

## **More...The Person, the Work, and the Power of the Holy Spirit**

### *“The Fruit of the Spirit Working in Us”*

Galatians 5:22-23 NASB

In reading and studying some of the great Christian writers like Oswald Chambers, R.A. Torrey, and others, Max Lucato realized that all of those who might be called “global impacters” or “generals in the faith” in the kingdom of God had something in common. They had a powerful encounter with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Max then said, *“I have not had that, and I want that.”* - and so in his sixties, he began to search, with a desire to go deeper in the things of the Holy Spirit.

Bridge Church has a discipleship track called Grow Up - Grow Out - Grow Deep, the idea of which is that we not only want to *grow up* - in maturity, and *grow out* - where we’re loving people well, but we also want to *grow deeper* - in our relationship with Abba Father, Jesus the Son, and the Person of the Holy Spirit. In line with that, Max tells of his own encounter with the Person of the Holy Spirit, and of himself having received a *“prayer language”* that he prays in.

He then began to go bold, go strong, and go confident, because he had embraced the work of the Holy Spirit in his life - and he realized that it was after his receiving the Holy Spirit, who was now empowering everything he did. He said, *“Everything I do now, which I’m doing the same things I always did, but now there’s something in addition to - on that - a favor and a grace on things that used to be harder work - now they’re not harder - they’re going further - having more reach - simply because I’ve finally invited the Holy Spirit to come and lead my life - and I’ve submitted to that.”*

The Bible is very clear that God wants to *empower* what we do. He wants to equip us so that what we do is more *effective* - like cutting a tree down with a *sharp* axe, as opposed to cutting it down with a *dull* axe. Which would *you* rather have to fell a tree? Max was saying, *“My axe is sharper than it’s ever been!”* God had put his *“Super”* on Max’s *“Natural”*, and now he’s operating at a supernatural level - unlike anything he’s ever experienced before.

This is why it's important that we get to know the "Third Person of the Trinity", and to not marginalize and relegate Him (*not It*) to some "C team" or third string well-if-I-happen-to-need-him-I-may-call-on-him-but-I-don't-really-understand-him-because-he's-like-a-vapor-or-a-mist-or-he's-like-the-Force-from-Star-Wars. *No* - he's *not* - he's a Person - a Person that you can have a relationship with, and a Person who both wants to equip and empower you to do what you couldn't do before - swinging with a sharp axe instead of a dull axe.

When we started this journey together back in June, Pastor Jimmy said that the first words out of our mouths upon waking up every morning should be, "*Good morning, Holy Spirit.*" Now it has re-oriented our thinking even in our prayer lives throughout the day, where we are fellowshiping with, and talking to, the Person of the Holy Spirit as though he's sitting right beside us... *because he is.*

Ephesians 5:18 ESV

*"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled [Greek: continually be filled, or ever be filled] with the Spirit..."*

Like the buckets we've been talking about all summer - to be filled to the *full* with the Spirit - continually filled with the Person, the Presence, and the work of the Holy Spirit, so that, as we go out throughout our week, we're literally spilling him out - making beautiful messes everywhere we go - because we're leaking out what we are full of and overflowing with, and that is the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Why do we need our buckets filled? What's the whole point? Why do we even need to study and learn about the Person (not "the Force") of the Holy Spirit? He wants to have a *relationship* with us. He is actually the very *Presence* of Christ *with us* - Emmanuel - *God with us*. This is the essence of *that*, in the Person of the Holy Spirit who lives *with us* - lives *in us* - is *upon us* - and ministers *through us...the very Life of Jesus Christ* - so that everywhere you go, you're constantly leaking - he's *with you* - in every conversation and activity.

When the Holy Spirit fills our buckets, as we go out and meet people each day, we pray, "*Lord, may they see You. May they experience You. Lord, allow us to make a beautiful mess everywhere we go, by leaking You out - sloshing You out everywhere we go.*" *Why?* - because the Holy Spirit who fills us wants to minister his Life *through us*. He's *in us* - he's *upon us* - and he works *through us*. That's the whole point of this, because he is a *Person*, not an "It", or a "Force", and you find that "*people are strangely drawn to you*" - only because of what is in your buckets.

We leak out what we are full of - *whatever* that is - good or bad. *Garbage in garbage out.* What we take in is what's going to come out, and it's no different now - we leak out what we're full of, and when we're full of *Him*, and we invite Him to fill us continually, then we leak *Him* out everywhere we go.

We've been talking about the nine manifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit working in us, through us, and upon us at any moment that he desires to do so, when we're yielded *to him* to be used *by him*. We also have the Fruit of the Spirit working in us. In some churches, there has been an emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but very *little* emphasis on the Fruit of the Spirit. It may be because the Gifts of the Spirit seem more dynamic and powerful in nature why we're attracted to that.

When we look at the list of the Fruits of the Spirit, there's a tendency to downplay them because they're somehow lesser in effect than the Gifts of the Spirit, but that is not true. They all work hand-in-glove and they compliment one another - nine *co-relating* gifts - nine correlating fruits of the Spirit.

The Apostle Paul (*apostle meaning missionary*) had to bring correction to the Church because Judaizers and various other groups were coming in and trying to mix the Old Covenant Law with New Testament Grace - and it was contaminating what Jesus was trying to do in those churches through the Apostle Paul.

Galatians 5:1 NASB

*"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."*

Over six hundred Old Covenant laws - "must-dos" - if you violated any of them, you were now guilty and under condemnation (*to give a sentence, sentenced, found guilty*), for which you had to go to the Temple and sacrifice an animal - then you were free and clear until you messed up the next time. Some churches are teaching that still today, which is so dangerous and contrary to the Life and freedom we find in Jesus, who died *once* for all sin.

Jesus paid the ultimate price so that at the end of each day, you don't have to go back over every single mistake you made and confess it, get forgiveness, and hopefully stay out of hell. How can we live like that? - that what Jesus did on the cross was not enough? - where we re-crucify him every time we sin - to make another sacrifice for our sins. But Jesus was the final sacrifice. There is no need to kill again and shed blood for our sin. If that's what it means to follow Jesus then no one can do this with any sense or semblance of joy.

That was what the Old Testament Law did to people - it put a yoke around their necks - weighted them down to trudge it out the best they could - working as *hard* as they could - and all it got them was *tired* - and defeated. Christians who look like them, dragging a ball and chain, show no joy of the Good News that they're now free indeed. The Bible says, "*You will know [ginōskō: to know by experience] the Truth [Jesus is the Truth], and the Truth will make you free.*" (John 8:32) Jesus said, "*I am the way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.*" (John 14:6)

Do you know Jesus - have you received his sacrifice for yourself? - one time - once for all - then you are *good to go!* Now you get to live your life out of Love, Joy, and Freedom - not out of fear, condemnation, guilt and shame. No one can ever say to you, "*Shame on you! You're guilty. We know what you did last night. We know what you thought about - what you looked at - what you said.*" That's the "*accuser of the brethren*" - what Scripture calls the *enemy*. In Daniel, chapter seven, he's the "little horn" that comes before the Almighty God and His court, to constantly speak and spew blasphemies towards you and about you, like a little accuser - a little prosecutor.

But you are free. The Bible says you are "*free indeed*" (John 8:36). If you are carrying your faith around like a yoke - like a tractor tire around your neck, and you're dragging it around, you need to *cast that off* and give it to Jesus, because he already took it - he already *bore* that. You took on something you don't have to carry. That's *Good News!*

Galatians 5:16-26 NASB

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."* [tension - war for your soul - your victory - your joy.] [17] *"For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want."* The thief comes not but for to steal, kill, and destroy - and he's warring against you in a myriad of ways - *depression, anxiety, fear, illness, stress, distress*, - *weight on your life that God never intended you to carry* - because Jesus himself bore that weight on the cross - *Jesus shed his blood so that you don't have to carry it.*

[18] *"But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law."* Freedom comes as we are led by the Spirit, and we're following *Him* - not "*It*" - not an object but a *Person* who is leading us. John, chapter fourteen calls him the Spirit of Truth - we're following him - and as we do this, we're no longer under the Law - you can throw off the shackles!

*[19] “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, [20] idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, [21] envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Flesh versus Spirit - if we fill ourselves with these things, then these are what we will leak out, but when we fill ourselves with the things of the Spirit, we make beautiful messes everywhere we go - otherwise, we *still* make *messes*, but they're *not beautiful*. God is calling us to leak out the Life of the Spirit everywhere we go - as we're getting our buckets full of *him*.

*[22] “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] Now those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [25] If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit as well. [26] Let's not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.”*

If you have the flesh, which is set in opposition to the Spirit, it's like two wolves in you fighting, with the winner being whichever one you feed. *“What you feed will lead.”* - the flesh or the Spirit. We are going to leak out what we're full of - either way. The principle is: garbage in, garbage out - goodness in, goodness out ...*either way, we're going to leak!*

## Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for Truth that makes us free. Thank You Jesus that You are the Truth that makes us free! You're our Source, and we are grateful. Our heart is to grow up - grow out - grow deeper. So, Lord, as we continue to learn, may we say "Yes" to Jesus and Your Love for us - for getting the yoke off our necks - for saving us.*

*Right now, Lord, will You fill me with Your Spirit - fill me with Your Presence - fill me with the Fruit of Who You are - Love, Joy, Peace? ...and continually fill me every day - as I wake up each morning and say "Good morning, Holy Spirit!" Would You fill me with Who You are? - so that as I go out, I'm making beautiful messes everywhere I go, and people get to experience and taste Who You are through me?"*

*We began anew this journey of growing - of putting one foot in front of another - walking with You. Lord, we re-dedicate and re-commit our hearts to You. We stop and we re-up with You. Father, give us the Grace to re-connect - to come back to relationship with You. Thank You for reminding us that we are Your children - set free for Freedom - and we, having been set free, are free indeed!*