

TALK IT OVER

Known by Our Fruit

BOTTOM LINE

Evidence of a Spirit-filled life is the fruit of the Spirit.

CONVERSATION STARTER

If you could spend an entire expense-paid month away from home during the winter, where would it be?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/thedaily
- [The Fruit of the Spirit Explained](#) by Dr. David Jeremiah (2 min.)

VERSES AND QUOTES

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Matthew 7:16-18 NIV

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself. John 15:4 NIV

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

“If the Spirit of God fills your life, the character of God begins to show up in your life.”

“The greatest evidence of being filled is not a moment – it is a maturing life.”

“God is more committed to your growth than you are. And the goal is a life that looks like Jesus.”
– Quotes by Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

When the Spirit fills us, fruit grows naturally. We don't manufacture fruit; we bear it. How does that compute with your frustrations and efforts to be more patient or more joyful, etc.? Why are we so often reluctant to agree that “fruit reveals nature” (i.e. We excuse bad fruit in people on our “team” and ourselves.) Filled means controlled and continuous. Discuss each word and their significance to being filled. Fruit shows up most clearly when life is not smooth and easy. Unfortunately, we leave lasting impressions at least as much on our worst day as our best day. What is the appropriate action when we have blown it? Fortunately, Jesus is not talking about occasional mistakes. He's talking about consistent direction. Consistent failure means the tree needs to change, because the consistent fruit of a tree tells what it truly is. Discuss. Fruit is first the result of that new nature. Identity precedes behavior, then from abiding in Christ. What does it look like to abide? What fruit of the Spirit have you gratefully seen grow in you? Is God speaking to you about any fruit in your life that is lacking? Since you know it is not your job to GROW fruit but to BEAR it, what is your responsibility? The goal is to make us like Jesus. How can I participate best in that process?

ACTION STEP

My goal is to be filled with the Spirit, bear good fruit, and become more like Jesus. I will position myself for that to happen by ... _____