

**Title:** The Yield of Your Life

**Passage:** Galatians 5:22-25

**Introduction:**

Sermon series on the Fruit of the Spirit - it will be: 1) personal, 2) practical, and 3) powerful

**Context of Passage:**

- important passage to understanding what it means to live the Christian life.

**Passage:** Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

**Question:** What if for one day your life is lived but such that your heart is replaced with that of Jesus - Jesus is living your life (Max Lucado, "Just Like Him")

- with the heart transplant: would there be any change? Would you still do what you are still doing?

- Do you have a heart like Jesus?

- His heart: peaceful, prayerful, purposeful

- You already have the heart of Jesus!

Ezekiel 36:25-27

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- "give you a new heart" = God grants spiritual new birth with a new heart

- "I will put my Spirit" = gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell within you upon belief in Christ.

- "cause you" = through the indwelling of the Spirit, God takes up responsibility to work your character to reflect Him.

**Overview: Questions**

I. What is this Fruit of the Spirit?

II. How does this Fruit get produced in our lives?

III. What is our part in process of producing the Fruit of the Spirit?

**I. What is this Fruit of the Spirit?**

- the theme of fruitbearing extends throughout Scripture

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Psalms 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Also used in how God calls His people (as fruit)

- called them like His precious fruit/plant that would bear fruit

Ezekiel 17:23

On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.

Jesus' words on fruit-bearing:

John 15:1, 5, 8, 16

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser...I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing...By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples....You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

- fruit-bearing reflects that we are Jesus' disciples.

Romans 7:4

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

### ***The Fruit of the Spirit***

- 9 attributes of Jesus Christ on display

- *communicable* attributes of God (ie are those attributes that you can catch from God when get close to Him. Ex: His love, grace, beauty).

- contrast: incommunicable attributes of God (ie things that belong to God alone that cannot be transferred to others. Ex: omnipresence, omniscient, omnipotent)

### **II. How does this Fruit get produced in our lives?**

- Temptation: taking on your *own* the burden, effort, and responsibility to exhibit these qualities in our lives. In reality: such are works of the flesh/in our strength.

- Contrast: Fruit of the Spirit is *by* the Spirit of God (who lives in you and produces the life of Christ in you)

- Fruit of the Spirit is the work of God alone, its source is God and God alone.

- These traits are the result of God's work in us (we fulfill our responsibility through God's enablement and power in us)

Hosea 14:8

O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### **III. What is our part in the process of bearing the Fruit of the Spirit?**

- key word: process

- implication: the development of our character takes time at God's pace, not our own.

- growth does not occur at uniform pace (ex: fruit develop on trees ripens slowly)

- be assured that God is faithful in the process:

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Our part:

### **1) Trust in Him**

- unless you have placed your faith in Christ, you will not bear any fruit/the life of Christ  
"It is faith and faith alone that saves. But faith is never alone." (The evidence of faith is seen as a result of faith)

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- spend more time in God's Word, allowing it to influence/impact you.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- fix your eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **2) Abide in Him**

- abide = happens at the point where the branch touches the vine.

- implication: our relationship and its level of surrender will result on the level of impact God has in our lives.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing

### **3) Rest in Him**

- come to Jesus and allow Him to work in your life. Don't fight but rest in His lordship over you.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Examine yourself, yet also leave the results to God

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

John 7:38

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

See: Jim Elliott's story

"I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you Lord Jesus"