

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

### *“Filling Your Buckets with the Fruit of the Spirit”*

Galatians 5:22-23 NASB

Overheard from Pastor Jimmy: “*Good morning, Holy Spirit. Where’s the coffee?*” If you think this is a sprint, you’re going to be very discouraged and frustrated. We need to realize that even to *chase* God, the fastest you’ll ever go is *three miles an hour*. Jesus lived his life at three miles an hour. There’s a wonderful book called Three Mile an Hour God by Koyama Kosuke, who posits that the speed we walk is the same speed that God walks as well - “the speed of *love*.” The human soul is designed to live at three miles an hour, not a *hundred* miles an hour - not *seventy* miles an hour like we sometimes drive ourselves to do - but this is meant to be a *journey*.

Jesus is called the Way, the Truth, and the Life, which would suggest there *is* a Way - a Journey - a Path that we follow, but, so often, we get caught up in *running*. Tommy Tenney wrote a book called The God Chasers that had a sense of us being “*after God*”, but we should realize we can’t run - we have to *walk*. We must move, walk, and live life at what Alan Fadling called (in his book An Unhurried Life: Following Jesus' Rhythms of Work and Rest) the “*pace of Grace*”.

So continue on the journey, and be very gracious with yourself. Be *kind* to your own soul. If we see somebody a mile ahead of us on a long bridge, there’s something in us that wants to run to catch up - but we need to *walk and not run* in this journey of discovery of the Person, Presence, and Power of the Holy Spirit. We don’t have to *be* where someone *else* is. God has given each one of us a race “to walk” - a journey - a path - but *our* path is not someone *else’s*. We each have our own lane. We should *stay* in our lane and walk on our journey with Him... and be *kind* to ourselves in this journey.

“*The Holy Spirit is not weird - People are - and the people that are weird with the Holy Spirit were weird before the Holy Spirit came.*” Knowing that removes the stigma that the enemy of our soul - Satan - the devil - does not want us to get to know all three Persons of the Trinity and the One who is called the Helper - Counselor - Comforter - Advocate - Intercessor - Friend.

Of course he doesn't want us to have a Helper (Greek - *Parakletós* - *One called alongside*), which is one of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit - to come alongside us and help. So why wouldn't we want to get to know the Person and the work of the Holy Spirit? He's the One who comes alongside to *help* (not to make you *weird!*)

The human soul is porous. We're not meant to be *containers* - we're meant to be "*leaky*" - we leak out whatever we're full of. Our tendency is to think we're here to contain, but we're actually here to be a *conduit* - to be *leaky* - like leaky buckets - so we can leak out this Life - especially Love, Joy, Peace... we all need those *Fruits* of the Spirit, just as much as we need the *Gifts* of the Holy Spirit.

We now get the privilege of taking that *Fruit*, putting it in our buckets - our *leaky* buckets - and leak it out to those around us - to the *world* around us. And the more we leak out, the more God fills us back up again, and the more beautiful messes we make as we take our buckets to the world. There will *always* be more - we believe there's *more* to take out into our jobs - to where we live - to the places we play and hobby.

More of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - that's what we're leaking out as we go, because they are the very nature and character of Jesus himself. That only comes from the Holy Spirit - *not* by gritting our teeth to try harder to love people, or to have more Joy - or more Peace. In trying harder, all we'll get is *tired* - and some of us are tired - because we've been trying so hard to do it *right*. But, in and of ourselves we *can't* do it right.

The Old Testament Law was *designed* to teach us that we can't do it - that we need a Helper - a Savior - a Lord. The whole point of those 613 laws of the Old Covenant was to show us, and point out the fact that we can't do it. The Good News (the Gospel) is that *Jesus can* do it - and did do it - and will do it *in us* and *through us*. Scripture says that he is "*Christ in [through] us, the Hope of Glory*" (Colossians 1:27). The Fruit of the Spirit is the *Fruit* of the very Person of Christ, and he gives us this Fruit to fill up our buckets.

### **Three questions we need to ask**

[1]. *Who and what do I want to become?* We need to pause and say, "*Lord, could You give me some direction?*"

[2]. *What do I want my life to feel like?* We might forget, but we're still in trauma - we're in recovery from a global traumatic event called Covid 19. We've tried to get back to normal and act like everything's normal - but the world is not the same. If we're moving at three miles an hour, we can adapt - shift - approach things a little differently.

[3] *What do I want people to experience when they are with me?* We need to know that there's a *point* to having our buckets filled - *not* to have them brimming with the Holy Spirit just so we can have a great church service - fun and games but not real life for tomorrow - when your bills are through the roof, and your life goes south when the world changes underneath us. We need to have something to *present*. If we're not full, we can't give other people help - or know what we *ourselves* are doing, or where *we* are going anymore.

There's been a lot of change in our lives since 9-11, and now with the pandemic - and we're in the place of recovery, and we need *help* - we need the *Helper*. The Good News is "*Help is here*", as Max Lucado says. Help's not *coming* - not *on the way* - help is *already here* - and who among us would not want *help*? - Someone to come alongside and help us. We need *help*!

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

*"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled [continually] with the Holy Spirit..."*

As our buckets leak (because we're porous and leaky, and we have cracks or big chunks missing) we need *much* inflow - we need to be *continually* filled with the Holy Spirit - *ongoing* - *never stopping*.

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."*

If we live our lives under all the "*do's and don'ts*" of Scripture, they will be a heavy yoke that weighs us down, and we will become miserable souls - Christianity will begin to feel like a burden or a weight. That's not talking about the cross that Jesus says we're to carry, which is one *he bore for us*, and of which he said, "*My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*" (Matthew 11:30 NKJV). But the Old Covenant "yoke" was heavy and burdensome, and it taught people that it couldn't free us.

That's why they had to kill and sacrifice doves, lambs, and oxen to atone (cover) their sins, and Jesus came and said, "*I'm the Final Sacrifice!*" Christ set us free for freedom - *not* for bondage. There are still *do's and don'ts* in the Christian life, even in the New Covenant, but we now operate in a base of *Grace* - a place where we *get* to do these things - and we *don't* do things because they *aren't good* for us, not because God wants to slap our hand when we reach out for something we shouldn't have.

God is there to clean us up when we come back humbly to him with genuine sorrow - and he says, *"I forgave you a long time ago. Come to Me."* That is Grace.

Galatians 5:16-25 NKJV

*"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

There is a principle called *replacement* - whenever you're trying to eradicate a negative behavior or thinking pattern, you need to replace that with something else. When you're walking by the Spirit, and your buckets are full, there's *no room* for anything else. Where the Old Covenant was about changing *behavior*, Jesus came to change our hearts - then there's *no room* or space for bad behavior.

Our flesh will always desire something - it will always be there to pull us. And every step we take *away* from the Cross of Jesus Christ, there will be fifteen people to *congratulate* us. Many of us have been damaged by churches that tried to put heavy yokes on us of do's and don'ts. But, every church has something good to offer, and if the Body of Christ was working properly, each would operate from their giftings to the benefit of all.

[22] *"But the fruit of the Spirit"* fills our buckets. The Law was a weight and a burden, and brought condemnation. That's why there's a new and better covenant for us - that under Christ we *get* to do this stuff - we *don't* "got to" - *"Thank You, Holy Spirit. We get to live this Life!"* Remember, we can't produce it on our own - this Fruit is perfect - it goes beyond circumstances - and passes all understanding - and is only available if we are *"in Christ"*. Everything else is just a distorted imitation.

## Three sections of the Fruit of the Spirit

- [1] Attitudes towards God and others: *Love, Joy, Peace*
- [2] Social relationships: *Patience, Kindness, Goodness*
- [3] The Believers' conduct: *Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control*

## Filling your buckets with Fruit

Love - the first Fruit of the Spirit. We tend to care the least about the teaching of Love, because we think we already know all about it, when in fact, what we *do* know about is lust (to desire, long for, or chase after). All marketing is designed is designed to create lust.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NASB

*"Hear, Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."* - Called "the Shema" - "the primary prayer" - it was prayed twice a day by Jews.

Matthew 22:36-40 NASB

*"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets."* - Reflected the first commandment - the basis is we love ourselves more than anybody else.

John 3:16-17 NASB

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."* - "loved..." (Greek: *agape* - a perfect, complete, and whole love). The only Person who can love like that is God. We are not capable of loving like this - but the Good News is that *the Holy Spirit in you and through you is*.

We get our buckets filled with the Holy Spirit - his Presence - his Power - his Love. *Then* we're able to carry that - to bear it (Jesus produces it). When we bear his Love - we're filled with him - then we go out and we too *love well* - and love rightly - when we receive the Love of God for our life. Jesus, who lived the Life we should have lived, and died the death we should have died - *he did it in our place*.

Jesus didn't come to *judge* - he came to save. His Agape Love - complete Love - only comes to us and through us as we bear it - as he fills our buckets - but we must *receive* it for *ourselves*. God loves us no less on our worst day - in our darkest moment - than he does on our best day - in our best moment. *That's* the Love of God - it's whole - it's real - it's *complete* ...and it's ours!

## **Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, we need Grace. We need Wisdom and we need Love more than anything. So, Lord, would You today open our eyes that we might get a revelation - an understanding that is supernatural in scope - that we'll realize how loved we are - that the only reason we can bear the fruit of the Spirit - Love - is because we are loved by You.*

*So, Lord Jesus, release that understanding to us that we would receive it and say Yes to Hope - Yes to Grace - Yes to Jesus! Lord, we love You and honor You. In Jesus' name. Amen*