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³ I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Our Ability to Meet the Needs of People Require the Fruit of the Spirit!

Matthew 11: ²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

People are truly hurting, desperate, lost in the dark, hungry, exhausted and tired; and we need to be the tree with the fruit, the place where they can come and find rest!

And the greatest ability is not capability, but availability!

Fruit make us available to feed the hungry, available to give water to the thirsty, available to clothe the naked, available visit the sick and prisoned!

Where's the Fruit?

II. Where's the Authority of the Fruit? (Permission)

Mark 11: ¹⁵ And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

The church is the house of prayer, but they made it a den of thieves.

They did it because they were in Position (leaves), but they did not have Permission (fruit).

To many are in the church with a counterfeit permission slip of position, but they don't have the fruit that authorizes them to do the Lord's mission.

“Let me see your permission slip”!

Our Authority to Meet the Needs of People Require the Fruit of the Spirit!

Our Authority comes not from the promotion of man, but from the judgement of God

Psalms 75:6–7 (AV)⁶ For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷ But God *is* the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

And what is God judging? Our fruit! And the more we have, the more authority we're given.

Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

It is Love that gives us Authority over Hate; Joy that gives us Authority over Depressing; Peace that gives us Authority over Trouble; Longsuffering over Impatience; Gentleness over Harshness, Goodness over Evil, Faith over Disloyalty, Meekness over Arrogance; and Temperance over the Lack of Discipline and Control!

Where's the Fruit?

III. Where's the Anointing of the Fruit? (Power)

Mark 11: ²² And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God. ²³ For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**

The final issue we want to talk about today is the Church's lack of power to do what we have been called to do.

Matthew 22:14 (AV)¹⁴ **For many are called, but few *are* chosen.**

Why are so few Chosen? Because they have gifts (leaves), but no anointing and power (fruit).

Romans 11:29 (AV)²⁹ For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

Our power is not about our gifts, our abilities, our skills, or our talents. It's not about our miracles, our healing, our laying on of hands, our singing, our preaching.

Our Anointing to Meet the Needs of the People Require the Fruit of the Spirit

Matthew 28:19 (AV)¹⁹ **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

Our command is to go to all nations requires the anointing of the fruit to witness.

Our power to go and witness comes not from our gifts, but from our fruit to draw them to Christ

**We don't get power by just showing up (gifts), we get power by going through (work).
The Power to Love comes from working through hate; the power to Joy comes from working depression; the power of Peace comes from trouble; Longsuffering comes from having to wait!**

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.**

Genesis 12:1 (AV)¹ Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

The Anointing to go from our Father's House (Jerusalem) is Power Beyond the Comfort Zone

The Anointing to go from our Kinfolk (Judea) is Power Beyond the Familiar Zone

The Anointing to go from our Country (Samaria) is Power Beyond the Safety

We can do all things through Christ that Strengthens us because we're Anointed to do it!

Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up)

Page 5 of 5 (May 12, 2019)

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Where's the Fruit? (Fill Up or Cover Up))

Study Tools:

- Sermon Video and Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/>
- Bibles, Commentaries, and Dictionnaires: <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>
- Book Source: ["The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit"](#); Read the Following Chapters:
 - "The Fruit of the Spirit"
 - "Where's the Fruit?"

Lesson Text

- Mark 11:12–21, Galatians 5:22-23

Sermon Outline

- I. Where's the Ability of the Fruit? (Mission)
- II. Where's the Authority of the Fruit? (Permission)
- III. Where's the Anointing of the Fruit? (Power)

Questions

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. How influential were your parents in your current walk with the Lord? Explain why or why not?
2. Which fruit (i.e., banana, apple orange, etc.), best describes you?
3. If you could change one thing in your life right now, what would that one thing be and why?

II. Into the Bible

1. What passages of scripture gives us the Gifts of the Spirit? How does their purpose differ from the Fruit of the Spirit?
2. Read Matthew 6:1-8 and answer the following questions: (a) What were the wrong motives of the individuals described in the verses? (b) Which of the Fruit of the Spirit would have created a better motive in those individuals for doing the same good works?
3. Study John 15:16-17 and the surrounding verses. What connections can you see between bearing fruit and answered prayer?

III. Life Application

1. Give a situation from your past in which the Fruit of the Spirit changed your reaction or response. Give the particular element of the fruit (i.e. Love, Joy, Peace, ...) you used, and how it helped you.
2. Which of the three points of the sermon stands out as the most challenging, helpful or insightful? Why?
3. How can the Fruit of the Spirit help you to share Jesus without fear?

Prayer:

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