

## 1 Title Slide

## 2 Review

- Previously, we have spoken on the topic of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and how important this “promise of the Father,” is for us, as it gives us the power not only for effective ministry, but power to live out a life that pleases God.
- However, to receive this power, we have to ask, seek, and knock at the door in prayer and be 100% committed to following God and obeying his word.
- This is why we must be very careful how we live because the “Spirit” that God has to give us is a “holy” spirit and is easily grieved and frustrated when we make unwise choices.
- This is Satan’s and his demon’s ultimate strategy—to use God’s holiness against us by tempting us to make unwise choices where we frustrate God’s grace working inside us.

## 3 Corinth

- The church at Corinth was a very interesting church.
  - It fell not behind in any of the spiritual gifts. (1 Cor 1:7)
  - However, at the same time, Paul refers to this church as worldly — mere infants in Christ. (1 Cor 3:1 NIV)
  - He then describes them in 1 Cor. 6:7, as completely defeated already.
  - When you think the church could go no lower, Paul tells them, your meetings do more harm than good. (1 Cor. 11:17 NIV)

## 4 Why?

- So then, why is the Corinthian church—a church that abounds in spiritual gifts, having so many spiritual problems?
- How is it possible to be so spiritual at one level and then have your founding apostle and pastor tell you that your Celebration Services are doing so much harm that God has stopped answering your prayers? (1 Cor 11:27–32)
- Here is the reason . . . so let us pay attention!
- Gifts are given, Fruit grows!

## 5 Gifts

- The Corinthian church is probably not the only church that has pursued spiritual gifts to the neglect of spiritual fruit.
- Since the restoration of spiritual gifts at the beginning of the last Century, interest in spiritual gifts has gone mainline.
- Almost every Christian denomination has been touched by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.
- In fact, there are more Charismatic Roman Catholics than all Protestants put together.
- So then, it should be no surprise if the importance of spiritual fruit has been neglected and not emphasized as it should.

## 6 Fruit

- The first thing to know and understand about fruit is that they are the byproduct of a healthy tree, plant, or vine.
- So if you see “good fruit” that is full, rich, and delicious, you know that the tree it came from was healthy.
- So “spiritual fruit” is the byproduct of someone who is spiritually healthy.
- It represents their faith, character, knowledge of God’s will, and willingness to be like Jesus.
- In fact, without spiritual fruit in our lives, the spiritual gifts can be annoying, irritating, and a distraction in what God is wanting to do.

## 7 The Fruit of the Spirit

- When the Apostle Paul writes to the Galatians to encourage them to walk according to the Spirit.
- He outlines 9 fruits that the Spirit of God will produce in us, if we live out our faith following God’s word. (Gal. 5:22–23) They are . . .
  - love
  - joy
  - peace
  - patience
  - kindness
  - goodness
  - faithfulness
  - gentleness
  - self-control

## 8 The Fruit of the Spirit

- However, at the same time, Paul outlines several actions that not only don’t produce any fruit, but are so toxic to our faith that they can destroy it.
- These acts of the flesh, which Paul says are obvious . . .
  - sexual immorality,
  - impurity and debauchery,
  - idolatry and witchcraft,
  - discord, jealousy, fits of rage,
  - selfish ambition, dissensions,
  - factions, and envy,
  - drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

- I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:21 NIV)

## 9 The Corinthians

- So then what was the problem at Corinth?
- Were they walking according to the flesh? or were they walking according to the Spirit?
- So if they were walking according to the flesh, is having spiritual gifts a sign of maturity?
- If spiritual gifts is not a sign of maturity, then what is?

## 10 Gifts

- In 1 Cor. 12, the Apostle Paul tells us that there are many different kinds of gifts, services, workings of the Holy Spirit.
  - However, each manifestation is for the common good of the church, and
  - Each gift is a result of the Holy Spirit's determination not ourselves.
  - Nevertheless, we can seek gifts, if we follow the way of love and seek those gifts that best build-up the church.

## 11 Gifts of the Spirit

## 12 Corinth

- So if the Apostle Paul was the founder of this church, why did it fall into so much error?
- Well the problem was probably due to some itinerant preachers that the Apostle Paul refers to as "Super-apostles." (See 2 Cor. 10ff.)
- So who were these "Super-apostles?"
  - Flatterers motivated by greed and willing to bully others to get what they want.
  - Men who exaggerated and boasted about their own accomplishments and spiritual experiences (i.e., visions).
  - Slanderers and fault-finders of the Apostle Paul who sought to discredit Paul from his church.
  - And worst of all, to be popular, reduce moral and holy living to the standards of this world.
  - In other words, these super-apostles, placed more importance on spiritual experiences than on obtaining the fruit of the Spirit and so—almost shipwrecked the whole church.

## 13 Fruit

- Jesus is very clear about this, unless we abide in Him, we can't produce fruit. As he says, . . .
- Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (John 15:4 NIV)
- But how do we remain in him?

- As it says, in John 15:7, we remain in him if we abide in his word.
- In other words, if we live out Jesus' words in our daily life, he by the Spirit of God will abide in us and the fruit of the Spirit will surely grow.

#### 14 Fruit

- The devil doesn't want us to have "Juicy Fruit."
- He want us to stay spiritually immature so that God's grace is frustrated in our lives where we bring a reproach against the faith and God.
- So he confuses us with false apostles, false teachers, and false teachings, to what it really means to abide in Christ.
- But for those who really want to grow in God's grace and see God's fullness, study the scriptures, listen to godly teaching, and obey it.
- So then let us walk in the truth, so that nothing will hinder God's Holy Spirit working in us and in our church.

#### 15 Juicy Fruit

- In the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul tells us . . .
  - If we speak in tongues, but have not love, we are annoying and obnoxious.
  - If we have the gift of prophesy and the faith that can move mountains, but have not love, we are in reality a nobody.
  - If we become a martyr or give all our money away to the poor, but have not love, we gain nothing.
- So having love is the ultimate possession and is developed in us as we abide in Christ—putting his commandments into practice.
- This takes faith and the willingness to put others ahead of our temporal wants. Those who live like this produce a harvest of juicy fruit, see answered prayer, and inherit the kingdom.

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