

WALK 103

Following Jesus in Discipleship

How do you know you're growing spiritually? *By your fruit!*

Galatians 5:19-24:

¹⁹ *Now the practices of the sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions that promote heresies, envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit, the result of His presence within us, is love – unselfish concern for others – joy, inner peace, patience – not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting – kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites.*

- Godly fruit is visible – whether good or bad – “clearly evident” (v. 19).
- Godly fruit does not originate in our HANDS, but in our HEART – “But the fruit of the Spirit, the result of His presence within us, is love...” (v. 22).
- Godly fruit is produced in God’s timing – we are to be patient and trust Him (22).

John 15:4-6:

Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself without remaining in the vine, neither can you bear fruit, producing evidence of your faith unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for otherwise apart from Me – that is, cut off from vital union with Me – you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a broken-off branch, and withers and dies; and they gather such branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

- Godly fruit is produced because of our intimate walk with Jesus – “*Remain in Me, and I will remain in you...Neither can you bear fruit...unless you remain in Me*” (John 15:4).
- Godly fruit is spiritually infused OR it is worthless – “...bears MUCH fruit, for otherwise apart from Me...you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

1 Corinthians 3:

However, brothers and sisters, I could not talk to you as to spiritual people, but only as to worldly people dominated by human nature, mere infants in the new life in Christ!

² I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Even now you are still not ready. You are still worldly, still controlled by ordinary impulses and the sinful capacity. For as long as there is jealousy and strife and discord among you, are you not unspiritual, and are you not walking like ordinary men, entirely unchanged by faith?

⁴ For when one of you says, "I am a disciple of Paul," and another, "I am a disciple of Apollos," are you not proving yourselves unchanged, just ordinary people?

⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Just servants through whom you believed in Christ, even as the Lord appointed to each his task. I planted, Apollos watered, but God all the while was causing the growth.

⁷ So neither is the one who plants nor the one who waters anything, but only God who causes the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one in importance and esteem, working toward the same purpose; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers, His servants working together; you are God's cultivated field, His garden, His vineyard, God's building. According to the remarkable grace of God which was given to me, to prepare me for my task, like a skillful master builder I laid a foundation, and now another is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds on it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will be clearly shown for what it is; for the day of judgment will disclose it, because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire tests the quality, character and worth of each person's work.

¹⁴ If any person's work which he has built on this foundation, that is, any outcome of his effort remains and survives this test, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ But if any person's work is burned up by the test, he will suffer the loss of his reward; yet he himself will be saved, but only as one who has barely escaped through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know and understand that you the church are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells permanently in you, collectively and individually?

¹⁷ If anyone destroys the temple of God, corrupting it with false doctrine, God will destroy the destroyer; for the temple of God is holy and sacred, and that is what you are.

¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool, discarding his worldly pretensions and acknowledging his lack of wisdom, so that he may become truly wise.

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness, absurdity, stupidity, before God; for it is written in Scripture, "He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE and CLEVER IN THEIR CRAFTINESS;" and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE THOUGHTS of the humanly wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."

²¹ So let no one boast in men about their wisdom, having this or that one as a leader. For all things are yours, whether Paul, Apollos or Peter or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things are yours, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

- Godly fruit will produce more Godly fruit (7)
- Godly fruit will expose prideful, personal, fruit (17-20)
- Godly fruit results in Godly teamwork, unity, vision, direction (21)