



The Holy Spirit and Spirituality 1Q 2017 Lesson 7

The Holy Spirit and the Fruits of the Spirit

SABBATH

When you think of fruit what comes to mind?

- A product of a plant
- Something that often is nutritious
 - What about spiritual fruits should they nurture?
- A healthy plant brings forth healthy fruit a diseased plant brings forth diseased fruit
 - Is this true regarding fruits of character?
- Fruit is a product of intimacy—offspring are sometimes referred to fruit
 - Are the fruits of the spirit a result of intimacy with God?
- Something that is fertile—capable of reproducing itself
 - What about spiritual fruits—should they be fertile—contribute to the growth of more?
- Do fruits occur on immature or mature plants?
 - What about spiritual fruits, do we experience spiritual fruits in immature or mature people?
- In fact are the fruits the evidence of growing up, maturing?

What enhances maturation and what impairs it?

At Augusta National they hold the Masters each year, and they are renowned for their beautiful Azaleas. But some years, in order to delay the blooming of the plants for the event, they will ice them—the cold prevents maturing—does this have any correspondence in the spiritual world?

What about Laodicea?

Is it an accident that the Holy Spirit is presented as fire? Do we need a certain warmth of heart in order to grow spiritually? If we are cold does that prevent spiritual fruit?

What does it mean to be spiritual cold or lukewarm?

The lesson states, “The fruit of the Spirit is not something we achieve by purely human effort.”

In other words, we cannot do this on our own—would this be similar to saying, “pregnancy is not something a woman can achieve purely by her own effort”? A pregnancy requires something the woman does not possess on her own—what about fruits of the Spirit—do they require something we don’t possess in ourselves?



But, pregnancy requires the woman contribute something of her own—do the fruits of the Spirit require we contribute something of our own? What?

SUNDAY

The lesson asks us to read John 15:1-11 but lets read through verse 15, this is from *The Remedy*:

As they were walking, Jesus saw a grapevine, and pointing to it, said: "I am the vine from which all truth and life originates, and my Father is the gardener who tends the vine. ²You are the branches which have life and grow—as long as you are connected to me. Any branch that does not grow and bring forth the fruit of a transformed character reveals that it is not genuinely connected to me, and therefore my Father will remove it. Any branch bringing forth fruit of a transformed character my Father prunes and disciplines in order to bring forth even more fruit. ³Your hearts have already been cleansed from the lies of Satan as a result of the truth I have revealed to you. ⁴Remain connected and in unity with me, and I will remain connected and in unity with you. No branch can live, grow, and bear fruit on its own; it must remain connected to the vine. Likewise, you do not have life and cannot grow and bear fruit unless you remain connected to me.

⁵"I am the vine from which all truth and life originates, and you, who receive truth and life from me, are the branches. If a person remains connected to me and in unity with me, I will never sever the connection, and they will develop a fruitful, Godlike character; but separated from me—they can do nothing good. ⁶If anyone severs their connection to me and refuses to be reunited with me, they are like a branch that is cut off from the vine and thrown away and then withers and dies. Such dead branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain connected and in unity with me, and my character is reproduced in you, ask whatever you wish—in harmony with my methods and principles—and it will be given you. ⁸This healing of damaged hearts and minds, which results in the development of godly character in my followers, brings honor and glory to my Father, as it reveals that his methods are the only methods of life, health, and happiness.

⁹"My love for you is just as free, complete and abundant as the Father's love for me. And just as the Father's love lives in me and flows through me to the world, so you must continue to let my love live in you and flow through you to others. ¹⁰If you value my methods and practice my principles of selfless love, my love will live in you—just as I have valued my Father's methods and practiced his principles of selfless love, and his love lives in and flows through me. ¹¹I have told you this so that you may be completely restored to the Father's original ideal for humankind—to unity with him—and you may then experience the joy I have known in my unity with the Father; and then your joy will be complete also. ¹²My prescription to heal your minds and hearts is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³There is no greater love than this—that a person lay down their life to save their friends. This is the principle of life—the central principle of the kingdom of God. This love is the Remedy for the infection that is destroying



mankind, and the infection is this: Satan's wicked disease of survival-of-the-fittest, which is preferring self so much that a person will kill their friends in order to save themselves. ¹⁴You are my friends if you take my prescription and love one another. ¹⁵I do not want you to be my servants, because servants only do what they are told but do not understand what the master is doing, nor do they understand the master himself. Their hearts are not in harmony with the master, and what they do they do not do freely. I want you to be my friends—to understand what I am doing—and to freely choose to be in unity with me. That is why I have told you about everything the Father and I are working to accomplish, so your hearts and minds will be in harmony with us.

What does it mean for the Father to prune? What kinds of things does the Father cut away? Not only unhealthy desires, habits, and longings—but also our guilt, shame, fear, anxiety, insecurity, misunderstandings!

Are there any elements described here which are required in order to experience the fruit of the Spirit?

Abiding in Christ—which means what?

Here is what the SDA church historically taught about this concept:

To abide in Christ means that you shall be **a partaker of the divine nature**. Humanity lays hold upon divinity, and you have divine power... {General Conference Bulletin, May 17, 1909 par. 20}

Great, but how, what are the elements we must partake of to be partaking of the divine nature? What are the two core attributes of God's divine nature that we must purposefully, actively, willfully choose to embrace and internalize and practice?

Consider these quotes:

The blessed Redeemer has set us an example in **living out the precepts of the law**. [What level of development do you hear this through? Those at level four and below, still operating on the false human imposed law hear this as the 10 Commandments and instantly think of a long list of behaviors and activities we must do—but that is the wrong understanding and not what is meant. Notice the next sentence:] **He says to His followers, "Freely ye have received, freely give."** [What law is this this? The design law, living law, of love!] We are to have an open heart to receive the rich treasures of heaven, and **our hearts are to be opened to let those rich treasures out to others**. Oh, **we need to abide in Christ, then we will be a constant channel through which God will communicate to our brethren and to the world His own gracious Spirit.** . . . {TMK 49.2}



What is the first element of God's divine nature we need to actively participate in in order to be abiding in Christ? —Love! And then the second?

"Except ye abide in me," says Christ, "ye can do nothing." We need him every day; we cannot part with him for an hour. Every faculty of our being belongs to him, and should be dedicated to his service. My brethren, if you know that this union with Christ is required of you, and then neglect to maintain a consistent walk and to live in the exercise of faith, the heart will become hardened in disobedience. The tendency is to become self-important and emboldened in a wrong course. It is your duty to abide in Christ. **We must be daily learners in his school.** [What are the lesson books in His school? Scripture, nature, and experience!] **We must know the way ourselves before we can teach others how to walk in it.** {RH, March 4, 1884 par. 10}

"Search the Scriptures," was the injunction of the Master. Many have lost much because they have neglected this duty. When we search the word of God, angels are by our side, reflecting bright beams of light upon its sacred pages. The Scriptures appeal to man as having power to choose between right and wrong; they speak to him in warning, in reproof, in entreaty, in encouragement. **The mind must be exercised on the solemn truths of God's word, or it will grow weak.** [Why? If we fail to exercise our minds on God's word will God use power to make our minds weak? No this is design law, the law of exertion, we must choose to reason, study, think, contemplate, understand, appreciate and choose truth!] **We have the truth brought out in publications, but it is not enough to rely upon other men's thoughts. We must examine for ourselves, and learn the reasons of our faith by comparing scripture with scripture.** [Notice where EGW points our attention and what she holds up as the standard—the Bible!] Take the Bible, and on your knees plead with God to enlighten your mind. If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light. {RH, March 4, 1884 par. 11}

Our ministers are failing here. They are not Bible students, they are weak where they might be strong; for they take things for granted without searching for themselves. They do not become mighty in the Scriptures and in the power of God, because they are satisfied with their present position and attainments... {RH, March 4, 1884 par. 12}

What is the second element of God's divine nature that we must actively participate in in order to abide in Christ? The truth!

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Love and Truth—to abide in Christ means that we abide in His methods, His character, His truth, His principles and thus we love God and others and constantly seek to advance in the truth!

So what interferes with growing up and experience the fruit of the Spirit?



Failure to think for oneself, failure to investigate the evidence for oneself, believing because someone else told you something, resting satisfied on history and failing to put into practice what we understand to be true!

Consider an athlete, who achieves great success, perhaps wins a gold medal, and after winning rests satisfied on that past achievement and quits exercising, what happens?

What happens in our hearts, minds, comprehension, character, if we at one point achieved great spiritual fruit, but then rest satisfied and stop exercising our capacity to love our capacity to understand, think and move forward in the truth?

This is what has happened in all religions, traditions set up, creeds, fundamental beliefs are set down, people are indoctrinated to believe certain things, not to think, not to understand, not to wrestle out the issues and develop within themselves the ability to problem solve, love, comprehend, etc. but to regurgitate answers approved by some ecclesiastical authority.

Religion becomes about the right set of doctrines, rather than the right developmental experience.

Such indoctrinational approaches dwarf the mind, stunt the character and harden the heart!

This is why Come and Reason Ministries never wants to tell you what to think, but to stimulate you to study, to search, to ask questions, to examine evidence, to integrate the various threads of evidence God has provided and be fully persuaded in your own mind! (Rom 14:5)

The lesson states in the last paragraph that “The Holy Spirit will give us power to live victoriously and to develop the virtues that are characteristics of those who are God’s children.”

To live victoriously over what? What does it mean to live victoriously?

By the grace of Christ you can gain the victory over self and selfishness. As you live His life, **showing self-sacrifice at every step, constantly revealing a stronger sympathy for those in need of help, you will gain victory after victory.** Day by day you will learn better how to conquer self and how to strengthen your weak points of character. The Lord Jesus will be your light, your strength, your crown of rejoicing, because you yield your will to His will.
181 {Counsels for the Church 132.2}

MONDAY

Read Galatians 5:22,23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.



What does this mean?

First what does it mean against such there is no law? What does it mean that love is fulfillment of the law?

Why is love the first fruit listed?

What is the core of God's character, what is the protocol of life, what is it that wins us to genuine trust? Is it not pure selfless love?

The lesson rightly points out that "love is far more than mere human affection."

How would you describe love?

What is the difference between gifts of the Spirit and fruits of the Spirit?

Gifts are abilities—enablers like:

- Organizational ability
- Ability to preach, teach, speak effectively
- Speak in different languages
- Ability to diagnose and treat health problems
- Skills as artisans or craftsman or musicians or artists

Gifts can be bestowed instantly by God, gifts don't change who we are in character, a person can be gifted in many ways yet still be selfish.

Fruits are traits of character, that are the outgrowth of choices—for good or ill, those who choose to partake of Christ, to open their hearts in trust, experience a change in their character from fearful, insecure, selfish, impulsive, impatient to that of love, joy, etc. And those who reject Christ and choose instead the principles of the world also experience fruits of character—but of selfishness, cruelty, fear, insecurity etc.

- Is experiencing God's love dependent upon which organization one belongs?
- Does our method of baptism determine whether we experience God's love or not?
- Does the day we attend church determine whether we experience God's love or not?
- What does impact our ability to experience God's love?
- What about the ideas/beliefs we hold about God?
- What about the ideas we hold about what sin is and how God addresses it?
- What about how we have been treated by others—especially those who claim to be representatives of God?



TUESDAY

Read first paragraph, “Romans 14:7 reads:...” What does it mean that the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking...?

There is absolute joy in experiencing God’s love, no question about it, to know that you are loved, to experience forgiveness, grace, acceptance, the removal of guilt and shame brings joy.

But, I am a little uncomfortable with this statement in the lesson: “The joy that is rooted in the fruit of the Spirit, however, focuses on God and what He has done for us.”

Is there another element that brings joy, perhaps even more joy, that focuses somewhere other than what God has done for us?

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for **the joy set before** him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:2

What does this mean? What joy? Is there joy in sacrificing to bless another? Is there joy in standing for what is right? Is there joy in representing God correctly? Is there joy in giving for another?

What did Jesus mean by this?

So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:22-24

What is the joy? What is the cause of the joy?

Can one have joy in isolation? Is joy always a product of a love relationship?

Read third paragraph, “Peace is more lasting than joy...” What did Jesus mean when He said:

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Mt 10:34-36

How do we reconcile the idea that the fruit of the Spirit is peace, but Jesus said He didn’t come to bring peace?



As we are reconciled to God through Christ and experience the Holy Spirit within to heal and renew etc. where do we experience peace and where do we not experience peace?

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... Rom 5:1

What does it mean to be justified through faith?

- To be set right in heart—to have a heart changed from distrust, from enmity to God, back to trust and love in God
- Thus those whose hearts are changed from distrust and enmity to love and trust have peace with God

Notice this quotation:

Christ is "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6), and it is His mission to restore to earth and heaven the peace that sin has broken. "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Whoever consents to renounce sin and **open his heart to the love of Christ**, becomes a partaker of this heavenly peace. {AG 320.2}

There is no other ground of peace than this. The grace of Christ received into the heart, subdues enmity; it allays strife and fills the soul with love. He who is at peace with God and his fellow men cannot be made miserable. **Envy will not be in his heart; evil surmisings will find no room there; hatred cannot exist. The heart that is in harmony with God is a partaker of the peace of heaven** and will diffuse its blessed influence on all around. The spirit of peace will rest like dew upon hearts weary and troubled with worldly strife. {AG 320.3}

What is described as justification by faith? A change of heart—not a legal action!

The false human imposed law construct has led to a false legal idea of justification which has trapped millions into a religion without peace, because they claim legal declarations of being right, even though they are not, and thus there is not peace, because their hearts remain at enmity with God.

The genuine peace of Christ is the peace of abiding in loving unity with God, rather than fear, guilt and shame.

But, as we experience peace with God, we simultaneously go to war with what? We go to war with selfishness, lies and the principles of the world!



So this is MT 10:34,35, from *The Remedy*:

"Don't think that I have come to make peace with a selfish world. I have not come to bring peace with selfishness, but a sword to cut selfishness out of the hearts of people.³⁵ I have come to cut dysfunctional family ties: to free a son from selfish loyalty to his father's ambitions and feuds, to sever a daughter from the control of an oppressive and manipulative mother, to cut through the fear and hostility a daughter-in-law has toward her mother-in-law.³⁶ A person's worst enemies are often members of their own family.

What do you understand patience to be? Is it not trusting God with how things will turn out, trusting His timing?

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "Kindness..." Is God ever unkind? What about when thundering at Sinai? What about when dealing with rebellion?

Why was it kind to toss Adam and Eve out of Eden? Why was it kind to bring 10 plagues on Egypt?

Why was it kind to throw the moneychangers out of the Temple?

What does it mean to be faithful? Is faithfulness about the right behaviors, a code list of rules, don't go to a restaurant on Sabbath, don't pick up a limb fallen on your driveway on Sabbath, don't run down the aisle in church, don't eat the leftover communion bread...

What is faithfulness? Is it about carrying out the tasks with a certain accuracy, or about having a heart motive to always live up to God's ideals in every way?

I love this quote from the book *Education*:

The greatest want of the world is the want of men--men who will not be bought or sold, men **who in their inmost souls are true and honest**, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, **men whose conscience is as true to duty** as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall. {Ed 57.3}

Would you say this describes faithfulness? What is being described?

How does one obtain such ability? And the next paragraph from the book *Education* leads us to Thursday's lesson. Here is the next paragraph:

But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. **A noble character is the result of self-discipline,** of the



subjection of the lower to the higher nature--the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man. {Ed 57.4}

THURSDAY

What is self-discipline?

What is the last fruit of the Spirit? Self-control, *enkratia*, en—within, and *cratia*—authority, like democrat, autocrat. So exercising authority within oneself.

What does it mean that the fruit of the Spirit is *self*-control? It is not Spirit-control; it is self control!

This is huge, profound, and evidence of God's character of love. When we cooperate with God's Spirit the Spirit heals the damage of fear and selfishness, and restores us back to God's original plan for humanity. Beings who are genuinely FREE to exercise governance over themselves—why? Because it is the only way love can be experienced and expressed!

FRIDAY

read and discuss question 1



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We need HELP! With what? Well, after 10 years of ministry, this website has collected a huge number of articles, blogs, videos, podcasts, and notes that need to be categorized and indexed, so YOU can easily find all that's been said on a particular topic. The problem is, we don't have hundreds of eyes and ears on staff to search, read, listen, and find all these nuggets of truth. So, Come And Reason is calling on you, our faithful supporters, to help us with this task.

What do we need from you? Easy. Whenever you come across an article, blog, video, audio, or note that talks about a specific topic (like wrath, punishment, sanctuary, temple, mind, character, sin, death, etc., etc.), simply go to About > Contact Us and send us a note telling us where you found the information (page # in a document/note, time index in a video or audio file, the exact web address where you found the material, and the TOPIC the citation is talking about). We'll take those TOPICS and arrange them into categories and build a new menu entry to index all these resources.

Thank you, all, ahead of time for your participation and help in this rather significant endeavor!

Calendar: Come and Reason now has a Calendar of Events on our Website. If you would like to know what is coming up or where Dr. J is speaking or who is teaching a particular week, check out the calendar.

April 27-29: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Event The Struggle Is Real at the Thomas Road Baptist Church at Liberty University at Lynchburg, VA. For more info visit <http://lynchburg.cmhcsummit.com/>

May 6, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Summit Northwest Ministries, Post Falls, Idaho: for more info visit: <http://www.summitnorthwest.org/>

June 8-10, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Event The Struggle is Real in Naperville, IL.

AUGUST 1, 2017: Dr. Jennings' new book *The God-Shaped Heart* will be released by Baker Books. Here is a brief description:

Love is more than emotion, more than compassion, more than positive regard for another; love is power—the power to live, heal and be free. Love is functional, operational, with specific design parameters built into the fabric of reality. Love is intelligent and as we intelligently choose to harmonize with how love functions we not only experience greater health, fulfillment and wellbeing, we are transformed to become forces for good in the world. In *The God-Shaped Heart* Christian psychiatrist Dr. Tim Jennings explores the healing power of love, exposes a belief system infecting Christianity that obstructs love, and identifies eternal truths that open the heart to God's transforming power of love.

September 15,16 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Church in the Valley, Aldergrove, British Columbia, Canada.

October 12-16, 2017: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at Garden Grove SDA church in Garden Grove, CA. This will be a multi-speaker event focusing on the atonement. For more information contact:

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October 27, 28, 2017: Dr. Jennings will speaking at the Arlington SDA church in Arlington, TX. For more information contact: <http://www.arlingtonadventist.com/>