

EVIDENCE GOD IS WORKING IN YOUR LIFE

You will recognize them by their fruits. (Matthew 7:16)

A. TWO CHALLENGES TO DEFINING PEOPLE BY THEIR FRUIT:

1. RELIGION/LLEGALISM: DEPENDENCY ON THE LAW TO SAVE

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. (Galatians 5:2-4)

2. SPIRITUAL/DEIFIED: I DECIDE WHAT IS GOOD OR TRUTH

Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²²Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. (Romans 1:21-22)

And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." (Matthew 19:17)

For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. (Romans 7:5)

B. SALVATION AND SPIRITUAL FRUIT COMES FROM CHRIST THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

¹Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ's death was made as clear to you as if you had seen a picture of his death on the cross. ²Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you believed the message you heard about Christ. ³How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now trying to become perfect by your own human effort? ⁴Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it? ⁵I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. (Galatians 3:1-5)

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I 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. (John 15:4,5)

C. CAN I BE SAVED AND HAVE BAD FRUIT IN MY LIFE?

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. (John 15:1-3)

¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (Matthew 7:16-20)

D. STRIVE TO LIVE FOR MORE.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and

very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith.... (2 Peter 1:3-5)

MEMORY VERSE

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5-6)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
(Galatians 5:22-24)

GOING DEEPER

1. What standard do you use to judge by? Is it different from the one you use on yourself?
2. Read through the Fruit of the Spirit list and evaluate the fruit in your life.
3. There are many lists in the Bible like the Fruit of the Spirit. Look up the Scripture below and others you know. Read over them and compare and contrast these lists.
(i.e. Matthew 5:1-11; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Romans 1:16-32.)