

Galatians 5: 22 – “The Fruit of the Spirit”, Message # 41 in the series – “Christ has Set us Free”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on July 23rd, 2023, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

At this time, I would like us to think about this phrase: “The fruit of the Spirit”. As an introduction to our examination of each of the fruits which are listed here, I want consider this phrase in terms of its definition. My plan is to take each one of these fruits of the Spirit and to have us look at them individually in coming studies. But for right now it will be enough to think about the working of the Holy Spirit in relation to the believer’s being able to bring forth fruit unto God.

1st of all – I want you to consider with me, the Holy Spirit’s work of planting in the believer’s life.

It says here – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love”. The fruit “of” the Spirit’s working in the believer’s life is love, and etc. We have taken a look at the works of the flesh. And now Paul would show us the fruits of the Spirit. He uses the words “works” and “fruit” as a contrast. This contrast is meant to show us where these things proceed from. The works of the flesh originate from the remaining sinful corruption of your heart. The fruit of the Spirit originates in the work of the Holy Spirit in your heart. If I am a believer, the works of the flesh come from my old nature. They come from that fleshly part of me that remains after conversion. But I am not now, the person that I once was, if I am a true Christian.

I have a new nature and I am a new creation. But the flesh is still with me. And so, how I used to think, and what I used to do, before Christ came into my life, these thoughts and these feelings are still with me. Turn with me over to Romans chapter 6, verses 1-7. The thought that often comes to a new uninstructed Christian is this – Should I continue in sin that grace may abound? Look at verse 1. “What shall we say then?” “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” “Certainly not!” How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin. “For he was has died has been freed from sin.”

No, the Christian should not continue in sin that grace may abound. And the reason that is given by Paul is very revealing. “How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” The believer in Christ has really and actually experienced, by the Holy Spirit’s working in their heart, a death to sin. It is called the “circumcision of the heart” in Colossians 2: 11 and 12. The Holy Spirit has put off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ. That person is buried with Christ in baptism, into His death. And then they were also raised with Christ through faith in the working of God, who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.

The baptism that is being talked about here in verse 3 is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who does a great spiritual work of placing us into Christ’s death, it says here. The physical baptism, which is done before the local church, is a picture of what God the Holy Spirit has done in actuality. But I want you to look more closely with me at verse 5. “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.” I want you to see that there is a real spiritual union which has been established by Christ through His Holy Spirit in the New Birth. There has been the planting of a new principle of grace in the mind and heart of the believer.

In fact, in the King James version of the Bible it is translated this way – “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” The

word is σὺμφυτὸς in the Greek, and it can legitimately be translated – “planted together”. Let it be known to all, that if you have come to saving faith in Christ, that things have greatly changed for you. In the act of regeneration, which is done by power and working of the Holy Spirit, you were given a new principle of spiritual life in Christ. A spiritual seed of righteousness has been implanted in your soul.

Turn with me over to 1st John chapter 3, verse 9. “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.” So if you have saving faith, Christ has come into your life by means of His Holy Spirit. And He has given you the New birth. He has made you into a New Creature by planting the seed of righteousness in your heart. In this spiritual seed is every good and righteous thing related to life and godliness. It will grow up into a tree in your life over time. The Holy Spirit’s working, in this powerful way, plants you together with Him in the likeness of Christ’s death and resurrection. It is because of this, that you will grow up in righteousness into a great tree of the Lord.

Turn over with me to Isaiah 61, verses 1-3. “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of Joy for morning, the garment of praise for the spirit heaviness; that they may be called trees of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

So, when you heard the good tidings of the gospel, you believed in Christ. Your broken heart was healed, you were forgiven of all of your sins. And you were justified and set free from sin’s dominion. In regard to the guilt of sin you were forgiven of all of your sins, and you were declared righteous by God, based upon the finished work of Christ. In regard to the bondage of sin, you were set free so that you were no longer held captive to it, or to the Devil. In regard to the sorrow and shame of sin you mourned over it, and so by the free grace of Christ you were given beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for morning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

When Christ entered your life, He did so in order to plant a spiritual tree. He did that in order that God might be glorified in your life. This tree that you have become is a fruit-bearing tree. The fruit of the Spirit comes from the Holy Spirit’s supplying you the grace of Christ which will do an effectual work your life. Once you have believed in Christ you begin to live a life of obedience to God’s word by means of the Spirit’s power and grace. Philippians 2: 12 & 13 – “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

What does God’s powerful working by His Spirit lead to? Verses 14 & 15 – “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” When we are planted in Christ’s likeness, this is what we will become.

2nd – We want to look at the Holy Spirit’s work of imparting grace to believers so that they will bring forth good fruit unto God.

It is good for every Christian to understand that the Holy Spirit imparting spiritual life and strength to every believer in Christ. This includes you! And so, you should understand that it is His working in your heart which will enable you to manifest the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, etc. To bring forth good fruit, you have to have a mind enlightened to the truth, of where spiritual light and life comes from. You need to know where the wisdom and the power to hold to what is true, and to do what is right, comes from. It does not come from yourself. It comes from Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Turn with me over to John chapter 6, and verses 63 and 64. "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing." "The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." "But there are some of you who do not believe." The words that Jesus had spoken to them in the previous discourse were about how He was the Bread of life. And Jesus concluded this discourse to them with the words of verses 55-57. "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed." "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in me, and I in him." "As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

Feeding on Christ is receiving these truths into your mind and heart, by the Spirit giving you the wisdom and insight to do so. This feeding is not simply a one-time feeding at the time when you first hear the gospel. It is being enlightened to see that you should trust in Christ for all the grace that you will need every day. And when you do this, you will begin to realize that it is by this means, that you will be spiritually nourished and sustained in the life that you live for Him. This, many of the people listening to Jesus at this time in His earthly ministry, did not have. They did not have the Spirit, because they did not believe in Jesus' words to them.

When you become a Christian you should understand that you will need to pray for yourself. You will need to learn to pray for other people also. You will need to pray that they might have more knowledge and more discernment in spiritual things. This should be a prayer that you pray every day. Turn with me over to Philippians 1, verses 8-11. "For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ." "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Notice how Paul longs for them with the affection of Christ. How did he come by that affection? It came by the Spirit's working in his heart. The fruit of the Spirit is love, but that love in every Christian has its source in Christ first. "We love because He first loved us", it says in 1st John 4: 19. Paul takes nothing for granted in this regard; he prays for the Philippian believers that this grace of love might abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment so that they would approve the things that were excellent. He prays that they might be sincere and without offense, and that they would be filled with the fruits of righteousness. These are the fruits of the Spirit which are listed for us in the text that we are studying tonight.

This would take the Spirit's working these graces into them; imparting to them the ability to manifest these graces of love to God and man so that they would live a righteous life. Look over at Philippians 1: 12-21. "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and that most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." "Some indeed preach Christ from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: the former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely; supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel."

"What then?" "Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice." "For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or death." "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." You can see here, can't you, how Paul was sustained while he was in prison? He knew that while he was in prison, that there were a number of preachers who were out there preaching Christ out of envy and strife and selfish ambition? This could have been quite upsetting to him.

But it was not. Why? Because he knew the precious working of the Holy Spirit in his heart. The Spirit was giving him the graces of love, joy, peace, and patience in that hour, because of the

supply of Spirit of Christ. He knew Christ was being preached, and that was enough. Grace is not simply a state of favor with God. Grace is God's His powerful working in your heart to give you the strength and the wisdom which will allow you to glorify Him, in whatever situation that you are in, whether it is pleasant or difficult.

3rd – Let's think about the Holy Spirit's work of pouring in the believer's life.

Turn with me over to Romans 5, verses 1-5. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope." "Now hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

This is where the grace of love begins. It begins with the Holy Spirit pouring it out into your heart. For you trusted in Christ for your salvation. Having believed in Christ, you were justified in the sight of the holy God. You will always be seen as righteous by Him, forever, because of Christ. Justification is a onetime act of God, declaring you righteous for the sake of Christ's work. That is, you have trusted that Christ has obeyed the law perfectly on your behalf. He has suffered and died in your place at the cross.

When you, the sinner, first trusted in Christ, you were given the Holy Spirit. And when He was given to you, He then poured out the love of God into your heart. That is, you came to love God because He first loved you. You love Christ because He first laid down His life for you. And so, you come to love the Holy Spirit because He takes the things of Christ and He shows them to you. Yes, He shows them to you in God's word, the Bible. But then He also gives you imparted grace; both to love the truth of God and to be inclined to love doing what is right.

It is when you love righteousness and hate lawlessness, that you will then go about to do and keep His commandments. When so, you see, when you are given the Holy Spirit, He then becomes the basis of your receiving all the grace that you will need, day by day, to glorify God in your life.