



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Holy Spirit Blaze Series, Lesson 5

Lesson Title: The Holy Spirit Produces Fruit

Take Home Point: The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives.

Warm-Up:

I grew up in a very small farming community. I still have a number of friends who farm, either as a vocation or an avocation. Every year they all do the same things on a smaller or larger scale. They get the fields ready and plant the seeds. They try to keep back the weeds and pests by various means; they wait for rain (or irrigate, if they can). At the end of the season, they hope for a good harvest, and they bring in whatever harvest is produced. With all that, and after all these years, I don't know a single one of them ever said, "Look what I did! I brought this all to harvest!" They may certainly talk about the work they did to get to that point, but they recognize that all they do is prepare the best they can and reap what they can – every one of them is fully aware that it is the earth that actually produces, not all their effort.

Read: Galatians 5:16-25

Observation (What happened?):

What happens when we live by the Spirit?

List the kinds of attitudes that distinguish acts of the sinful nature from the fruit of the Spirit.

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does our sinful nature desire, that is, what is at the core of sin?

What does it mean to live by the Spirit?

Insight:

Before Paul wrote these words, Jesus spoke of the results of living in God's Spirit. In Matthew 7:18, he told his disciples they could recognize those who follow God from those who don't by the evidence of their lives: *"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a rotten tree cannot produce good fruit. So you will know them by what they produce."* In John 15, Jesus added to this, telling his disciples that only by being connected to him could they bear the spiritual fruit God desires: *"No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."* (NIV) What Jesus told his disciples is still true today. The Spirit's fruits are attitudes in us and actions we perform that make us more like Christ and bring him eternal glory.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What circumstances are you experiencing that God is using to develop one or more of the Spirit's fruits in you?

Which fruit is he in the process of developing in you right now?

Kingdom Quest Year 1 - Lesson 5