

REVIEW

1. Been looking at the Holy Spirit

- A. We looked at being Filled with the Spirit - where the power comes to live the Christian life
 - 1). Saw that filling is picture of “Wind” in the sails – propelling the boat along
- B. We saw for that to happen – we have to remain connected to Christ – life of the branch
 - 1). To be filled – to have that life flow into us – we must be yielded
 - a). Because Sin severs that vital connection – that life and power stop flowing into us
- C. Last week we picked out a sin – as an example - looked at the Unity of the Spirit
 - 1). If you fight – divide – gossip – with others – you are not yielding to the Spirit who desires unity
You break that fellowship that He wants to promote
Jn 13:35 (ESV) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
1 John 3:10-11 (NIV) This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. (11) This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

Transition: Let’s look at that idea of unity again for just a second

2. The unity of the Spirit

- A. Last week we saw the Spirit filled life will move us in two directions in this issue
 - 1). He will separate us from what we must separate from
He will unite us with whom we should unite with
 - 2). Both of these truths are in Scripture - both running side by side in Galatians

Example - The Book of Galatians

- A. In Galatians Paul presents a masterful defense for the Gospel
Proving that a man is saved by faith ALONE In Christ alone
 - 1). He says to *add anything* to that - any work and your preaching another Gospel
 - 2). But this is what the false teachers were doing in Galatia
You must believe in Christ PLUS do the works of the law
 - a). The minute you add that PLUS you are no longer preaching the same Gospel Paul preached
 - 1a). You are saying the work of Christ was not sufficient - Man must add his work too!
 - 3). Paul has some pretty harsh words for those who were teaching a gospel of Christ PLUS
Ga 1:8-9 (ESV) But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁽⁹⁾ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
 - a). God obviously did not accept this - and *Paul obviously would not unite with this*
 - 1a). There must be a separation from this message that was being called a Gospel
But in the end did not save - it wasn’t a Gospel at all
 - b). *We saw last week - we don’t tolerate heresy for the sake of unity*
- B. One chapter later you find Paul in another confrontation - this time with the Apostle Peter
 - 1). Why? Because Peter was separating himself with the Gentile believer's
 - a). But not over essential truths - over grey areas - circumcision, diet, special days...
 - b). Paul says that is wrong Peter - knock it off

Point: This is the balance of the Spirit filled life - lived out in two chapters in Galatians

- A. A necessary separation from those who distort the essential doctrines of the faith
- B. Running alongside of that - the truth that we must not separate over the non-essentials

- 1). *We must not accept that which God doesn't accept
AND we should not reject that which God does not reject*

- a). Churches and believers that are different in the grey areas

Transition: This brings us to the fruit of the Spirit - which we will only introduce today

- A. Today's study starts to answer the question "What does the Spirit-filled life look like?"
How do I know if I'm living that life?

- 1). Fortunately there is a way to tell - look for fruit
- 2). Just as you can tell a healthy grapevine by the fruit it produces - it is the same thing with a believer

I. WHAT THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE LOOKS LIKE

Ga 5:22-23 (ESV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ⁽²³⁾ gentleness, self-control...

Intro: This list is simply outlining the *character* of Christ

- A. This 9-fold cluster of fruit is simply what Christ was like in His incarnation
 - 1). When you are filled with the Spirit – when you are yielded to Him – fruit is produced
And the more that fruit is produced the more your life will resemble Jesus
 - a). His love will begin to be produced that enables you to love those you couldn't love before
 - b). His peace begins to flow in that enables you to rest when you would have panicked
 - c). His self-control is fashioned that empowers you to overcome temptation you use to fall to
 - 1a). All 9 fruits begin to grow naturally in the life that is Spirit-filled

Transition: So let's look at how we can evaluate a life (our own life) to see if it is Spirit-filled

1. The Spirit-filled life will have a sense of Christ character to it

- A. Where we look for the evidence of this fruit is in your character
This thought of character is really important – why?
 - 1). Because character is consistent – it's who you are
 - 2). That means thus will be evident in your life wherever you are – church – home – work - school
 - a). The Spirit-filled life will naturally produce a Christ-like character
That is seen no matter where you are
 - 3). IOW it isn't some outward manifestation of a spiritual gift on Sunday
But doesn't affect you Monday-Saturday

Thought: I would say the more accurate gauge of the Spirit-filled life is who you are away from church

- A. Is there a Christlikeness then? When it's not so easy to play the Christian game
- B. Is there some degree of this fruit – when things heat up – go south
 - 1). That's when true character shows up isn't it
You really don't know who a person is until you see them under pressure
 - a). You'll find out if they are controlled by the flesh or by the Spirit
 - b). The one walking in the flesh will fall apart
The one walking in the Spirit will shine
- C. Anybody can look spiritual – look Spirit-filled when things are going great
 - 1). But what do they act like when they're not
 - a). Is there still a degree of Christ's love, patience, gentleness, self-control?
 - 2). The life dominated by the Spirit will shine the brightest when things are the darkest
 - a). That is when the Spirit-filled Christian separates themselves from the pack
 - b). When the life given over to the Spirit separates itself from mediocrity

- D. Anybody can look like they have "Self-control" when they are in church
- 1). The reality whether this fruit is there or not is seen when you are alone & temptation comes
 - a). NOW you have an accurate indicator of whether you are walking in the Spirit or not
 - b). Those who are Spirit-filled will enjoy Christ's self-control
 - 1a). When they need it – it will be there – not perfectly but usually
 - 2). Or when you feel dissed by somebody – how do you take that?
 - a). Here is Christ's character – displaying fruit of "Love, patience, self-control, gentleness"

1 Pet 2:21-23 (NLT) This suffering is all part of what God has called you to. Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in his steps. (22) He never sinned, and he never deceived anyone. (23) He did not retaliate when he was insulted. When he suffered, he did not threaten to get even. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

Point: How do I respond when there are pressure points?

- A. They reveal what's really happening in the heart – they expose who you really are
- B. Paul tells us what we'll be like when the flesh is in control

Ga 5:19–22 (ESV) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ⁽²⁰⁾ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ⁽²¹⁾ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these...

 - 1). Lack of self-control. Lack of love. Lack of patience
Instead there is hatred, discord, division, sexual impurity
 - 2). The answer is to yield to the Spirit – give him control – you'll know a growing victory

Ga 5:16 (ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Transition: The evidence of the Spirit-filled life is Christian character – Christlike Character

- A. Before we move on let me add another
 - 1). Hinted at this already – just want to hit it from a different angle

2. The Spirit-filled life will have a sense of Christ's holiness about it

- A. Why? Because two of the fruits are "Faithfulness" and "Self-control"
 - 1). Therefore the issue of being Spirit-filled is not how high you soared on Sunday morning
But how straight you walk the rest of the week
- B. So, is there a Christlikeness seen in holy living - in your home – workplace – school
 - 1). Are you yielding yourselves to the commands and principles of the Scriptures
 - a). Are you depending upon the Spirit to help you live those out throughout the week?
 - 2). **Are you "faithful" to God – exhibiting "self-control" when nobody is watching?**

Transition: There will be a holiness about your life – as you live it out "Faithfully" for God
As you exercise "self-control" – saying yes to what you should say yes to
Saying no to what you should say no to

Summary: This fruit can't be faked – eventually true character will reveal itself

- A. Sooner or later your life will give evidence of who your controlled by – the Spirit or the flesh
- B. I'm not saying any of this to make you feel guilty – but to make you want this
 - 1). Aren't you tired of being tossed to and fro by your emotions! Aren't you tired of defeat
 - 2). The answer to that is to yield yourself to the Spirit
 - a). He will begin to fashion the life of Christ in you – then live it out through you

Ga 5:16 (ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

 - 1a). Instead you will see these glorious fruits start to grow
 - 2a). You will start enjoying the life of the lamb – led and taken care of by the Shepherd

Transition: So fruit can't be faked – character will out - but fruit can be replaced

- A. What I mean – we can accept substitutes as a proof of being Spirit-filled – look for the wrong things
 - 1). We can deceive ourselves thinking we’re Spirit-filled when we’re not
- B. I call this section “Wax fruit” – it can look like fruit but it isn’t – a phony substitute

II. WAX FRUIT

Intro: We can substitute spiritual gifts and natural gifts for the Spirit-filled life and the fruit He produces

The Substitute of Spiritual Gifts

1. Today Spiritual gifts are often mistaken as a proof of being Spirit-filled

- A. It is true that the reality of the Spirit is seen in a life in two ways – fruits and gifts
 - 1). By gifts I don’t mean speaking in tongues
 - I mean such things as effective teaching – helps – administration – serving - giving
 - a). Those gifts that are necessary to keep a church running and healthy
- B. The problem is – we can be fooled by Spiritual gifts – but they aren’t proof at all
 - 1). They can be exercised by carnal believers (Corinthians)
 - 2). Non-believers can even look like they are performing them – empowered by Satan

Point: The outward manifestation of gifts isn’t always an accurate indicator of a Spirit-filled life

Turn: Mt 7:20–23 (ESV) Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. ⁽²¹⁾ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ⁽²²⁾ On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ⁽²³⁾ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

1. These individuals looked powerful – kind you want in church

- A. They’re doing all these amazing things in Jesus name
 - 1). Prophecy, Miracles = Listed as Spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians
 - 2). BUT They weren’t even saved – Jesus says “I don’t know you”

Point: Just because Jesus’ name is attached to something doesn’t mean it comes from Him

- A. One of the characteristics of the end times will be false signs and wonders done in His name

Mark 13:22 (NIV) For false Christs and false prophets will appear and *perform signs and miracles* to deceive the elect—if that were possible.

- 1). All done in the name of Jesus – all extremely convincing – all inspired by the devil
- B. Therefore outward signs – that look like spiritual giftedness is not an accurate gauge of having the Spirit
 - 1). Jesus said “You will recognize them by their fruit” – look at their character
 - 2). See how they respond when things heat up – do they have patience – kindness
 - Do you see a sense of Christlikeness in them
 - a). How do these phony teachers respond when the camera is off

Transition: Let’s move away from the unbeliever to the believer in the church

- A. Many think a Spirit-filled church or believer is one where the gifts are manifest openly each Sunday
 - 1). The main thing they look for is everybody speaking in tongues
 - 2). We had a person who thought we didn’t even believe in the Holy Spirit because we didn’t do that
 - a). Since this misunderstanding is so rampant we need to look at it
 - b). This is a repeat – but go a little deeper – need to see this – might not have been here
- B. Remember being Spirit-filled = being yielded to the Spirit
 - 1). How does that happen primarily – it is by obeying the Scriptures – book He authored
 - 2). If you’re not yielded to the Scriptures you’re not Spirit-filled

Everybody Speaking in Tongues and The Scriptures

I want to look at this a little deeper – to protect you – to show you why this is not an indicator of walking in the Spirit
To be careful when you see these ministries like Bethel doing the strange things they do
To not be confused just because they are growing in numbers

1. The command

Turn: 1 Co 14:27–28 (ESV) If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, (NIV **each should speak *one at a time***) and let someone interpret. ⁽²⁸⁾ But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God.

A. One at a time – 2 or 3 at the most – only if there is interpretation afterwards – NOT all at once

2. The principle – For evangelism sake

1 Co 14:23 (ESV) If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your minds?

A. This is what happens - I took a friend to a church that did this - that was it - she never returned

1). This hinders the churches purpose of evangelism

Thought: Good principle to apply in all the ways worship is expressed

A. Ask ourselves what would an unbeliever who is visiting think

B. Objection: You say I can have freedom to worship the way I want – to a degree yes

1). But Paul says use that freedom in a way that considers others

Is it loving to express yourself in a way that might drive another away from Christ

C. Objection: Where does it say I can't roll around on the floor laughing – or acting like I'm giving birth
Or up at Bethel – laying on the stage acting drunk – slurring your speech etc.

1). Bible doesn't cover everything that is crazy – need a forklift to lift the book

2). It does provide broad principles that cover the whole spectrum of worship

a). It does say “consider the unbeliever who may walk into church”

1a). Will what you're doing draw them nearer to Christ or drive them away
Will it help or hurt evangelism

2a). Church is not all about you – we take others into consideration

Transition: So the manifestation of spiritual gifts are not an indicator of a Spirit-filled life

A. Jesus said there will be those who look like they are exercising the gifts that aren't believers

B. Plus - Paul calls the Corinthian church that was exercising the gifts carnal

1). They weren't yielding to the Spirit at all – prideful displays

C. There is another substitute –

Natural Gifts or Natural Talents

1. We can assume that natural giftedness is an anointing from God

A. A person who is naturally an eloquent speaker - make him a teacher

B. A person who is naturally organized - put them over a ministry

C. A person who is naturally gifted in music - the calling is obvious - the worship group

1). Many times we end up with carnal people in places that demand spirituality

2). We fail to look for fruit - is there a Christlikeness about them?

a). Eloquence – organization – musical ability doesn't necessarily equate to spirituality

b). I'd much rather have somebody over a ministry – in the worship group

That may be a bit less talented but is in love with our Lord!

Who is yielded to Him and the fruit of His character is growing in their lives

Transition: Lets close up the study by looking at why fruit is so important

III. WHY THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS SO IMPORTANT

1. It brings God glory because we become more and more like Christ

- A. As we live in this world to some degree like Christ – as we minister to some degree like Christ
 - 1). When our lives – our leadership – our ministry are characterized by His character
"His Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self- control."
 - a). That is when we bring God glory
Jn 15:8 (ESV) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
 - 1a). That sounds important – if there is no fruit – you're not His disciple

2. Because it is necessary in effective evangelism

- A. One reason the Spirit was given to us is (not to produce chills) for evangelism
Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive *power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 - 1). The Spirit-filled believer will be concerned about souls
 - a). That's one of the reasons the Spirit was given to us
 - 2). How can somebody who is connected to Christ – has His life flowing into them
 - a). Not care about the lost? How does that reflect His life?
 - B. Being Spirit-filled will naturally produce a concern for souls
And will fashion the kind of life that is powerful in winning souls
 - 1). There's nothing more powerful for evangelism than a believer who lives like Christ in this world
 - 2). God's method of evangelism is Spirit-filled believer's living out a Christlike life
H.W. Cragg: The Christian is the visual aid which God brings onto the stage when he begins to speak at an unconverted person.
 - a). God wants to use your life to display Himself to the lost world around you
- Point:** This is what the world needs to see - men and women with Christ's character being produced in them
- A. Men & women whose lives transcend the norm - who respond differently - who have different values
 - 1). This is what the Spirit produces when we live a Spirit-filled life

3. Because it is necessary in effective relationships

- A. These characteristics provide what is necessary for a family or a church to work together in harmony
 - 1). These qualities are like oil that keep the friction down on moving parts
 - 2). A church that is not Spirit-filled is like an engine that is without oil - there is constant friction
 - a). Eventually things heat up and boil over
 - b). The works of the flesh will come out - anger - selfish ambition - envy - jealousy - division
 - 3). But when a group of Spirit-filled believers get together there is harmony
 - a). People aren't vying for positions - they are excited when another person is used
 - b). They want God to be glorified NOT self

4. Because it is necessary for purity

- A. Saw earlier - this is a result of having this fruit of self-control and faithfulness
 - 1). That sets up a powerful defense in the life of the believer
That enables the believer to stand when they are faced with temptation

CONCLUSION

1. What does the Spirit filled life look like?

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- A. It has a growing Christlike character to it
 - 1). This is the most accurate test to know if were Spirit Filled or not
 - a). *When we see this the clearest is when are pushed - trouble and trial*
 - 2. What are the substitutes commonly accepted for the Spirit-filled life**
 - A. Spiritual gifts - many believe this is an indicator of the Spirit filled life
 - 1). But gifts can be exercised by carnal Christians - Ex. Corinthians
 - 2). Even unbeliever's can exercise what looks like spiritual gifts
 - B. Natural gifts or talents - the church can mistake these as an anointing from God
 - 1). When that person may not be Spirit filled at all
- Point:** The only accurate way I can tell if I'm Spirit-filled is by the fruit in my life