

Fruits of the Spirit, Gifts of the Spirit.

I will try in two different pictures to describe the difference to you of the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit.

The reason why I want to talk about this is that from time to time I listen to other Christians, and one may say “Oh, no I do not speak in tongues”, and then they follow up with, “but I do have love”. Or “I am merciful, but I cannot prophesy”. Or “I cannot heal, that is not my gift, but I have self-control”.

And in my understanding the fruits and the gifts are two different things, and we can pursue them in different ways.

Prayer

Remember God is one, His salvation comes only through the Son Jesus Christ and the fact that He gave His life on the cross to save us from our sins and reunite us with the Father. He had to do this because we are sinners and God is holy and clean. We were not clean before our salvation and that is why we need to get cleansed by His Blood. To be able to be near Him. That is His ultimate plan to reunite us with Him.

Some people confuse fruits of the Spirit and gifts of the Spirit by talking about them both in the same sentence and circumstance like they have the same value or mean the same thing. I can assure you they are not the same thing; they cannot be compared to each other like we compare cars or houses. Fruits are a result of long process, a gift is something received, and we need to open it, maybe read the manual and decide to start using it.

Fruits of the Spirit is something that will grow in us as we spend time with the Holy Spirit, worshipping God, praying, doing quiet time, prioritizing the secret place, surround us with believers, go to church, pray, fast. By seeking all these things, the love of Christ and that fact that He loves to be with us will transfer us into being more like Him. So, and then the fruits will start to come, not because we produced them ourselves, but because the process behind give us a product or a fruit if you will.

The process of growing fruit:

The process of growing fruits of the Spirit is like this. A tree planted in a garden. The first years the tree is left alone, the caretaker makes sure it has good soil, plenty of fertilizer and basically leaves the tree to grow big enough to start to prune and prepare the tree to produce fruit.

After some time the gardener sees that the tree is big enough and then he makes sure the tree is pruned, maybe he has to bind the branches, maybe he has to get rid of some pest and maybe there comes some harmful insects that he needs to get rid of.

And then in the end after several years he makes sure there are pollinators: bees that brings the pollen from one flower to another. And in this moment the pollination takes place the ground is fully prepared for some fruit to grow. (I think we can compare this to the point where the Word of the Lord melts together with our spirit and goes from “head knowledge” to Heart knowledge.)

From this point on if the groundwork is finished, the gardener still has to make sure no sickness or insects steals the fruit before it is fully ripe. And then, oh rejoice, the fruit is ready to be enjoyed.

What a feast, what a party, what a joy both in the heavenlies and on earth. The fruit can now be seen and enjoyed by everyone. Like patience, like joy, like being good, like self-control.

Galatians 5:22&23

22. But the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives is: love, joy, peace, not giving up, being kind, being good, having faith, 23. being gentle, and being the boss over our own desires. The Law is not against these things.

From what I can see in the Bible we have 9 fruits and 6 gifts.

*The **fruits** are Galatians 5:22-23, and the **gifts** are 1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

1.Christian brothers, I want you to know about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You need to understand the truth about this. 2.You know that before you were Christians you were led to worship false gods. None of these gods could speak. 3.So I tell you that no one speaking by the help of the Holy Spirit can say that he hates Jesus. No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Kinds of Gifts

4.There are different kinds of gifts. But it is the same Holy Spirit who gives them. 5.There are different kinds of work to be done for Him. But the work is for the same Lord. 6.There are different ways of doing His work. But it is the same God who uses all these ways in all people. 7.The Holy Spirit works in each person in one way or another for the good of all. 8.One person is given the gift of teaching words of wisdom. Another person is given the gift of teaching what He has learned and knows. These gifts are by the same Holy Spirit. 9.One person receives the gift of faith. Another person receives the gifts of healing. These gifts are given by the same Holy Spirit. 10.One person is given the gift of doing powerful works. Another person is given the gift of speaking God's Word. Another person is given the gift of telling the difference between the Holy Spirit and false spirits. Another person is given the gift of speaking in special sounds (tongues). Another person is given the gift of telling them what these special sounds mean. 11.But it is the same Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, who does all these things. He gives to each person as He wants to give.

The Trees:

When I compare these two different effects on our lives as Christians I see them as two different trees. One is a tree with flowers and the fruits, this tree has the fruits of the Spirit, but the other tree is like a decorated Christmas tree. On the branches there is small packages hanging there for us to open. One is red, one is blue, they all have ribbons and tape we have to remove to see the exact content of the package. And in some of the presents there is even a guide on how or when to use it. This is of course the word of God. The presents on this tree is the gifts of the Spirit: healing, prophecies, tongues and so on.

Example of the carpenter:

If you are going to hire a carpenter for a job in your house, major redecorating. And he shows up with just a hammer and a box of nails. Wouldn't you hesitate to hire him, as you would expect some more tools, wouldn't you? You would like him to come more prepared.

Example of the warrior:

Or if you were going to war summoning the warriors from all over the land and upon inspection you see that some of them come without their weapons. One is short of his sword, one is short of his bow and arrow, one is without his horse. Would you be willing to send them into the fight. I guess not, because surely they will be killed. You expect them to come prepared and armoured as you requested. This is just two different ways to look at the gifts of the Spirit. They are gifts, yes, and it is up to us to unwrap them together with the Holy Spirit either we are going to work or we are going to war. The fruits and the gifts are there to equip us as best God can. But it is up to us to do the unwrapping, to desire the gifts and have the courage to ask Him for them.

And why should we do it? So we can protect ourselves our families, to stand in the gap for our nations, to go to work fully prepared and equipped to do the work in the most effective way.

The Nine Gifts of the Spirit:

In the Bible we can find nine different gifts from the Spirit. I think it is wise to divide these into three categories.

The First Category I will say, and in the same manner as Derec Prince: These contains the spirit of revelation: Words of wisdom, Words of knowledge, Discerning of spirits, these have to do with letting us know what God knows and what He want us to know.

Second Category: The gifts of power: faith, gifts of healing, ability to perform miracles. We can say that these gifts have to do with the service of the evangelist. These are to confirm and demonstrate the power of God.

Third Category: Vocal gifts. Prophetic speech, tongues, interpretation. These gifts give revelation, I mean an understanding that is above human understanding.

These are to build up the church, demonstrate the presence of the Holy Spirit. Tongues and interpretation are a direct confirmation from the Lord of His presence and that He knows everything that goes on in people's lives. This can also release the power of God into a situation.

All these gifts can be experienced through human senses: we see, feel, hear, smell with our senses, and they are all supernatural, God's sovereignty, who lifts us out of our natural being and into the supernatural, helps us lift our eyes towards the heavenlies and not circumstances.

All the gifts are given to us as members of the church, for the common good, by the same spirit, TO EACH ONE!

They are not given to special people, but to everyone. Of course, some people have a special calling and the calling comes with a special set of equipment or gifts to fulfill the task. But I honestly think that all the gifts are given to everyone, and it is up to us to unwrap, develop, use, and master the gifts in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, and according to the faith given to us.

Heidi Baker has a saying like this: the hungry always get fed.

So if you meet someone who is hungry for God and you are willing to be the channel from heaven to a lost lamb of God, Our Father can use you for healing, He can use you for word of knowledge, He can give you powers to perform miracles.

And this is not by our own understanding it is by the grace of God, by being willing to submit to His will, to serve a fellow man, a human being in need and distress.

Set your own self aside and decide to obey. And you will by the grace of our Father experience the power flowing through you for the good of us all.

And when you have done this not only will your fellow man have a great testimony, but so will you, and your testimony will strengthen us all and give God glory. Hallelujah and amen.

And if you still feel how can God use me for anything?

Remember all the different people God has used throughout time. Me for example, my husband for example, Moses - a killer, David - an adulterer, Rahab - a prostitute, Thomas - the ultimate doubter.

When we let God grab hold of us, He will change everything, we do not longer live for ourselves- we live for Him - we owe Him everything.

So step out of the boat and onto the water. Fasten your eyes on Him and He will help you!