



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: THE EXPLOSIVE POWER OF RESURRECTION

GLORIA AND KELLIE COPELAND

DAY 1 – Real Fruit. Real Credentials.

The fruit of the spirit are spiritual forces that result from our oneness with God. God's work in us didn't end when we were born again. He wants to be intimately involved in our daily lives. When we spend time with Jesus and understand that receiving His grace starts with sitting at His feet, fruit will be the result. Let go of your former pride and credentials, and lay hold of the true Vine—that produces the fruit of the spirit!

STUDY IT

- I. The fruit of the spirit are our assets from salvation; they need to be received, yielded to and developed. Oneness with Jesus results in the fruit of the spirit.
 - a. Jesus wants to be involved in our lives.
 - b. When we don't look at Jesus to give us the fruit of the spirit, we can make walking in the fruit of the spirit a work of the flesh.
 - c. Jesus is the Vine—so our fruit should come/grow from our vital connection to Him.
 - d. When we walk in the spirit, we don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). Walking in God's fruit becomes the difference between walking by the law or by the Spirit.
- II. Life with God is experiential (Philippians 3).
 - a. Jesus didn't stop working in us when He died on the cross; He is our Savior every day and every moment. He is still working in us through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Satan wants to keep us on the "gerbil wheel" of striving for the fruit, instead of yielding to what Jesus is calling us to do.
 - c. We should be experiencing God in our daily lives.

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- d. Walking in God's Spirit brings power and freedom.
 - e. Martha vs. Mary—will you be distracted and working in your own strength or receiving at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38)?
- III. "I am born again and Jesus is my Savior;" those are our real credentials.
- a. We are called to be separated to Jesus, not separated to a denomination, people group or class.
 - b. When you walk in the grace of Jesus, you won't get caught up on "how much you know" and judging others, because you realize that everything you know is by the grace of God.
 - c. Let go of all your greatness and embrace God's greatness, so that He can begin working greatly in your life.
 - i. Pride, ego, shame and other works of the flesh can cause you to build up a wall in your relationship with God that make it difficult for His grace to fill up your life (James 4:6).
 - ii. Let God's power explode in your life the way that fruit ripens on a tree.

Additional scripture: Galatians 5:22-23

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Pray to the Lord asking for His wisdom and grace throughout this series, and begin believing for even more experiences with Him.

Heavenly Father, I ask You for Your wisdom (James 1:5), and pray for the grace to understand everything that is being taught this week, not just from the broadcast, but also what You are teaching me on a personal level. Jesus, thank You for being my Savior and Helper every moment of every day. You are the pioneer and perfecter of my faith (Hebrew 12:2, NIV). And I'm so grateful for all You've done and all You are going to do in my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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DAY 2 – Fruit by Fellowship

We are not stuck in our own abilities! We are not stuck in the fruit of our feelings—even feelings of bitterness and unforgiveness. Time in God's presence will open your life up to His correction. Let the presence of God judge and shape who you are.

STUDY IT

- I. We are not stuck in our own abilities.
 - a. Oneness with Jesus results in the fruit of the spirit.
 - b. Paul was shocked that anyone would want to go back to walk in the old way of working by the flesh.
 - c. All our abilities are nothing compared to what God can do in our lives when we rely on Him.
 - d. We can use Jesus' love and joy and peace, etc.
 - e. We are not stuck with the fruit of our own feelings.
 - i. We choose what to do with our feelings.
 - ii. We can still feel, but choose to act by the leading of God's Spirit.
 - iii. Feelings are from God as informants, but not as leaders: e.g., feelings of fear.
 - iv. For every negative feeling you have, Jesus is your Savior.
- II. Spending time with the Lord allows you to recognize the things you don't have to live with.
 - a. Forgiveness is key in walking in the fruit of the spirit.
 - i. "Trying to forgive" is a struggle of the flesh. Roll the care onto the Lord, and determine to forgive by faith.

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- ii. As you spend time with God about someone, God will help that unforgiveness melt away. His presence will bring forgiveness out of you and keep you healthy spiritually and physically.
 - iii. God's presence helps you to continue to remain in a healthy place and keeps you full of peace before you can get offended.
 - b. Jesus' faith is also engaged in our being perfected in His fruit—love, joy, peace, etc.
 - c. Faith and unforgiveness don't work together (Mark 11:25).
 - d. Faith works by love. You can't be in unforgiveness and love at the same time (Galatians 5:6).
- III. Let the presence of God judge and shape who you are.
 - a. Jesus is the Master Diagnoser. When Jesus diagnoses us, it's in a personal way.
 - b. God is Love. He is our peace—so yield to Him.
 - c. It's a blessing to be corrected by our gentle Lord.
 - d. When you're willing to not be right in your own ability, the Lord can work things out in you. It's OK to be wrong, because you are human.
 - i. Judge yourself, and you won't be judged.
 - ii. Love is not touchy, fretful or resentful (1 Corinthians 13:5 *AMPC*).
 - iii. Walking out of love opens the door for sickness and disease in your life.
 - iv. When you forgive, you go free.
 - e. One decision in your family can change your family, village and world.

Additional scriptures: Mark 11:22-25; Philippians 3:10; Galatians 5:22-23

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Is there someone you need to forgive today so you can go free? Spend time in God's presence with Scripture and sing some songs of thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has forgiven you for. Now, talk to God about what the person did that hurt you. Ask for His help, and determine in your heart to forgive that person by faith, as you receive God's peace and healing to make you free from unforgiveness. Be free.

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DAY 3 – My Nature Is Jesus

When you choose Jesus, you make the fruit of the spirit your natural, yet supernatural way of living. Yield freely to abandon the self-life and take up the fruit of the spirit. Listening to God will correct every old way of the flesh.

STUDY IT

- I. When you find out what God's Word says and obey it, the fruit of the spirit will supernaturally become the natural way of life for you.
 - a. If you never get in the Word of God, you won't know how to get God's fruit.
 - b. It all starts with love. All the fruit comes out of love—joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:22, *NLT*).
 - i. It is so powerful to live from a place of love.
 - ii. You'll live a healthier life when you walk in love.
 - iii. Strife and unforgiveness have no place where love rules.
 - iv. If you don't have love in your life, you're not going to be able to operate in the rest of the fruit.
 - v. Love takes you away from hate, anxiety and turmoil.
- II. We can choose the fruit as a choice of the flesh, or we can practice *yielding* to His Spirit in us, as we grow in our new life in connection to Him.
 - a. When you are born again, your whole nature changes.
 - i. Pigs get in the mud, and they like it.
 - ii. Sheep get in the mud, but they want out—we are now changed to be God's sheep.

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- b. My old way of life was crucified with God. My new life is found in the presence of Christ Jesus (Galatians 2:20).
 - i. Jesus, through His faith and sacrifice, was able to fill me up with Himself.
 - ii. His love was dispensed from His life into mine.
- c. When you choose to follow Jesus, you abandon your old life and its cravings (Galatians 5:16, *NLT*).
 - i. Be led by the Holy Spirit cravings— you will want to walk in love, and you'll crave peace with other people.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is the only One who can defeat the cravings of the flesh; He helps you soar above them.
- III. The fruit of the spirit are the outflow of God's life in you.
 - a. The fruit of the spirit are hindered by selfish and ignorance.
 - b. You have to deal with the results of whatever outflow you yield to—the spirit or the flesh.
 - c. These fruit are forces within you, and they are powerful.
 - d. Ignorance of God's fruit living in you will keep you from walking in the fruit of the spirit.
 - e. Feed on the Word. Practice the fruit, and they will grow.
 - i. Practice patience.
 - ii. People have chosen murder because they've yielded to anger.
- IV. The more you listen to what God is saying to you, the more you will hear His agreement on your new nature.
 - a. God's agreement with our production of His fruit, makes our production exponentially more powerful.
 - i. God talks to us all day long.
 - ii. Being aware of God's presence keeps us in God's love all day.
 - iii. Jesus judges us as He hears from the Spirit, and when we tune Him in, we'll hear His judgment *before* we make the mistake (John 5:30, *AMPC*).

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- b. Our quality of life won't be the same without God's presence and His fruit.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Practice "checking in" with the Holy Spirit today. Every now and then, just pause and get quiet. Maybe you can express a quick prayer or praise, but take a moment to let Him speak to you. Remember, if you feel like you have a hard time "hearing from God," the Bible is God's Word speaking directly to you. The more you put it in your eyes, ears and heart, the more you will get to know His voice.

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DAY 4 – Fruit Has To Grow on a Tree

Your fullest expression of fruit starts with love. God is Love, so love is the tree that your fruit grows on. When you draw near to God and His Word in prayer, worship and developing in His Word, love is the natural result.

STUDY IT

- I. Fruit isn't fruit if it doesn't grow on a tree.
 - a. We have to cooperate with the Vine to allow God's fruit to grow.
 - b. Fruit is the harvest of walking in God's presence.
 - c. As Christians, we should be bearing God's fruit.
 - d. Sometimes it just takes time to develop in the expression of the fruit.
 - i. Our oneness with Jesus increases our swiftness in bearing His fruit.
 - ii. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).
- II. When you focus on Jesus, your whole self will exude His Spirit (Matthew 6:22).
 - a. If your eyes are on the problem, you won't have peace from the Peace-Giver.
 - b. When we are one with God, we have the fruit of the spirit—that explosive power from time with Him.
- III. The tree our fruit grows on is the love of God. Love is the first fruit.
 - a. If we don't yield to love, none of the other fruit will show up (1 Corinthians 13).
 - b. People's natural love is selfish.
 - i. You can't love in the healthiest way without God's love in you.
 - ii. Those loved by God let His love continually pour out of them (1 John 4:7).

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- c. God's love flowing from us is an indicator that we are followers of Him.
 - d. We have to stop cuddling up to unforgiveness, sorrow, unbelief and grief, and cuddle up with Jesus.
- IV. When we live in love, God is brought to the fullest expression in our lives. With His love, we look like Him in this world (1 John 4:16).
- a. Fruit is a harvest from love. It is, at its, core full of action.
 - b. The Holy Spirit is the very expression of Jesus' continual love for us.
 - c. Now, with the Holy Spirit, our nature can be to walk in love.
 - d. THE BLESSING follows the love of God.
- V. Love, joy and peace (the first three fruit) have to do with our relationship with God.
- a. Love, joy and peace come from a relationship with God and flow to other people as a result of communion with God.
 - b. If your faith's not working, check your love life. Love is the foundation and unifier of all the fruit.
 - i. Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8, *NKJV*).
 - ii. Strife brings in all Satan's works (James 3:16).
 - c. For love to manifest, you must spend time with God.
- VI. Drawing close to God in worship brings you to a new place of oneness with Him.
- a. God can diagnose and redirect you in your times of worship.
 - b. The more you worship, the more you begin to crave His presence.

Additional scriptures: Luke 11:34; 1 John 4; Galatians 5:22-23

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Take some time to worship God today, but ask God to show you *how* to go even deeper in your worship. Don't expect it to be worship as usual!

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DAY 5 – Eagerly Pursue Love

Love never fails. When you make it your business to focus on God's kingdom, you will not fail. Pursuing love and God's presence takes us to a life full of fruit!

STUDY IT

- I. Everything works by love (1 Corinthians 13, *AMPC*).
 - a. Remembering that love never fails will keep you out of trouble. Strife always fails.
 - b. Forgive whether you want to or not—it's a matter of your choice. Choose the love of God over every other option.
 - c. You can't walk in God's love without understanding how much God loves you. Time in God's presence will reveal His love for you.
 - d. Love will mature you to put away "childish thinking" (1 Corinthians 13:11).
 - e. The flesh produces works—toil and hardship. But time with God produces an outflow of love.
- II. Where is your focus (Philippians 3:20)?
 - a. Our passions are our business and labor.
 - i. Is your business the heavenly realm or the worldly realm?
 - ii. You don't have to be working in business by yourself.
 - b. God is continually subduing everything in us to Him.
 - c. No matter what the season, choose joy (Philippians 4:4).
 - i. You're united with the Joy-Giver, so choose joy.
 - ii. Don't focus on the problem; it will only get bigger. Get involved with the Answer.
 - d. Let gentleness be seen in every relationship. Fruit is seen (Philippians 4:5).

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- e. Be saturated in prayer each day (Philippians 4:6).
 - i. Prayer is not a one-sided conversation where you're doing all the talking.
 - ii. You'll get smarter if you let God do most of the talking.
 - iii. Live your life with God, always ready to hear what He says.
 - iv. Prayer is communication: talking and listening.
- f. Focus on pure, right, honorable and true things (Philippians 4:8, *NLT*). Keeping your thoughts in line with God's character and His Word keeps you in the love of God.
- g. You can't control what people do to you—but you can always control your reaction. Forgiveness is a seed of love that will never fail to work in your life.
 - i. Forgive if you have anything against anybody.
 - ii. If you're struggling with forgiveness, you know you haven't fully taken it to God. Bring your unforgiveness to God, because He's the Big Forgiver. He wants you free.

Additional scriptures: Philippians 4; Galatians 5:22-23

MAKE IT PERSONAL

This whole week, we have focused on developing the fruit of the spirit. It is a direct result of your time spent with God. Ask the Holy Spirit today how much uninterrupted time He'd like to spend with you today. Take that time, and give it to Him. Let Him talk to you about whatever *He* wants, and leave your problems, labors and business aside for that time. Write down the wonderful things He shares with you.

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