

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 9

The Fruit of the Spirit (Genesis 24, Part three)

INTRODUCTION: (Teacher, review the story of Genesis 24. Remind the class of the first two lessons taught from Genesis 24.) Refresh the memory of the pupils concerning Abraham representing God the Father; Isaac representing the Son (Jesus); Eliezer, the servant, representing the Holy Spirit; Rebekah representing Christians; and the far country representing the world. Remind the pupils that when Abraham sent the servant to the far country to get a bride for Isaac, it is a picture of God the Father sending the Holy Spirit to the world to get a bride for Jesus Christ. Remind them that the main job of the Holy Spirit is to save souls. Everything else He does points to getting people saved.

When one understands this, then every doctrine of the Holy Spirit falls into place and comes into true focus; hence, the fruit of the Spirit is for the purpose of getting people saved. Remember the story of the servant seeking the bride. In Genesis 24 he was kind. Notice verse 17, "And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher." Notice in verse 21 he held his peace, "And the man wondering at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not." Notice in verse 22 he was generous. "And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold." In other words, he exemplified the fruit of the Spirit, but the reason was that he might persuade Rebekah to become the bride of Isaac. Hence, the fruit of the Spirit is a part of getting people saved. Read Galatians 5:22, 23.

- I. NOTICE, IT IS THE F-R-U-I-T OF THE SPIRIT. It is not the *F-R-U-I-T-S* of the Spirit. There are nine things listed here. These nine things are nine parts of one fruit. They are not nine different fruits. These come as a package like an apple has a peeling, meat, seed, etc.; like an orange has the same. These are all parts of the same fruit; they come in one package, and they are used in soul winning.
- II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS A METHODS COURSE IN HOW TO GO SOUL WINNING. In other words, we are to go soul winning with love, with joy, with peace, with longsuffering, with gentleness, with goodness, with faith, with meekness and with temperance.
- III. NONE OF THESE PARTS OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT ARE "ENDS" IN THEMSELVES. Each is a "means" to an "end." The end is to get the bride; hence, no one can have true love or true joy, true peace, true longsuffering, etc., unless he is a soul winner. There can be somewhat of a synthetic kind of a love as the world calls love, but not real Bible love.
- IV. LET US NOTICE THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE FRUIT.
  1. Love. The word "love" here in the Greek is the word "agape" which is a "deep abiding love." There are several words for love in the Greek. One is "phileo" which means "fondness." This is like a person loves the food, loves good weather, etc. Another is "eros" which is physical love. The third is "agape" which means deep, abiding love. God wants us to have a deep, abiding love for the unsaved as we go win them to Jesus Christ.
  2. Joy. Joy does not walk alone here. There is something we are to do with joy. This means that we are to go soul winning with joy.
  3. Peace. The word "peace" comes from the word which means "harmony." It implies all the parts of a musical number being sung properly and harmoniously. This is the way we are to go soul winning. We are to provide harmony. We are not to be abrupt, unkind, etc., but rather, we are to be harmonious.
  4. Longsuffering. This word comes from a word which means "no retaliation when provoked." The Lord knew that soul winners would be provoked. He knew that folks would be unkind to us; some would slam the door in our faces, etc. So our Lord reminds us not to retaliate in any way when provoked. Of course, this, like all the different parts of the fruit of the Spirit, is good at any time; but the different parts are basically given to us to teach us how to go soul winning. Soul winning is the purpose of the Holy Spirit just as the purpose of the servant was to get the bride.
  5. Gentleness. The word "gentleness" comes from two words which mean "unto fitting." It means that we are to be appropriate when we go soul winning. We are not to act in a way that would make

people think that we are some kind of freaks of nature. We are to be appropriate in any given situation. In other words, we should be able to talk to all types of people without embarrassing them.

6. Goodness. The word “goodness” here implies being good both morally and in our looks. It does not mean that we have to be pretty to be soul winners. It means that we should look as nice as possible when we go soul winning. God wants us to act properly and look proper as we go.
7. Faith. The word “faith” means “casting upon” or “complete trust.” We are to realize that though we have love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness and goodness, yet we are to trust the dear Lord to give us the victory as we go. All of our human reasoning, all of our human abilities, all of our looks, all of our goodness, all of our love, all of our joy, all of our peace, etc., cannot save a soul. We are to cast ourselves upon the Holy Spirit and trust the Lord to help us and give us the victory.
8. Meekness. The word “meekness” here means “even texture.” It is like homogenized milk or a fine flour; something of an even texture. This means that we are not to look down at anybody; we are not to look up at anybody. We are to look everybody straight in the eye. The one who goes soul winning and thinks himself better than the poor fellow on the street who stumbles into the rescue mission, will not be a good soul winner. The one who is afraid to go to the nicer homes will not be a good soul winner. The one who realizes that no one is better than he is and no one is worse than he is, but looks at all people evenly, can be the best soul winner.
9. Temperance. Here is an interesting word. It is the word “kratos” from which we get our word “karate.” The word means “strength.” Actually, here it means “strength of spirit” or “self-control.” We are to restrain ourselves when we go soul winning. In other words, we must have enough self-control to make ourselves go, to make ourselves behave properly, etc.

CONCLUSION: All of the above are ways that the Christian should behave all the time, but they are given primarily to teach us how to go soul winning. This is the way that the servant behaved. Read Genesis 24 again, and see how many times you can find that the servant exemplified each of these parts of the fruit of the Spirit.