"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"

Introduction:

1. Who do you know that is "spiritual"? Why do you say so?

   a. Is it because of an emotional aura or miraculous claim or because they "talk a good game"?

   b. No! It is because of the quality of life: character, personality, and function.

   c. Fruits of the spirit are outcroppings of a God-centered life vs. gifts of the Spirit which are God's tools for His task (like Balaam's donkey) and do not depend on the "God-centered life".

2. But we can have a problem.

   a. "The spiritual strong do good things, so if I am to be strong, I will do good things."

   b. But there is no short-cut. (Livingston and his "prayer path".)

   c. Doing without being is impossible.

      - (See contrast "works" - what we do - and "fruits" - what God does) Gal. 5:19ff.

      - We must expose ourselves to the source of power.


I. The Christ-like Character:

   A. In foundation attributes.


      2. Three relationships:

         a. To God - (faith, knowledge).

         b. To man - (love, patience, gentleness).

         c. To self - (joy, peace, goodness, self-control).

      3. Note: The fruit of the spirit is "character vs. emotion or miracle".
B. In beautiful personality. Psa. 29:2.

1. "Grace" (Eph. 1:2, etc.) "loveliness of personality".
   a. Hymn - "By looking to Jesus".
   c. The real beauty is tested in old age or suffering.

   a. Heb. 13:1-3 - "even strangers".
   b. "Selfish home is miserable."

II. The life of selfless service:

A. In meeting Men's needs - Matt. 16:23-24.
B. In "Healing" within Christ's body - Eph. 1:22-23.
C. In tongues that tell for Him - Psa. 107:2.
   1. Spilling over with praise - Psa. 19:7-9; Eph. 1:3.
   2. Flaming zeal for souls - Jno. 15:2; 2:17; Isa. 6.

III. The heart that longs for Heaven:

A. Paul - Phil. 1:23-24; II Tim. 4:6-8.
C. And Us???

Conclusion:

1. Change and decay bring frustration and sorrow - Rom. 8:6a.
2. Reality is "intangible" - I Jno. 2:17; Rom. 8:6b.
3. Why not move to a new world?!!