

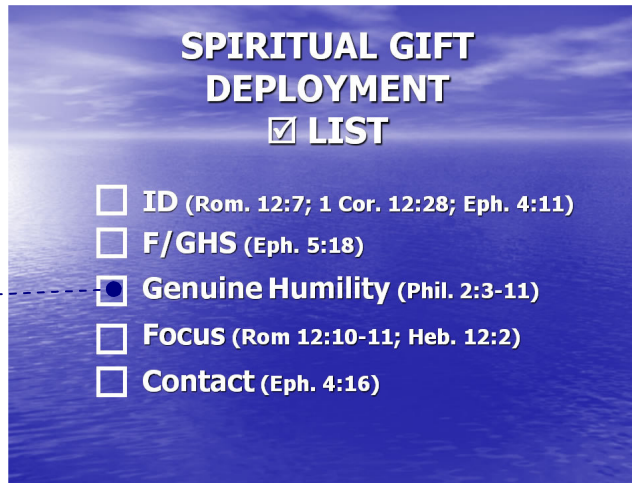
SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Class #46 – Sunday AM1 September 23, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. . .



Genuine Humility

Genuine Humility is manifest in the believer as he depends upon the Lord!

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

- The love of Christ motivates the believer to employ his spiritual gift for the benefit of others because the love of Christ does not seek its own, but looks out for the interest of others.
- Genuine Humility is crucial because the believer who is genuinely humble does not think he can meet the high standards of grace he is called to in the word of God.
- Therefore, the genuinely humble believer walks dependently upon God the Holy Spirit to enable him to live the spiritual life.
- As he learns to walk by the Spirit, the love of Christ is produced by the Spirit of God in his life.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the **fruit** of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- **Spirit** – πνεῦμα – PNEUMA – A reference to *God the Holy Spirit*
- **Fruit** – καρπός – KARPOS – “*Fruit, spiritual fruit*”

Ephesians 3:19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

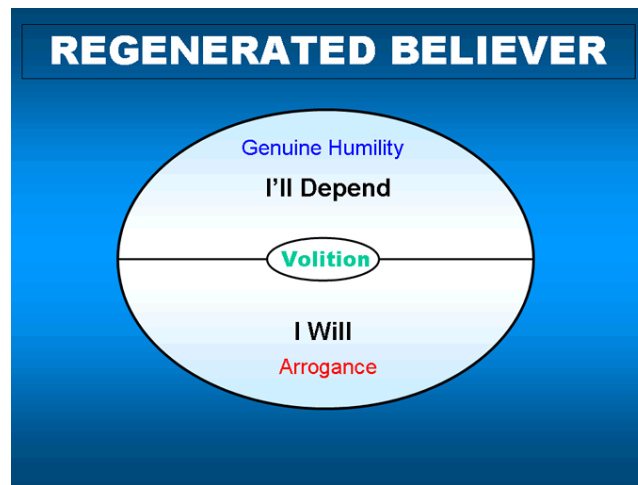
- “The love of Christ . . . surpasses knowledge” because it is produced by the Spirit.
- “The love of Christ . . . surpasses knowledge” because it is manifested in the life of the believer by the Spirit.

Philippians 4:7 And the **peace** of God, which surpasses **all comprehension**, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- **Peace** - ὑπερέχω – HUPERECHO – “Rise above, go beyond, surpass, excel”
- **Mind** - νοῦς – NOUS – Goes beyond all “understanding or intellect”

This peace is manifested in the life of the believer by the Spirit.

Not all believers – but certainly those who have learned to walk by the Spirit



It is His peace that passes all understanding!

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

It “will guard your hearts and your minds” during times of suffering.

POD: Spiritual fruit surpasses knowledge and understanding because it is produced by God the Holy Spirit (**Gal 5:22 cf. Eph. 3:19; Phil 4:7**).

-- POD review --

Stop depending on your notes! Rather, let the Spirit teach you.

- 1) POD: The love of Christ, impels the believer to employ his spiritual gift for the benefit of fellow believers [*because it does not seek its own*] (**Gal 5:22 cf. 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Cor. 12:7**).
- 2) POD: Without the love of Christ being manifested in our lives, our service profits us nothing because we are not being used by the Spirit (**1 Cor. 13:2-3**).
- 3) POD: The believer always has the potential to experience the love of Christ being manifested in his life by the Spirit.

The believer is spiritually regenerated - - indwelt by God the Holy Spirit.

4) POD: Experiencing the love of Christ is predicated on the believer living in proper adjustment to the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit.



Walk by the Spirit

Led by the Spirit

Living by the Spirit

Follow His lead

[Galatians 5:16-5:25]

John 15:1-11 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

- **Vinedresser** – γεωργός – **GEORGOS** - “the farmer” who tends to the soil or vine.

The Father [*the Vinedresser*] expects fruit to be manifested on the branches of the vine.

² “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.”

- Pruning is analogous to suffering and testing in the spiritual life.
- Suffering or testing for blessing!

POD: Suffering is designed to produce more fruit in the life of the believer.

- Suffering or testing is something the branch cannot resist.
- The believer is to yield to the suffering or testing – he must turn it over to the Lord.
- The believer must allow himself to be pruned.
- When the believer reacts to the suffering or testing, he is suppressing the Spirit of God.

Suffering is designed to produce more fruit in the life of the believer by providing an environment where the branch must draw more from the vine.

POD: Suffering [testing] is designed to produce more fruit by increasing one's dependence upon God.

John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may **bear more fruit.**"



ὁ καρπὸν φέρον
every branch that bears fruit,
φέρω - PHERO - Indicates the branch is "bearing fruit"
He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

καρπὸν πλείονα φέρη
A greater amount of fruit is then produced!

Φέρω
Each believer has the potentiality of bearing a greater amount of fruit!

POD: A greater amount of fruit is contingent upon the branch's dependence upon the vine.

As the branch depends upon the vine, so the believer draws upon Christ's strength to do all things.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

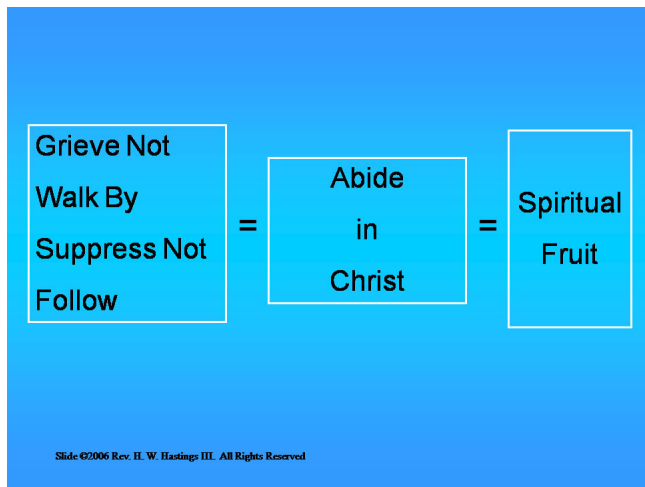
³ "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- The Word of God has this cleansing property about it.

⁴ "**Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide [*are abiding*] in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

- ➤ **Abide** – μένω – MENO – "To remain, to stay, to continue to live"

The believer must choose to draw upon the grace that Christ has provided us.



Abide in Christ.

⁷“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you . . .

Equation of the Spiritual life

John 2:24 “. . . Spirit and truth”

⁷“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

The life of Jesus Christ was a life of dependence.

John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.”

The Joy of Christ is manifested by the Spirit in the life of the believer.

The production of spiritual fruit in our lives is a process.

- During that pruning process the believer must cooperate with God.
- During that pruning process God draws the believer into greater dependence upon Himself and His Word.

2 Cor. 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."

- During that pruning process your prayer life will mature.

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

- Our prayer life matures in situations where we are left with no alternative but to depend upon God to deliver us through the pruning process.
- Trusting in Him during those times should become a life of trust.
- Trusting in Him – always - is a walk of dependence upon the Spirit.

Bearing fruit is a process – it takes time.

As you abide, fruit will be manifested in your life by the Spirit.

Fruit in the sense of “. . . the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge.”

And as we abide, “The peace of God . . . will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:7

Fruit in the sense of your spiritual gift being manifested!

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.