

Fruit

“Love”

Galatians 5: 22 -26 [KJ]

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another”

Galatians 5: 22-26 [Message]

“But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity.

We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates [spreading through something] things and people.

We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

23-24 Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.

25-26 Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.

That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse.

We have far more interesting things to do with our lives.

Each of us is an original”

Our desire should be to earnestly seek:

Matthew 6:33 – to seek - "the Giver and not the gifts" **then "all these things (Christ-like qualities) shall be added unto you"**

* Through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit / by choice!

We must remember that *gifts are given*, but *spiritual fruit is developed*

* The *fruit of the Spirit* (also known as our Spiritual Medicine Chest) comes to us when we receive Jesus Christ as our personal Savior; however, *it only comes as a small seed* which must be *nurtured* and *developed* in our lives (or watered) through prayer, by reading the Word, and by putting faith into action.

If Jesus Christ is in us, then we should be Christ like

* The *fruit of the Spirit* is the *display of the character of Christ*

* It is *His presence within us* that enables us develop the spiritual fruit in our lives.

I find it quite fascinating that the Bible both begins and ends talking about fruit

Genesis 2: 15-16

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat'..."

Revelation 22: 1-2

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations"