

E. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL PRODUCE FRUIT IN OUR LIVES – GALATIANS 5:16-26

God wants to produce fruit in our lives, abundant fruit. We see this fruit in Galatians 5:22-23. As you read these verses understand that the fruit of the Spirit is love. It is singular, not plural. Thus, the eight things that follow love in Galatians 5:22-23, are eight characteristics or manifestations of love that are seen in the life of a believer. I like the way that D. L. Moody put it. He said: "Joy is love exalting. Peace is love Reposing. Longsuffering is love untiring. Gentleness is love enduring. Goodness is love in action. Faith is love on the Battlefield. Meekness is love under Discipline. Self-control is love in training." God wants to produce fruit in our lives; good fruit. May we surrender our lives to Him and let Him not only flow in us but through us!

Remember, the work of the Holy Spirit in this unbelieving world is to convict the world of sin. This sin is that of unbelief in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is opening their eyes so that they would believe! We have seen that the Holy Spirit will convict the world of righteousness as they see the standard that God has set, which is Jesus or perfection, and realize that they cannot attain that on their own, by their own efforts. But they can receive the gift that is in Christ! Lastly, the Holy Spirit reproves the world of judgment because Satan has been judged at the cross and his power over our lives has been removed! This is the work of the Holy Spirit in an unbelieving world!

We have also seen that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, has been sent to us to not only draw us to Christ, but once we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes inside us. We, in a sense, are a temple of God. God's desire is to make us like Himself by transforming us by His Spirit, so that we might bear much fruit.

As we submit to the Holy Spirit's guiding, He will be our helper in doing what is right, and in keeping us away from that which is wrong. The Holy Spirit will be our teacher revealing the truths of God from the Word of God. He will bring to remembrance those things we need to know in a given situation. The Holy Spirit will guide us down the right path as we gain spiritual discernment that is according to the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is conforming us into the image of Christ as we submit to Him. It is out of this relationship that the fruit of the Spirit is naturally produced in our lives!

So God is working, drawing people to Christ and then sanctifying them, making them more like Jesus. It is easy to become discouraged as we see our failures, but understand that God is working. We are a work in progress and so, may we learn to surrender to Him. We need to be open to what the Holy Spirit is teaching us and then walk accordingly. We should not walk contrary to what God has told us. In fact, God's Spirit does not tell you to do things that are contrary to the Word of God. R. A. Torrey wrote,

"Being led by the Spirit of God does not mean for a moment that we will do things that the written Word of God tells us not to do. The Holy Spirit never leads men contrary to the book of which He Himself is the author. And if there is some spirit which is leading us to do something that is contrary to the explicit teachings of Jesus or the apostles, we may be perfectly sure that this spirit who is leading us is not the Holy Spirit. This point needs to be emphasized in our day, for there are not a few who give themselves over to the leading of some spirit, whom they say is the Holy Spirit, but who is leading them to do things explicitly forbidden in the Word.

We must always remember that many false spirits and false prophets are gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). There are many who are so anxious to be led by some unseen power that they are ready to surrender the conduct of their lives to any spiritual influence or unseen person. In this way, they open their lives to the conduct and malevolent influence of evil spirits to the utter wreck and ruin of their lives."

➤ R. A. Torrey, *The Person & Work Of The Holy Spirit*, pp. 113-114.

What the Bible says about . . . The Work of the Holy Spirit

In the Gospel of John and in the book of Acts we are told of the three-fold work of the Holy Spirit in the world today. So let's begin in John's Gospel where we are going to see two of these aspects in which the Holy Spirit is working; what He is doing.

We are told in John 14:16-17, "**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**"

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT "WITH" US

Jesus used two different Greek prepositions which designate the different relationships of the Holy Spirit towards us. The first one is PARA and this is the Greek word which speaks of the Holy Spirit dwelling "**with**" us. The Holy Spirit is in this world drawing out a bride for Christ, the Church, you and me. He comes alongside pointing us to Jesus.

In John 16:8-11 we see the work of the Holy Spirit in this world. In these verses we see three things the Holy Spirit is doing in the life of the unbeliever, what the Holy Spirit is doing in this world today as He comes alongside to draw us to Christ. He will convict the world of ***SIN***, of ***RIGHTEOUSNESS***, and ***JUDGMENT***.



A. The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin – John 16:8-9

The first thing that the Holy Spirit is doing in this world is convicting this world of sin. They do not believe in Jesus, the One who can forgive them of their sin!

B. The Holy Spirit will convict the world of righteousness – John 16:8, 10

Here we see that the Holy Spirit reproves the world of righteousness by pointing us to Jesus, who was accepted by God and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Unless you obtain that kind of righteousness, you will never get to heaven and you will never attain that kind of righteousness apart from Christ!

C. The Holy Spirit reproves the world of judgment – John 16:8, 11

When Jesus died on the Cross, the ruler of this world was judged and his power permanently broken. But, if you refuse Jesus you will be judged. This judgment is the inevitable combination of these two truths - convicting the world of sin and righteousness.

The sin is man's part. The righteousness is God's part. The only way to reconcile that issue of sin is to have the righteousness of Christ applied to our lives by faith, as Paul tells us in II Corinthians 5:21.

The world is still under the power of Satan, but the Holy Spirit desires to release them from those chains that are binding them, those sins that are keeping them in bondage. But He won't force you. If you continue to reject the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, He will reprove you or accuse you of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment!

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT "IN" US

Now, when a person comes to Christ, asks Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, then we see this second Greek preposition regarding the work of the Holy Spirit come into play. This second Greek word is EN. This word speaks of the Holy Spirit dwelling "in" us. This happens the moment we get saved because apart from the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we are not saved!

Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:5-11, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

Paul is telling us that the identifying mark of a believer is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit or that the Holy Spirit has come into our lives! When the Holy Spirit indwells us, the characteristics of Jesus will flow through us; like love, compassion, joy, forgiveness, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and -so-on. What is controlling your life?

Let me share with you some of the things that the Holy Spirit is doing in the life of a believer.

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR HELPER – JOHN 16:7

As we come to Christ one of the things that the Holy Spirit does in our lives to comfort us. The word, "Helper" in John 16:7 is the Greek word, PARAKLEETOS and it can also mean comforter.

Thus, as the Holy Spirit indwells believers, He guides us in the things we should and shouldn't do. He helps us. If God has placed it upon your heart not to do something, then don't do it. Don't resist the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in your life. You see, the Holy Spirit is our helper and as He helps us in our daily lives, it brings comfort to all of us. He is our PARAKLEETOS our helper, our comforter!

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR TEACHER – I CORINTHIANS 2:10-14

When you are talking about Scriptural things, when you are talking about spiritual matters, you have to understand that these things are not within our reach by human intelligence or human experience. We can't know them on our own. Then how can we know them? The Holy Spirit will teach us and bring to remembrance those things that we need to know, for He is our teacher! It is the Word of God opened up to us by the Spirit of God!

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GUIDE US – JOHN 16:13

Another way that the Holy Spirit works in the life of a believer is that the Holy Spirit will guide us. So often in life we come to a place in the road and don't know which way to turn. And it can be frustrating not to know what to do because the obvious way is not always the right way. As Christians, we don't need to worry, or wonder. At least we shouldn't. May we be open to where the Holy Spirit is guiding us, not only where to go but also what to do, because He knows what is best for our lives. It may not be the easiest way to go, but it is the best way to go. The Holy Spirit will guide us. May we obey!

D. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL CONFORM US INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST – EZEKIEL 36:27

Another work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, which we tend to want very much, but we don't enjoy too much, is the Holy Spirit conforming us into the image of Christ. As the Holy Spirit molds and shapes our lives there are times that there is some chipping away in our lives, and as that is going on, it may hurt! There may be times when some imperfection is removed and that too hurts! But this is all done to make us more like Christ, to conform us into His image. This is done as we surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit and follow the Word of God!