

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22

‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have (past tense) crucified the flesh with the affections and lust. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us NOT be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another’ (Gala. 5:22-26).

Dear beloved of God, in my meditation of the afore referenced scripture, I am persuaded that when the apostle used the word “FRUIT” it is plural and all encompassing in regard to the items which makeup the evidenced FRUIT of the SPIRIT of God within the regenerated born-again heir of grace. I am convinced by scripture, and experientially, that the FRUIT of the SPIRIT shall be manifest in every child of God of whom possess the Spirit of Christ.

Knowing that NOT ALL have the fullness of this FRUIT, yet we are blessed with the measure of the attributes of these characteristics as we continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ and are blessed with grace to be given an abundance of these attributes as God so desires by his sovereign purpose. Yet, ALL shall be partakers of this FRUIT as evidence of the New Birth and operation of the Spirit within the new creature in Christ.

When I meet a professing brother who is a devout student of the scriptures and doctrine, and as well-read as one may be in the writings of the forefathers, who are respected as gifted writers in the depth of the Holy Writ, yet appear to be exempt of the FRUIT of the Spirit in their expression of LOVE, PATIENCE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, and desire to strive for PEACE among brethren, I am caused to question whether the (so-called) brother is a mere religious intellectual on the historical principles of God’s Almighty character and free sovereign grace. “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof,” “Forever learning, but never able to come to

the knowledge of the truth.” I have met, over time, professing Christians who have memorized vast numbers of scriptural texts, yet experientially have no evidence of a new birth nor saving faith manifested as the means of their hope.

It is a sad commentary and legacy to those which labor at being “experts” at holding on to the Old Paths and the historical teachings of bygone brethren, yet hold those of which do not agree with their intellectual adherence to what they have been persuaded as being the truth as non-brethren and “outside the Lords camp”..... Unbeknown by them that our God in his sovereign purpose shall teach his people those things of which he desires them to know in due time (if at all). To be so narrow minded that one or some have a corner on the truth and those which do not agree are inferior and or willful rejecters of truth, give me the opinion they do not genuinely have a grasp of the absolute sovereignty and predestined works of the Almighty? For what can a man know in regards to the truth apart from what God has been pleased to reveal to them?? Man CANNOT cause truth to be believed nor received by another believer apart from divine illumination.

I have mentioned in numerous writings, in time past, NONE are at the same MATURITY in the things of the truth of the scriptures. For we are ALL at different stages of Christian growth as we are blessed to GROW in the grace and knowledge of Christ. I personally believe we (I) often forget that what we have been revealed in the truth of the scriptures that others have as well been brought to the SAME MEASURE of understanding. This is not a proper and true assumption as we fellowship with others in the common faith of Christ.

If a brother be blessed with divine wisdom of the scriptures that can be supported by the totality of the word of God apart from assumptions and speculation, may God be pleased to use such revelation to teach others as God would be pleased to impress upon the minds of others. When one is gifted with divine wisdom to share some scriptural gleanings that can stand the ultimate test of the entirety of the scriptures and exalts the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, may the one which shares such revelation be GENTLE, LONGSUFFERING, LOVING, PEACEABLE and PATIENT towards other brethren trusting Christ by his Spirit (which shall LEAD you in all TRUTH) to bring the sweet revelation of truth to our heart and minds understanding.

To see argumentive, stubborn, intolerance, reflected in correspondence among brethren manifest a lack of the FRUIT of the SPIRIT within those with a domineering attitude. No matter how much one may appear to know of the doctrine of the Holy scriptures and yet lack the FRUIT of the SPIRIT it causes one to question by what source is this teaching evolving? By the writings of bygone brethren or from divine illumination personally?

As many keen minds God has blessed in days past to write commentaries and vast volumes of articles regarding the Spiritual Kingdom of God, how much of that which has been written is “divine given revelation” or mere mans intellectual speculation?

You will find that most men have an OPINION, yet the opinion must be a “thus saith the Lord.”

May the God of ALL grace direct us to weigh “all things” against the entirety of scripture and be persuaded that ALL things taught shall exalt and glorify the person of God’s darling Son, Jesus Christ the Lord of glory. For if our doctrine be that which gives Christ All the glory, we can be assured it must be RIGHT.

May the FRUIT of the SPIRIT be manifest (as promised to be) in all that profess a blessed hope in the redemptive work of salvation and life eternal through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom ALL the fullness of the Godhead dwells.

Respectfully submitted by Christ’s merits alone,

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