

The Holy Spirit—Reproducing Christ Like Character

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I. Introduction.

A. Every Christian should live a life that is distinguished from the world.

B. Text: John 15:1-8.

C. Jesus knew that His disciples would have a difficulty living the life they were supposed to live when He was gone, so He sent the Holy Spirit.

D. The change that happened to Peter is the same change that happened to every believer—the Holy Spirit. (John 16)

II. The fruit of the Spirit is the outward expression that we are true followers of Christ. (Matthew 7:16, 21-22; 12:33, John 15:16)

III. Kinds of fruit.

A. Fruit of attitude. These are expressions of true followers of Christ. (Galatians 5)

1. When we are relying on the Spirit, there will be a different kind of lifestyle.
2. God only expects us to be loving, joyful, patient, etc. in the strength of God.
3. No believer will be perfect in this world, but he will show some signs of this fruit.

B. Fruit of action. These are not necessarily indicative of a real relationship with Christ.

IV. How to gain fruit. (John 15)

A. The fruit of the Spirit is produced as we rely upon the Spirit.

B. A believer has the life of Christ within him through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 11, Colossians 2)

C. Only by abiding in Christ can one bear fruit. We cannot respond out of our resources.

D. God is not interested in our comfort—every branch that does not bear fruit God prunes.

1. Difficulties prune us to bear more fruit.
2. God is removing those things that are distracting to us.

V. Steps.

A. One must be a part of Christ.

- B. One must repent.
- C. One must continually yield to the Spirit.
- D. One must trust God.

Application questions:

1. What are the different kinds of fruit?

2. How would you counsel a believer who struggles to bear fruit that expresses the life of Christ?

3. Should believers expect the fruit of attitude to be normative? Explain.
