

# THE PURPOSE OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

## GOLDEN TEXT

“Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.”(Matthew 3:8 /NKJV).

## USEFUL PRACTICE

Only through a fruitful spiritual life can the believer glorify God.

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Matthew 7:13-20

13 - Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 - But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

15 - Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

16 - By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

17 - Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 - A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

19 - Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 - Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To understand the real meaning of spiritual fruit bearing.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- I. **To show** that a life controlled by the Spirit requires of us a holy living and a true communion with God;
- II. **To know** that the Holy Spirit shapes our character in order for us to be like Christ;
- III. **To present** the purpose of the fruit and the need to have a productive life.

## INTRODUCTION

In today's lesson, we will study the purpose of the fruit of the Spirit. In Scriptures, the term fruit has many meanings that can be used to designate our actions and motives. We will see that Jesus, our Savior, died and rose again to teach us the value of a fruitful life (John 12:24). We are the fruit of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary, so we have a responsibility to bear fruit for the glory of God.

### I - LIFE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT

**1. What does it mean to be controlled by the Spirit?** It means being filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, not only on Sundays (Ephesians 5:18). If we are to live to please God and bear fruit for His glory, we must fulfill the biblical imperative recorded in Ephesians 5:18: "[...] but be filled with the Spirit." Here the verb "to fill" also refers to being controlled, dominated, so that the person has no more will of his own. When we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, our thoughts, actions and wills begin to be led by Him. It is deplorable, but, unfortunately, many believers no longer seek the power of the Holy Spirit, because they are more concerned about the goods of this world. Jesus warned us about storing up treasures on earth rather than in heaven (Mt 6:19, 20).

**2. A holy living.** The Holy Spirit helps us to have a better understanding of God and His Kingdom. He desires to teach us to live in newness of life, in holiness, even dwelling in a world corrupted by sin and dominated by the Enemy (1 Cor. 2:10-15). For a plant to produce fruits it must reach a certain level of maturation; this also happens to believers (Eph. 4:13). This level of growth and maturation can only be achieved with the help and action of the Holy Spirit. The fruitful life is for the "mature". As the years pass by and the believer does not reach spiritual maturity, he becomes vulnerable to sin and every wind of doctrine, being deceived by the cunning of those who claim to speak in the name of God (Eph. 4:14).

**3. True communion.** Do you want to have a life of communion with God? Then invest time in your relationship with Him (Hos. 6:3). Pray, fast, and worship the Lord. Communion with God will produce in us excellent fruits which will show that the Father dwells in us. Jesus commanded his disciples to go to Jerusalem to be clothed with power (Acts 1:8). He knew that in order to continue his work and bring forth good fruits, the disciples would need this empowerment.

## II - THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SHOWS THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST IN US

**1. What is character?** According to the *Houaiss* Dictionary, it is the "quality inherent in an individual, from birth; temperament, nature." (in a free translation). Our actions and fruits identify the character of Christ in us. Whoever, through faith, receives Jesus Christ as Savior undergoes an inner change, receiving a new life, that is, a new way of thinking and acting (2 Cor. 5:17). The character of Christ is evidenced in our lives by our actions.

**2. Character generated by the Holy Spirit.** The Lord Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would dwell in us (John 14:17). He, in us, causes our Adamic nature to be dethroned. The old "self" dies, therefore we are able to deny ourselves (Mt 16:24). We need to be aware that the Holy Spirit works in us, not only to give us gifts and talents, but to change us. Unfortunately, many do not give way to the Spirit, preventing Him from changing them. The Comforter works in us as we allow him to. Let the Comforter change your whole being.

**3. A new way of life.** Living in newness of life is not easy, because the road that leads to Jesus Christ is narrow and demands renunciation (Matt. 7:14). Unfortunately, many are preaching a pseudo-gospel that no longer requires renunciation or change of life. We cannot agree with the false teachings and false speeches that have been disseminated, especially through social networks. Jesus said that false prophets wear sheep's clothing, but they are *harpagés*, that is, they are like birds of prey, therefore we must be careful (Matt. 23:25). Their aim is to destroy the Lord's flock and prevent us from reaching eternal life. Many, under the influence of Satan, are working signs and wonders, imitating the works of Christ, but their fruits reveal that they do not belong to Jesus Christ. How to identify the true believer? He can be identified not by what he has, but by what he is. His actions must reveal that he is in Jesus Christ (John 15:4). Remember: you do not know a tree by the leaves, but by the fruits.

### III - WITNESSING THE VIRTUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**1. The purpose of the fruit.** You have not been saved only to attend church, but to reveal Christ to the world through a holy, righteous living in the midst of a society committed to sin (Phil. 2:15). We have been "removed" from the world so that we may be witnesses (Isa. 43:10). You have been called to be "light" of the world and "salt" of the earth (Mt 5: 14-15). But it is no use preaching the Gospel of Christ and not living according to the principles of the Kingdom (Mt 5:1-12). You need to live what you preach and teach, if you want a fruitful life and ministry.

**2. A productive life.** The believer must have a fruitful spiritual life, so he will not be uprooted, taken away (John 15:2). When a branch is cut off and is not immediately grafted in, or replanted, it dries and dies. Have you borne fruit or is your life like a dry branch? Our fruits reveal that we belong to Christ and how much we learn from Him (Luke 6:40, John 15: 8).

**3. What do you do in order to maintain productivity?** A good farmer is concerned with planting, cultivating, and producing fruit. In order for the crop to develop well, the farmer needs to fertilize the soil, water the seeds and remove the weeds. It takes financial investment and a lot of work. We also have a Father who cares for us so that we may bear fruit (John 15:1-5). This means that sometimes we are "pruned", that is, we go through afflictions and hardships. Afflictions are not intended to destroy us, but they contribute to our becoming stronger people, capable of bearing plenty of fruit.

### CONCLUSION

We need to have a fruitful life, and to do this we must be connected to the Vine. The purpose of the fruits is to glorify the Father: "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (John 15: 8). Seek to have a personal relationship with Christ, be filled with the Holy Spirit and bear much fruit for the glory of God.