

Galatians 5: 22 – “The Fruit of the Spirit”, Message # 41 in the series – “Christ has Set us Free”, a Bible Study conducted on June 24th, 2015, by Pastor Paul Rendall at his home.

This evening we want 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. My plan is to take each one of these fruits and to have us look at them individually in coming studies. But for tonight it will be enough to think together about the working of the Holy Spirit of God in relation to the believer’s being able to bring forth fruit unto God. 1st of all – We will look at the Holy Spirit’s work in planting in the believer’s life. 2nd - We will look at the Holy Spirit’s work of imparting grace to believers so that they bring forth good fruit unto God. And 3rd– We will look at the Holy Spirit’s work of pouring in the believer’s life.

1st of all – The Holy Spirit’s work of planting in the believer’s life.

“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 me; the fruit of the Spirit originates in the work of the Holy Spirit. If I am a believer the works of the flesh come from my old nature; that fleshly part of me that remains after conversion. I am not 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 feelings are still with me. Turn with me over to Romans chapter 6, verses 3-7. 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 who 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, a death to sin in his heart. It is called the “circumcision of the heart” in Colossians 2: 11 and 12; the Holy Spirit putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised Christ from the dead. The baptism that is being talked about here in verse 3 is the baptism of the Holy Spirit who does a spiritual work of placing us into Christ’s death, it says here. The physical baptism which is done before the Church is a picture of what God the Holy Spirit has done in actuality. But I want you to look more closely 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.” There is a real spiritual mystical union which has been established by Christ through His Holy Spirit; a planting of a principle of grace in the mind and heart of the believer. In fact, in the King James version of the Bible it is translated – “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 συμφοτος in the Greek, and can legitimately be translated – planted together.

Listen to John Gill – “This is not to be understood of an implantation of Jews and Gentiles together in One body; nor of an implantation of believers together in a church state; but of an implantation of Christ and his people together; which is openly done at conversion, in consequence of a secret union with him before; when they are transplanted from a state of nature, and are ingrafted into Christ; have the graces of the Spirit of God implanted in them, and grow up under the dews of grace, and shinings of the sun of righteousness upon them, and bring forth much fruit; now as these persons, by virtue of their secret union with Christ from eternity, as their head and representative, with whom they were crucified, in whom they died representatively, share in his death, enjoy the benefits of it, and feel its efficacy, and through it become dead to the law, sin, and the world, which is meant by “the likeness of his death”; so these same persons shall be also planted in the likeness of his resurrection; that is, they shall share in the benefits, and feel and enjoy the effects of it; not only their bodies will be raised at the last day, as their souls are now regenerated by virtue of it, and in resemblance to it; but they are, and shall be so influenced by his Spirit and grace, which has raised them from death to life, that they shall walk in newness of life; of which baptism is a lively representation, and to which it is a constant obligation.” (end of quote)

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 the Holy Spirit, you were given a new principle of spiritual life in Christ; a seed which He has implanted it 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.” Christ has come into my life by means of His Holy Spirit giving the New birth, making me into a New Creature by planting the seed of righteousness in my heart. In this seed is every good and righteous thing related to life and godliness. It will grow up into a tree in my life over time. The Spirit’s working plants you together with Him in the likeness of His death and resurrection so 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 mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit heaviness; that they may be called trees of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” 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 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 by the free grace of Christ you were given beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. When Christ entered your life, He did so in order to plant a tree 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 working in 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.

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

The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual life and strength to every believer in Christ, and it is His working in their hearts which enables them to manifest the fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, etc. To bring forth good fruit you have to have to have a mind enlightened to the truth of where spiritual life, the wisdom and the power to hold to what is true and 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 verse 63. "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 that by that means you will be spiritually nourished and sustained in the life that you live for Him. This, many of the people listening to Jesus 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 not think that you will not need to pray for yourself or for others that they might have more knowledge and discernment in spiritual things. This should be the everyday prayer of the Christian. 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 was the fruit of 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, that they might be sincere and without offense, and that they would be filled with the fruits of righteousness; 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, and while there were a number of preachers who were preaching Christ out of envy and strife and selfish ambition? He knew that precious working of the Holy Spirit in his heart giving him the graces of love, joy, peace, and patience in that hour, because of the supply of Spirit of Christ. Grace is not simply a state of favor with God; grace is God's enablement of

strength and wisdom which will allows us to glorify Him in whatever situation that we are in, whether 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 the heart of the person who has trusted in Christ for salvation. Having believed in Christ, a person is justified in the sight of the holy God. Justification is a onetime act of God, declaring the believer righteous for the sake of Christ's work of obeying the law on his behalf, and suffering and dying in their place at the cross. When a sinner trusts in Christ, they are given the Holy Spirit. And when He is given, He pours out the love of God into their heart. That is, we love God because He first loved us. We love Christ because He laid down His life for us. And we love the Holy Spirit because He takes the things of Christ and shows them to us, and then gives us grace to love the truth and righteousness of God. That giving of the Holy Spirit to the believer is the basis of their receiving all the grace that they will need, day by day, to glorify God in their lives.