

THE FRUIT OF BLESSINGS

*Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Producing works of the flesh and bearing the fruit of the spirit are opposite principles. Works of flesh are what arise from the mental, volitional, and physical powers that reside in man. However, the fruit of the spirit arise from the power of God Himself which resides within a redeemed person through their faith. Works of the flesh can be displayed in obvious sinful actions such as lying, murder, and sexual sins. However, works of the flesh can also be seen in noble activities such as prayer, giving, and charitable deeds. If these arise solely from the mental, volitional, and physical powers within a man then they are works of the flesh. Works of the flesh are always done for selfish purposes because the flesh is incurably self centered and selfish. The fruit of the spirit come forth from faith in Christ and His finished work. They are the production of the Spirit of God working through our redeemed spirit, soul, and finally in to our actions so they can be seen and be of benefit to others. It is vitally important to know that the blessings of God are NEVER given to us through our works of flesh no matter how holy they may look. The blessings of God never come on the basis of our human merits before God. The blessings of God only come through the merits of Jesus Christ. God blesses man on legal grounds. God can never bless sin and unrighteousness. The divine record tells us that man's best performances and acts of righteousness's are but filthy rags. [Isaiah 64:6] What we look upon as quite lovely and blessable, God sees as putrid and abominable. What is highly prized among men is an abomination to God. [Luke 16:15] God legally and righteously can only bless what is righteous and true. God could righteously bless Old Testament Israel because of the sacrifices of innocent blood. They were not blessed because of their keeping the Law. None of them kept the Law. The breaking of the Law demanded death. That is why sacrifices were offered. The blood of animals merely covered their sins until Christ would come and actually remove all sins through his sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for man because He was completely sinless and altogether righteous. He fulfilled the Law

completely in His 33 years upon the earth. He achieved perfect righteousness under the Law for us and as us. He was our representative. As our perfect representative He became fully identified with us by taking our sins upon Himself on the cross and became sin itself. When He did this He was cut off from God the Father who He had been in constant communion for all of eternity. Jesus shed His perfect sinless blood for the payment of our sins and transgressions. He died paying the full price for our iniquities. Once justice was fully secured Jesus arose from the dead, went into the heavenly holy of holies and placed his blood on the mercy seat of heaven. [Heb. 9:22-24] Having completed redemption for man, He sat down at the right hand of God's power. It is by this finished work of Christ [His achieved righteousness under the Law and His sacrificial death] that God can legally bless us. His perfect and righteous work demands God's blessing. When faith is placed in this finished work of Jesus then the Spirit will begin to bring blessing to and through that person. The Spirit was sent on the basis of and in confirmation of the finished work of Jesus. The Spirit NEVER responds to the works of the flesh. He only moves on the basis of the finished work of Jesus and when faith is placed in it by an individual. So we must establish the basis for God's blessings in our life. They come not by our merits, but solely upon the merits of Christ. To get this wrong is the forfeiture of the blessings of God.

Now this is where many Christians can get a misunderstanding. Many then think that their actions have no consequence in seeing the blessings of God manifest in their life. They surmise that since the blessings of God are given solely on the merits of Christ and His finished work that their actions do not matter. This is far from the truth. **It is true that God's blessings can NEVER come through the works of the flesh, HOWEVER, it is a fact that the blessings of God will PRIMARILY come through the fruit of the spirit in our lives, which are based upon our works of faith.** The blessings are given on the basis of Christ's merits, but they will be released and manifested in and through the fruit of the spirit in a believer's life. The fruit of the spirit is the work of the Holy Spirit through a person's spirit, soul, and then into their actions. The fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control all can be seen **outwardly by our actions**. These fruit do not find its source in the strivings of our flesh, but in the working of the Holy Spirit as we trust Him to do **FOR** us

all God's commands. God never asks from us, what He will not work out FOR us, IN us, and THROUGH us by His grace. Grace is what God does for us. Law is what we do for God. The fruit comes forth as a product of our faith in Christ and His finished work. Our faith in the gift of righteousness through Christ and in Him doing FOR us what is required of us will produce the fruit of righteousness in our life. **There are blessings connected with the spiritual fruit in our life.**

Divine love brings blessings, joy brings blessings, peace brings blessings, longsuffering brings blessings, kindness brings blessings, goodness brings blessings, faithfulness brings blessings, gentleness brings blessings, and self control bring blessings.

A believer that has these fruit missing in their life will experience a barren life that is void of the manifest blessings of God. The blessings of God come on the basis of Jesus finished work but are released to us by the fruit of His Spirit working in us when we are walking faith in Him! If you are lacking blessings in your life look and see if the fruit of the spirit are manifest in your life. If you have any questions ask your spouse or a very close friend that is honest. They will let you know. The lack of the fruit of the spirit is not a result of not working enough for God, or the lack of doing seemingly noble or religious things. **It is the result of not resting and trusting in the finished work of Jesus and not acting upon the Spirit's revelation and leading within you.** You might be very busy in church work slaving away for Jesus, but if you are doing it in the strength of your flesh, for the purpose [this sometimes is sub-conscious] of getting God to bless you, then you will not have the fruit of the spirit manifest in your life, and thus you will not have the blessings of God released in and through you. As long as you are trying to produce for God, then the Spirit will rest and watch as you manufacture plastic fruit and tape them to your life. The Spirit is not here to strengthen your flesh child of God! He is here to manifest the perfections of Son of God in and through you when you place your faith in Him. He is here to manifest the character and life of Christ in you when you accept His

complete forgiveness of sins through His blood and His gift of perfect righteousness. The acceptance of these by faith will release the Spirit to bring forth the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. **Contained in these fruit are the blessings of God.** They come from God and are on the basis of the merits of Jesus Christ. You get to enjoy them and others get to be benefited by them. You have been blessed to be a blessing. These blessings flow from Jesus to you by the Holy Spirit and come into your life by the fruit of the spirit. With your faith in Christ and His finished work the Spirit will work in you mightily to live a dynamic and active life filled with good works. These works are merely the fruit of the Spirit of Christ within you. You have a decision today. You can have the fruit of the spirit and abound in blessings, or you can keep on working in your flesh and be frustrated and barren. The Spirit lets you decide....