

## ☞ The Presence of the Holy Spirit

### Review: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not some “mystical force.” He is a person who works in you and can fill you, enabling you to live a godly life with power. He can give boldness for evangelism and He enables various spiritual gifts. Receiving the Holy Spirit is both an event and an ongoing process.

### Holy Spirit Prepositions

It is interesting to take note of various scriptures that refer to the Holy Spirit’s interaction with people. Did you know that there are three ways the Bible describes this interaction? It’s all in the prepositions.

In John 14:16-17, speaking of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told the disciples that he lives (currently) ☞ **with you** and will be (in the future) **in you**.

Then, in Acts 1:8, Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes **on you**.” Not only was the Holy Spirit “with” them, but he would be “upon” them.

Finally, in Acts 2:4 there is yet another word used regarding the Holy Spirit’s interaction with ☞ the disciples. Here, they are “**filled**” with the Spirit. I believe this is the fulfillment of Jesus’ words in John 14 that the Holy Spirit would eventually be “in” them.

So we see that the Holy Spirit has at least three ways of relating to people. There could be depth of meaning here, but the main idea for me is that we need to be consumed with God and the Holy Spirit. I want the Holy Spirit completely... with me; in me; and on me! We need to be filled with the Spirit!

### ☞ Galatians 5:22-23 (today’s key text)

the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

In this context “fruit” simply means the product of plant growth. We often think of fruit like apples, which come from a healthy apple tree. We can also use the word “fruit” in everyday circumstances. If I work hard I can enjoy the fruit of my labor in satisfaction as well as a paycheck. So, here we are talking about the fruit of the Spirit... **as the Spirit works in us he ☞ brings growth and health which ultimately produces fruit. It’s not the fruit of our efforts, it’s the fruit (result) of the Spirit working in us.**

*Years ago there was a study done by an agricultural school that considered all the details related to producing a crop of corn. They accounted for the farmer’s labor, but also added up the amount of water, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and various other elements involved. In addition to this there’s the fact that sunshine at the right time is critical. In the end it was estimated that only 5% of the produce of a farm can be attributed to the efforts of man. It’s the same idea when it comes to spiritual fruit.*

John 15:4

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

### ☞ **The Fruit of the Spirit is...**

#### **Love**

Goodwill that **always seeks the highest good of the other person**. Love is more than just a warm feeling. It's a commitment to another person for their benefit. People have a lot of strange ideas about what love really is, but the Bible paints a very clear picture...

#### ☞ **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

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. 8 Love never fails.

Love is the main thing. It is at the core of every other fruit listed here. If love prevails, then joy and peace come naturally. Love inspires patience, kindness and goodness. And love will also produce faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

*"What the world needs now is love..."*

#### ☞ **Joy**

*--Jack Hayford... Afflictions, trials, pressures or frustrations may come, but they cannot destroy us. We may genuinely hurt, we may weep, we may be tempted, we may not understand what God is allowing to come our way, but none of this causes us to lose God's focus in our life.*

*--Oswald Chambers... Happiness depends on what happens; joy does not.*

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus endured the cross with joy. He was doing God's will.

James 1:2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

☞ **Joy sees beyond the moment** and always remembers what God has in store for us. Jesus had joy, knowing the cross would produce salvation for humanity. When we think of the future, especially living eternally in God's kingdom, it sustains our joy.

*--Billy Sunday... If you have no joy in your religion, there's a leak in your Christianity somewhere.*

#### ☞ **Peace**

A state of **rest, quietness, and calmness**. It describes a state of perfect well-being and harmonious relationships.

*Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God.*

Proverbs 14:30

A heart at peace gives life to the body.

Psalms 119:165 (*comes from loving God's ways*)

Philippians 4:6-7 (*flows from prayer and thanks*)

*Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.*

### ☞ **Patience**

**To suffer long.** The ability to endure persecution and ill-treatment. **To exercise restraint instead of revenge.**

---Ulrike Ruffert... *Patience is the ability to put up with people you'd like to put down.*

---Bill Gothard... *Accepting a difficult situation without giving God a deadline to remove it.*

Patience is trusting God even in difficult circumstances. And patience, as they say, is "a virtue." Patience can keep us out of trouble...

---Chinese Proverb... *One moment of patience may prevent disaster; one moment of impatience may ruin a life.*

*Dear God, please grant me patience. And I want it right now.*

### ☞ **Kindness**

**Sweetness of disposition;** gentleness in dealing with others. The ability to act for the welfare of those who are testing your patience.

Ephesians 4:32 links kindness with forgiveness. That's ultimate act of kindness.

Luke 6:35 (*God is the example of kindness*)

love your enemies, do good to them... and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

*Funny thing about kindness: the more it's used the more you have of it.*

### ☞ **Goodness**

An intense inclination both to will and to do what is **moral, respectable and decent.**

Ephesians 2:10 says we were created for this.

Matthew 12:35 (*starts in the heart; comes out in actions*)

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him... *(This reminds us that it's a fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the good that is stored up in us.)*

Matthew 5:16 *(points people to God)*

let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

### ☞ **Faithfulness**

Trustworthiness; **reliability; dependability**. Are you reliable and dependable?

*You may depend on the Lord, but can he depend on you?*

*--James Howell... An acre of performance is worth the whole world of promise.*

☞ **Matthew 25:20-21** tells us that faithfulness is commended and rewarded by Jesus with those famous words... "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

*The world crowns success; God crowns faithfulness.*

### ☞ **Gentleness**

A disposition that is **even-tempered**, tranquil, and that has the passions under control. **Meekness**, which is strength under control. *(My mom and my wife are great examples)*

*--Jack Hayford... The person who possesses this quality pardons injuries, corrects faults, and rules his own spirit well.*

1 Peter 3:15 says we should share the gospel with gentleness and respect.

Galatians 6:1 tells us that this is needed in dealing with sin issues. "Restore him gently."

### ☞ **Self-control**

This describes the person who is able to **morally restrain** himself when tempted. To voluntarily abstain from anything which might hinder fulfilling God's will. Self-control can even be about restraining from things that are okay in order to fulfill God's calling.

*Henry Ward Beecher told of an acquaintance who barged into their home one day, his face flushed with anger. "He was in a terrible rage, supposing he had a serious grievance against us," said Beecher. "As the man aired all of his complaints, my father listened in complete silence. Then he said in a low tone, 'You only want to do what is right, don't you?' 'Certainly,' replied the disturbed visitor. Before anything could be explained, however, he again flew into a rage and restated his charge. Father then inquired gently, 'Brother, you are misinformed, wouldn't you be interested in knowing the true facts in the case?' When calmness was restored, our side of the story was quietly presented. The man cooled down as the circumstances were fully revealed. Meekly he said, 'Forgive me, Sir, forgive me! I was wrong!' My father had won a great victory. It was a lesson I never forgot, for it gave me an insight into the calming effect of Christian self-control."*

Colossians 2:20-3:2 explains that this doesn't come from making more rules for ourselves. Rather, it comes from the Spirit with a heart focused on heavenly, godly things. It actually says these words: *Set your hearts and minds on things above.*

This fruit is what all believers desire... Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This is the fruit of the Holy Spirit; not the fruit of trying harder to be a good Christian.

☞ **Let's prioritize spiritual matters.**  
**Let's pursue the Spirit's leadership in our lives.**  
**Then He will produce this good fruit in us.**

*-- Leadership Magazine... How do we know if we are "full of goodness" for example? Think a moment about a water-saturated sponge. If we push down with our finger even slightly, water runs out onto the table. We immediately know what fills the interior pockets of the sponge. The same is true of ourselves. We can tell what fills us on the inside by what comes out under pressure.*

And, if what comes out under pressure is not the fruit of the Spirit that we've talked about, ☞ then **we need more of the Holy Spirit in us!** We've been leaking too much and we need to get refilled!

☞ **Song: Holy Spirit (you are welcome here)**