

FRUIT

Living Spiritually

Our relationship with God must be spiritual - John 4:23-24 - 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in **spirit and in truth**."

If you are a Christians you ARE spiritual so you must BE spiritual - Gal 5:25-Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Christians at times tend to live unspiritual with undesirable results - 1 Cor 3:1-3 - Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Spirituality is dedicating the use of ourselves for God ONLY - Rom 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.

It's a Transformation that happens when we change our thought process - Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Not being Spiritual we are doomed to be led by evil - Rom 7:18 know that **NOTHING GOOD** dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. NASU

The wrong relationship with the world hinders our Spirituality - James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who **CHOOSES** to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Being spiritual comes down to PURPOSE-

Rom 8:5-8 - 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their **MINDS SET on what that nature desires**; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their **MINDS SET on what the Spirit desires**. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

Rom 8:12-14 - 12 Therefore, brothers, **WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION** — but it is NOT to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For **IF you live according to the sinful nature, YOU WILL DIE; but IF by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live**, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

We MUST make our core purpose in life Christ - 1 Cor 7:29-31 - 29 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. **From now on** those who have wives should live as if they had none; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. **For this world in its present form is passing away.**

In a nutshell the BIBLE distinguishes between Spiritual or not - 2 Tim 3:16-17 - 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped** for every good work.

Some Benefits of Spirituality

The Spirit gives us the ability to understand God - 1 Cor 2:13-14 - 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The Spirit gives us the ability to live righteous in an unrighteous world with an unrighteous body-Gal 5:16-17 -16 So I say, **LIVE BY THE SPIRIT**, and you **WILL NOT** gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

In a Spiritual life everything happens for a reason - Rom 8:28 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

There is evidence to TRUE Spirituality

We are appointed to bear fruit - John 15:16- You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. **THEN** the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

We need to produce good fruit...or else - Matt 3:8-10 - 8 **PRODUCE FRUIT in keeping with repentance**. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that **DOES NOT PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT WILL BE cut down and thrown into the fire**.

The fruit is our identity that we are living by the Spirit-Matt 7:15-20-15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree CANNOT bear bad fruit, and a bad tree CANNOT bear good fruit. 19 **EVERY TREE that does NOT BEAR GOOD FRUIT is cut down and THROWN INTO THE FIRE.** 20 Thus, **by their fruit you will recognize them.**

How does the Fruit symbol fit into Christianity?

Jesus is the vine and God is the Gardener - John 15:1-8 -1 "I am the **TRUE vine**, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 **Remain in me, and I will remain in you. NO BRANCH CAN BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF; it must remain in the vine.** Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **IF** a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 **IF anyone DOES NOT remain in me**, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; **such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.** 7 **IF you remain in me and my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

HOW DOES THE FRUIT PROCESS WORK?

We must first prepare the soil (which is us)-

-Hos 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord,

-Jer 4:3 This is what the Lord says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unplowed ground and DO NOT SOW AMONG THORNS.

*** We must be aware that the "Thorns" are our own thoughts, politics, intellect, traditions, and the like.**

Next we must receive the seed to produce the fruit -Luke 8:11-15 - 11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and **they do not mature**. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Whatever you "ARE" determines the fruit you'll produce - Matt 12:33-37 - 33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. 36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. 37 For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

SO WHAT IS "BAD FRUIT" & WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Fruit of the Spirit vs. The Sinful nature Gal 5:19-25 -19 **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:** *sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this **will not inherit the kingdom of God.*** 22 **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.** 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

Works of the Flesh (Bad fruit)

The like - homoios (hom'-oy-os)similar (in appearance or character):

SELF GRATIFICATION

- **Sexual immorality or FORNICATION** - porneia (por-ni'-ah);harlotry (including adultery,incest & same sex); figuratively, idolatry: - [**Any sex outside of a God approved marriage.**]
- **impurity or UNCLEANNES** - akatharsia (ak-ath-ar-see'-ah)impurity (the quality), physically or morally: [**Living as a Christian mixed with other things or removing Godly things**]
- **Debauchery or Lasciviousness** - aselgeia (as-elg'-i-a) unrestrained self-indulgent [**Overindulging**].

FALSE WORSHIP

- **IDOLATRY** - eidololatreia (i-do-lol-at-ri'-ah) image-worship (literally or figuratively): [**Anything you make "the purpose"**] ***(All things in self gratification are False worship because you're worshipping you!)**
- **WITCHCRAFT** - pharmakeia (far-mak-i'-ah)medication ("pharmacy"), i.e. magic or supernatural (literally or figuratively): [**any supernatural or controlled solution outside of God**]

RELATIONSHIP

- **HATRED** - echthra (ekh'-thrah) hostility; by implication, a reason for opposition: [**Without love**]
- **Discord or VARIANCE** - eris (er'-is); a quarrel, i.e. (by implication) squabbling: disagreement or strife between people, or incompatibility or conflict between things or situations [**Not striving to get along with others**]
- **Jealousy or EMULATIONS** - zelos (dzay'-los) heat, i.e. (figuratively) "zeal" (in a favorable sense, passion; in an unfavorable one, malice): [**Emotionally reacts to: not being included, not getting the same treatment, not having the same relationship**]
- **Fits of rage or WRATH** - thumos (thoo-mos') passion (as if breathing hard): [**out of control anger**]
- **Selfish ambition or STRIFE** - eritheia (er-ith-i'-ah); conspiracy, (contention (-ious), discord): [**Causing conflict**]

DIVIDING THE BODY

- **Dissensions or SEDITIONS** - dichostsis (dee-khos-tas-ee'-ah) disunion, i.e. (figuratively) disagreement or difference of opinion, especially when leading to open conflict [**misleading with viewpoint over God**]
- **Faction or HERESIES** - haireisis (hah'-ee-res-is) a party or (abstractly) disunion: a minority group within the body that has views or beliefs that are not always in harmony with the Body. [**Small groups NOT in agreement with God**]
- **ENVY** - phthonos (fthon'-os) ill-will (as detraction), i.e. jealousy (spite): [**Wanting something you don't have**]

LACK OF SELF-CONTROL

- **Drunkness** - methe (meth'-ay); an intoxicant, i.e. (by implication) [**intoxication**]
- **Orgies or Reveling** - komos (ko'-mos) a carousal (as if letting loose) or partying: [**Fully controlled by flesh while Not controlling self**]

The Fruit of the Spirit is what will **be displayed** when we are spiritual: (Characteristics) (All God Purposed)

Love

What Godly Love looks like- 1 Cor 13:4-7 - 4 Love is **PATIENT**, love is **KIND**. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It **always** protects, **always** trusts, **always** hopes, **always** perseveres.

***will display all Godly attributes and will be driven by God only**

JOY

It will be totally based on God whom you have not seen - 1 Peter 1:8-9 - 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are **filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy**, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

It will be what we focus on through the trials of life - Heb 12:2-3 - 2 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. 3 Consider him who **endured such opposition from sinful men**, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

It will exist when it seems it shouldn't - James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

*** A state of mind driven by Godliness despite situation and feelings.**

Peace

We access that Peace by totally focusing on Christ - Isa 26:3 You will keep him in PERFECT PEACE, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. NKJV

It will be that of Christ not the world - John 14:26-27 - 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 **Peace I leave with you; MY PEACE I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

It will be beyond understanding - Phil 4:6-7 - 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And **the peace of God**, which **transcends all understanding**, **will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus.

It will be what we will strive for with everyone - Heb 12:14-15 - 14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

*** The presence of mind directly from Christ despite the situation or relationship**

Patience

Patience will resemble the examples of the righteous ones of old -

James 5:10-11 - 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Heb 6:12-15 - 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. 13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

- Waiting on God's promise no matter how long (Abraham)
- Going through unclear trials (Job)
- Preaching the Word even when it's unpopular (prophets)
- Being examples used by God despite your desires (Hosea)

Kindness

No man naturally is kind based on God - Rom 3:10-12 - 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who *does good*, not even one."

It's an attribute all Christians have and must display at all times - Col 3:12-14 - 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Like other attributes of Christianity, kindness doesn't depend on the person; it depends on God - Eph 4:29-32 - 29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, **BUT ONLY** what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

It will imitate God's kindness in-which the one receiving it does nothing to deserve

Eph 2:7-9 - 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:4-5 - 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

***We will treat people nice but not based on how they are to us but based on God's mercy**

Goodness

Only God is good - Luke 18:18-19 - 18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 19 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good — except God alone."

This can only come from God - James 1:16-18 - 16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Goodness is the root of living for God - Eph 5:8-17 - 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

This will be us allowing ourselves to be used by God - 2 Tim 2:20-21 - 20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 21 If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and *prepared to do any good work.*

It's separated from worldly attributes by purpose - Rom 2:6-7 - 6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done." 7 To those who **by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.**

***Making yourself available for God to be displayed through you.**

Faithfulness

Faithfulness is being responsible to God Matt 24:45-47 - 45 "**Who then is the faithful and wise servant**, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Faithfulness requires loyalty to God - Luke 16:10-13 - 10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? 13 "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Faith is all Christian's guide to life - 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

Faith is not based on our senses - Heb 11:1 - Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Faithfulness is not living for the situation but living for God – 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. 24 Brothers, each man, AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD, should remain in the situation God called him to.

***living a life TOTALLY responsible to God and Totally depending on God**

Gentleness (meekness)

Gentleness/Meekness defined - Rom 12:14-21 - 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone**. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good**.

Dealing with people caught in sin requires gentleness - Gal 6:1-2 - Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

When dealing with disagreement in the Word, Gentleness must be in our instruction - 2 Tim 2:24-26 - 24 And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Gentleness/Meekness will be displayed in our actions - James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

*** Carefully deal with everyone as if they are delicate**

Self-Control.

Self-control is you being in control of you in the Lord - 1 Cor 9:26-27 - 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

It's the true protection from Satan - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Will make sure I'm spiritually growing - Heb 5:11-14 - 11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

***Being in control of you based on God!**

Heed the Warning!!! - Heb 6:7-8 - 7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that **produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God**. 8 But land that **produces thorns and thistles is worthless** and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

