

Don Brackbill, Jr.
Devotional – Bearing Spiritual Fruit

In our back yard there is a grapefruit tree. No matter what time of year I go out to the tree, I can never find apples on it (I am not a grapefruit fan...and would much rather have apples). But in spring, winter, summer or fall, all there ever is on the tree is grapefruit. Apparently, the kind of tree it is determines what kind of fruit is brought forth.

The same is true in our spiritual lives as well. Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV) says,

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

The Spirit produces specific things in the life of the believer – He brings about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Allowing the Spirit to produce his fruit in our lives will produce nothing else except these.

No matter how hard you may try to cast off patience (by being impatient) or refuse to be self-controlled (by being impulsive), if the Spirit is producing fruit, it will be patient and self-controlled (along with all the other fruits he produces).

As a believer follows the Spirit (and allows the Spirit to have full control over life) these attributes (fruit) will be produced in our lives. Not because we can be these things but because the Spirit can only be these things in us. So today, live in the Spirit. Don't go looking for other fruit – let Him produce in you his wondrous fruit!

Dear Spirit: Produce in me the great fruit of your character. Allow me to experience your fruitfulness in my life today. Amen.