



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

1 Monarch Trace Ct. #106, Chesterfield, MO 63017-4618 - Ph: 636-778-9361 - rcmin2@charter.net

*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

---

## Letters of Faith

May 2017

**“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”**  
(Philippians 1:9-11 NASB)

Dearly Beloved,

Each one of us has been called and chosen by Jesus to bear fruit that is pleasing to Him and that will bring glory to God, our Father. “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” (John 15:16) When we bear the fruit of righteousness, God the Father is pleased with us, and because it is supernatural fruit, it remains!

We know a tree by its fruit. The “fruit” of our character is our conduct. “Our conduct is a revelation of our character. When we do evil, it is a dead giveaway that we are nurturing evil within us. While conduct is not the same as character, it grows out of who we really are and is one of the best indicators of what kind of character we have.” (NLT TouchPoint Bible comment) This is not a new concept: “It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself if his conduct is pure and right.” (Proverbs 20:11 )

Jesus stated in John 15:5, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” As I was meditating on this verse, I thought: Lord, that verse isn’t true! I have done a whole bunch of things apart from You. In fact, that is why I am crying out to You now. I don’t want to do anything more apart from You!

And as He so often does, He chuckled and responded: “*The beginning of learning to abide in Me is recognizing the NOTHINGNESS of all you do on your own apart from Me!*”

Not only can we do “nothings” apart from Him but doing these “nothings” is a step down the road that leads to being cut off from God. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.” (John 15:6)

But O! the glory of abiding! Not only for the unique joy of being close to Jesus—being in Him and knowing that He is in us—but because we glorify the Father and demonstrate to the world that we are disciples of Jesus Christ! “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” (John 15:7-8)

We also learn to abide in Jesus by accepting and yielding to His discipline, His correcting, and His directing. “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?...For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (Hebrews 12:7,10-11)

Through His discipline and training, we learn to grow that “peaceful fruit of righteousness” instead of the “fruit for death.” “Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God. For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.” (Romans 7:4-5)

Fruit is used in the Bible literally to mean the fruit of trees, fields, the earth, and the life force of men; that which is produced by the inherent energy of a living organism in accordance with God’s design for His creation. Fruit is also used in the Bible metaphorically to mean the cumulative expression of our life’s activities, ways, works, or deeds here on earth. That is the visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly. Studying both these uses of fruit in the Bible gives us a clear idea of why the fruit of our lives is so very important to our Father God.

The principle of looking first to the natural and then to the spiritual in order to get a real understanding of the spiritual is established in 1st Cor. 15:46: “...the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.”

Here are some natural facts about fruit trees:

- √ Fruit is eaten and enjoyed by others, thus fulfilling the purpose of that which grows it.
- √ The more fruit that is partaken of (plucked), the more fruit grows.
- √ Fruit is directly related to its kind of root, and cannot be different from it unless it is grafted.
- √ Grafts are made to upgrade the quality of the fruit and to make the fruit-bearing branches more hardy against the elements and diseases.

We Christians are grafts: “...you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree...” and “...you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the [divine] olive tree...” (Romans 11:24,17)

There is power in the fruit of the Holy Spirit because there is fruit in the Holy Spirit of Power!

The Apostle Paul defines the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23: “...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Paul makes a direct contrast between love and law, declaring the fruitlessness of preaching the law! Law does not produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit—grace does! “...the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law.” (Galatians 5:17-18 NLT) Now do not go overboard—we are *not* encouraging lawlessness!

Lawlessness produces the fruit of unredeemed and unrepentant flesh as described in Gal. 5:19-21 NLT: “When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and [just in case Paul’s purified mind couldn’t even think of some of the other icky-awfuls] other kinds of sin.” Sick with grief, he then warns his beloved friends: “Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

Notice Paul’s use of the singular in referring to the fruit of the Holy Spirit in verse 22: “...the fruit of the Spirit is...” This emphasizes the indivisible expression of Christ’s character by all nine fruit of the Spirit. In other words, you cannot exhibit Christ’s character without all of the fruit—they ARE His character.

Paul contrasts this directly to the fruit of the flesh with his use of the plural: “...the deeds of the flesh are...” to emphasize the total destructiveness of any one of these fruits of unrighteousness!

Manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit lets people see His life and character in your life and behavior. From your heart your tongue speaks, and there is life and death in the tongue. Therefore the fruit of your lips brings life or death—heals or wounds—builds up or discourages, because it comes from your heart that is either filled with God or with the world. That is the power of fruit—be it fruit of righteousness or the fruit of death.

That is why we must cultivate the good fruit of God’s Holy Spirit, and spread it to a world that is starving for God. “And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:18) In Matthew 5:9 Jesus taught, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.”

What an awesome goal! Let us all go for it!

Huge Fruitful Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand being a simple, stylized symbol.