



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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Paul Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

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**“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear *much fruit*,
and so prove to be My disciples.”**

John 15:8 NASB (emphasis added)

Dearly Beloved of Christ,

We know a tree by its fruit. The “fruit” of our character is our behavior!

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)

Briefly consider the many great men who declared at the end of their days (or had it declared for them) that they sought all their life to build a suitable edifice, business enterprise, or achieve some great accomplishment in order to leave a remaining testimony of their life, when frustratingly true, the lasting righteous fruit of their lips and their godly behavior establishing their character had already done it for them. How many mighty men of God (Brother Billy Graham comes to mind) graduated at total peace because they knew the righteous fruit of their lips and lives had already established an everlasting monument to their name?

As I contemplated these glorious truths, the grace-filled word “REPENT” resounded in my heart, and I was led to “change the way I think” about my own progress toward my private personal commitment to finish my race well! Hardships heaped on me became “manure” for growing sweeter fruit, and I started to be able to welcome tears of disappointments as the “rain” that watered my spiritual roots. Adversities simply became the “winds” that strengthened my branches to protect and hang on to my fruit against all life’s storms.

Jesus said we can do nothing apart from Him! Unfortunately, not only could I do “nothings” apart from Jesus, but I recognized that doing these “nothings” was a step down the thorny, dark path that leads away from abiding in Him: **“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 emphasis added—ouch!)

But O, the glory of abiding! Not only for the unique peace and 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 His Son, 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 emphasis added) THAT IS the real hope of glory!

We also learn to abide in Jesus by accepting and yielding to His discipline, correcting, and 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, so 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.” (Heb. 12:7, 10-11) This was one of the Apostle Paul’s constant prayers for the Body of Christ: **“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)

We need to learn how to grow **“THE PEACEFUL FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”!**

“Fruit” is used in the Bible literally to mean the fruit of trees and vines, 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 creative design. “Fruit” is also used in the Bible metaphorically to mean the cumulative expression of our life's activities and ways, our works or deeds here on earth; being that which is the visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly, the character of the fruit being evidence of the character of the power producing it.

Here are five interesting facts about natural fruit:

1. Fruit is eaten and enjoyed by others, but it fulfills the purpose of the source that grows it. (Apply that to your life and your fruit!)
2. The more fruit is partaken of (plucked), the more fruit is grown.
3. Fruit is directly related to, and resultant from, its own kind of root and cannot be different from its kind of root unless it is grafted.
4. Grafts are made to upgrade the edibility of the fruit (it becomes sweeter), to increase the production of fruit, and to make the fruit-bearing branches more hardy against the elements and diseases by the strengths the root provides.
5. Fruit grows sweeter in sunlight!

The spiritual implications of these natural facts are enormous because Christians are grafts: **“...you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree...”** (Romans 11:17), and **“...you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree...”** (Romans 11:24)

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.”**

Notice Paul's use of the singular referring to the fruit of the Holy Spirit: **“...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 because TOGETHER they ARE His character.

Paul contrasts this directly to the fruit or deeds of the flesh with his use of the plural in Galatians 5:19-21: **“...the deeds of the flesh ARE...”** to emphasize the total destructiveness of any one of these fruits of unrighteousness!

Remember, the distinguishing feature of fruit, as contrasted to vegetables or other produce of plants, is that fruit bears its own seeds. The seeds are in the fruit. **“Then God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth’; and it was so. And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.”** (Gen. 1:11-12)

It is good to bear fruit with seeds after our own kind! But it is a BIG RESPONSIBILITY because those who partake of the fruit of our lives are eating seeds that will reproduce in them the life that is empowering us. In other words, the words we speak are coated with the spirit in us from which they are spoken!

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

Beloved, from your heart the tongue speaks, and there is the power of life and death in the tongue. The fruit of your lips brings life or death—heals or wounds—builds up or discourages—feeds righteous-ness or befouls! This is because it comes from your heart that is either filled with God—or with the world. That is the unique power of the fruit of the Spirit!

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. Let the beautiful truth in James 3:17-18 become a foundational cornerstone for living your life to the glory of God, your Father and His glorious Kingdom: **“...the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”** And with that, **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”** (Matthew 5:9)

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER: Through Him, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God our Heavenly Father, that is, the righteous fruit of lips that give thanks to His Name. (Ref. Hebrews 13:15)

Huge Righteous Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

P.S. – Some of you may recognize the similarity of this month's *Letters of Faith* with one published just last year, and you are absolutely correct! I have “reworked” last May's letter for two reasons: First, I needed a jump-start in writing after Gretel was promoted. And second, I found new emphases to add to it that I hope are helpful to share. May God quicken His Word to your heart.