

The “Fruit Of The Spirit” Demands Good Fruit

By Mike Riley

Since farming was common employment in the first century, it became the background for a very common figure used in Scripture. For example, Jesus identified false prophets by their behavior and He used vegetation and its produce as an appropriate figure, (Matthew 7:15-20). Jesus also used fruit to describe the spiritual production of disciples (John 15:1-7). The parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-15 and the parable of the tares (Matthew 13:24-30) are also “farming” illustrations.

Paul did not elaborate on the vegetation figure, but much is implied from his expression “fruit of the Spirit” in Gal. 5:22, which is the antithesis of “works of the flesh” in Gal. 5:19. “Fruit of the Spirit” may be understood as fruit that is the product of the Holy Spirit’s revealed influence by the “hearing of faith” (Gal. 3:2; Gal. 3:5; cf. Romans 10:17).

There are several verses in the general context that may help us understand the phrase “fruit of the Spirit” in Gal. 5:22). In Gal. 5:13, Paul tells us, “...only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh.” In other words, as an occasion to do the things directed by fleshly, selfish ambition where flesh dominates over the noble aspirations of our spirit. Gal. 5:16 presents walking in the Spirit versus not fulfilling the lust of the flesh.

Gal. 5:17 indicates that the Spirit and flesh lust against each other therefore Christians are to allow the Spirit control and abstain from those things instigated by fleshly desire. Gal. 5:18, says that if they are led by the Spirit, they are not under the law. Then Gal. 5:19-21, describes where the flesh is in control as opposed to Gal. 5:22-23 where the Spirit is in control.

Finally, Gal. 5:24-25 describe a crucifixion that has taken place with regards to the desires of the flesh — Christians are to walk according to the nobler dictates and desires of the Holy Spirit.

How can we tell if the Holy Spirit is in control? It is just like looking at a tree and its produce. We must look at the kind of fruit we are bearing (cf. Matthew 7:15-20; Matthew 12:33). Is our fruit love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance? If so, we are bearing good fruit.



STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



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Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

2/26/23

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Paul Simpson **Opening prayer-** David Reppond

Communion- Wess Chapman **Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller

March 5th

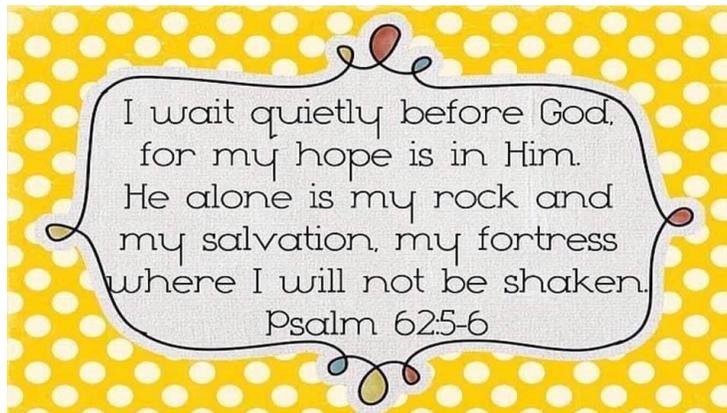
Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening Prayer-** Lyle Russell

Communion- Larry Randolph **Closing Prayer-** Luke Chapman

Announcements

—**Question & Answer Series: March 5th** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

—**Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Please Pray For:

Julie Strickland, Joanne Randolph, Carolyn Jones, Gracie Aaron, Billy Wayne Crain, Jean DeLukie, Rick VanLoon, David & Elaine Reppond, Lucille Hollis, Ronald Pettis.

Bereaved: Families of Lois Hogan, Roosevelt Rogers, Bob Teague, Lynn Walker, Lazelle Flowers.

Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Bobby Simmons, Max Aubel, Tricia Muse, Donna Head, Debra Mike, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr.



February birthdays

1 - Jay Anthony McDaniel
8 - Ed Haltom
9 - Lottie Dickson
13 - Alex Townsend
15 - Ronnie White
22 - Sybil Binford
28 - Danny Silmon



February Anniversaries- none