How can we "grieve" or bring sorrow to the Holy Spirit?

What can we do each day to help us live and walk in the Spirit?

God so wants to bless us in every way! He knows how hard it is to live in this dark world and culture that neither honors Him nor thanks Him for who He is and all He does for us. Aren't we thankful for the Holy Spirit to show us the way in the light of Truth?!

1 Corinthians 2:12 tells us "We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us". AMEN to that!

But, the Holy Spirit has another important role in our lives. He ADMINISTERS the fruit of the Spirit. Yes, this is a very special and specific role of the Spirit in our lives.

Let's take a look at the different fruit of the Spirit and what they mean in our lives.

- * Love...... thinking of others before ourselves
- * Joy..... we have an attitude of gladness, happiness
- * Peace...... feeling safe and secure inside ourselves
- * Patience..... we're willing to wait
- * Kindness..... helping others when you don't have to
- * Goodness..... we practice good behavior
- * Faithfulness.. we can be trusted and depended on
- * Gentleness... respectful and caring actions and speech
- * Self-control.. not speaking nor behaving without thinking about the results

We're going to take each one and look carefully at it. We want to see how we can best have these fruit flowing through us as we live free in the forgiveness of Christ.

The Holy Spirit has given us "Everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge (knowing) him" He did this for us so that we can be part of God's nature and escape the sin in the world. (2 Peter 1:3-4)

When we are "born again" in Christ He gives us everything we need "so that in all things at all ______, having all that you _____ you will " grow in "every good ______."

2 Corinthians 9:8. The Holy Spirit has brought to us all that we need to escape living in the sin of this world and our culture.

But who among us has stumbled, tripped or even fallen in our weakness. Certainly I have. In Galatians 6:1 the Apostle Paul tells us that if any believers are "caught in sin" we are to "gently" bring them back to the body of Christ, the church.

No Christian should ever think that he or she wouldn't need help from other Christian friends. Also we are all to help others in the body of the church. Have you ever needed help when you felt yourself slipping into actions, behaviors or even attitudes that were not pleasing to God? Share that if you would like.

Have you ever reached out to a Christian friend to "gently" speak about something that looked like behavior that would not be pleasing to God? What were the RESULTS?

We of course should always take the lead of the Holy Spirit in such matters. We are told in 1 Corinthians 2:16 that "we have the mind of Christ".

If we are spiritually MATURE and are Spirit filled the Holy Spirit will show us how to approach our Christian brother or sister. We are not to do this without much prayer and asking for the guidance of the Spirit. Only the Spirit can change a person's heart. We are not able to do that on our own. But we can be used by the Spirit to help another Christian look at what he/she is doing and put it under the light of the Spirit for truth. We are not to judge others but to judge a situation in light of the Spirit.

But what about those who are not Christians. Those without the Holy Spirit in them. The "natural man", man without the Spirit, cannot understand the things of the Spirit. They are foolishness to him because he only follows his physical, worldly, "natural instincts". Romans 8:5-9 This person needs the "new birth" in Christ. Pray for them often.

It is hard for us as Christians to understand why our family members or friends or others cannot understand the things of God. Those without Christ are spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1) and separated from the Spirit of God. We as believers struggle with this truth. We must pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Only He can change them.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14 we are told that the RESPONSIBILITY of REVIVAL and the healing of our nation can only be done "If my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

God expects unsaved people to sin. But we as believers are to humble ourselves and pray for our country's revival. Our countries need our prayers for healing even if there are gangs, bars, gambling halls, "crack houses" and abortion clinics. It is our responsibility as believers to seek God in changing all that.

We have learned that a "natural" man or woman lives by their natural desires because they are not filled with the Holy Spirit. How does a spirit-filled man or woman live?

- *She judges "things that come from the Spirit" Situations not people.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
- * She "who are spiritual" should restore one who has fallen. Galatians 6:1
- * She has the "mind of Christ" open to those things which "no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived".
- * She "lives in the Spirit", is "led by the Spirit" keeps "in step with the Spirit" is "filled with the Spirit" and "seeks the Spirit".

Spirituality depends on our "YIELDEDNESS" to the Holy Spirit's control. To be yielded is always the choice to SURRENDER. It doesn't come "naturally". What comes naturally is sin for all of us. This is from our old nature. Surrender must be a daily choice. We can be spiritual one day and not the next. We can be spiritual one morning and not that night. How will we ever know we are "in the Spirit"? By the fruit of the Spirit. Next lesson we will begin to look at each of those fruit and "grow in the knowledge" of the Lord.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

IS THERE A LESSON TO LEARN? We and others will know we are Spirit-filled by the fruit of the Spirit flowing through us.

WHAT DID GOD SHOW US TODAY?

- 1)We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God.1 Cor.2:12
- 2) Without the Spirit you cannot understand the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:9.

What steps can you take each day to live and walk in the Spirit?

- 3) The Holy Spirit gives us all that we need to escape living in the sin. 2 Corinthians 9:8.
- 4) Spirituality depends on surrendering to the Holy Spirit's control. Galatians 5:16-17.

1)	2)	
3)	4)	
Prayer Request:		

Word Study:

- 1) administers:to manage, have charge of, to supervise. The Spirit administers the fruit.
- 2) benefit: something good, made to help someone. The benefit of the Spirit is the fruit.
- 3) mature: to be complete in growth and development. The Spirit matures believers.
- 4) purposes: the reason for which something is done, made or used. The fruit has purpose
- 5) responsibility: something in your control or power; able to make moral decisions and be responsible for them. It is our responsibility to seek and learn God's Word.
- 6) results: the outcome, what develops because of a given act or action. Results are in.
- 7) revival: to make awake, renew, recover in a church or community, the interest in and care for matters of personal religion. The church's revival will depend on the believers.
- 8) surrender:to give up, abandon or leave, to yield, to submit to power. Surrender to God
- 9) yieldedness: to give up or surrender, to give over to God, our higher authority. To be yielded to the Holy Spirit is to submit to God as our Almighty Lord and Savior.

who i am in CHRiST

because of what he has done

Because Jesus died, he can offer forgiveness. Because Jesus rose from the dead, he can give us life and victory. Forgiveness, life, and victory give us identity. We now live forgiven, abundant and victorious lives. Our lives are not perfect since we still experience pain and suffering. However, our hope is firm because it is based on Jesus' victory over death.

I am forgiven.

Eph. 1:6-8; Rom. 8:1, 38

All my sins are forgiven before God. God will not condemn me for:

- · Bad things I have done.
- · Good things I have left undone.
- · Evil things I have said.
- · Wrong things I have thought.

I am reconciled with God.

Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18–19; Col. 1:21–22; Heb. 10:19–22

- · I have been reunited with God.
- · The anger that was between us is gone.
- Because of Jesus, I now have free access to God.

I am rescued.

Matt. 20:28: 1 Tim. 2:5-6

- I have been rescued from a lifethreatening situation.
- Jesus paid the ransom for my life with his own life.
- · Sin no longer holds my life hostage.

I am redeemed.

Eph. 1:13–14; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18

- I have had my life debt covered, and my future holds an inheritance from God.
- My life is no longer a worthless debt to
- I now look forward to rich meaning and purpose in God's future plan for me.

I am free.

John 8:32-36; Rom. 6:22-23; Gal. 4:7; 5:1

- · I have been set free.
- · I am no longer a slave to sin.

I am bought with a price and belong to God.

1 Cor. 6:19-20; 7:23

- · I have been paid for by God.
- · God owns me.
- · I no longer belong to myself.
- · My old way of life no longer owns me.

I am known by God.

Rom. 8:29: 2 Tim. 2:19

- I have been known and cared about all along.
- God has been watching out for me from the beginning.
- · God has cared for me from day one.

I am chosen.

Rom. 8:30; Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 2:9

- · I have been hand picked by God.
- My salvation was not accidental. God intended it for me.
- God called me out for salvation, even though I do not deserve it.

I am justified before God.

Rom. 3:23-26, 5:1, 8:1, 30

- God has declared me innocent because of Christ.
- Jesus has won my case by paying my penalty for me.
- · I have been acquitted of all my crimes.

I am accepted.

Rom. 15:7; Eph. 1:4-6; 1 Peter 2:10

- · I have been welcomed by God.
- · I am no longer rejected.
- · I am no longer an outsider.

I am saved.

Rom. 5:8–10; 7:13–25; Eph. 2:1–10; Col. 1:13

I have been rescued:

- · From God's just anger.
- · From sin.
- · From myself.
- · From death.
- · From Satan and a sinful system.

I am alive.

Rom. 6:11; 8:9-11; Eph. 2:4-5

- · I have received new life from God.
- My spirit has been brought to life and will never be dead again.
- My body will be made new after I die and I will live forever.
- I have new meaning and purpose and a new way of looking at life.

I am loved.

Rom. 5:5; 8:39; 1 John 3:16; 4:19

- · God deeply loves me.
- I know this because he has given me his most precious gift—his Son, Jesus.
- I know that I am loved because God's Spirit of love is in my heart.

I am taken care of.

John 6:37; Phil. 1:6; 4:19

- · I am secure in God's hands.
- I will not be abandoned; God will complete his work in me.
- God will supply all that I need.

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1 C 1 . 1 . 1

who God created me to be

God created all things, visible and invisible. Because he is the creator, he is also the rightful owner of all things. In addition to being the rightful owner, God also rules over all of creation; his authority is final.

But how did we arrive here? Let's trace the story from the beginning...

I am a creature.

Gen. 2:7

God made me.

- · Like a potter, God crafted me.
- · God made me with skill and intention.
- · I am complex and complicated.
- · I have God's life-breath in me.

I am like God.

Gen. 1:26-27

God made me more than just an animal.

- · I am made in God's image.
- I am made to relate to God and others in love

I am known.

Psalm 130- Jer 1-5

God made me and knew me before I was born.

- · God made me.
- God knew me while I was still in the womb.
- God knows me better than I know myself.

I am made to be God's caretaker of his creation.

Gen. 1:26-31; 2:15-17

God made me for caring responsibility.

- I am made to help God in his ruling of creation.
- · I am made to care for his earth.

I am made to relate to his creation.

Gen. 2:19-24

God made me to relate to his entire

- I am made to love humans just as God loves me.
- I am made to love and enjoy God's creatures and nature.

I am made for thankful, obedient worship to God.

Gen. 1:28-30; 2:16-17

God made me to glorify and enjoy him forever.

- I am made to praise God by doing what he intended for me.
- I am made to enjoy myself as I enjoy

image of God

In Genesis 1:27, the Bible says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." What is the image of God? The Bible says that Jesus is the perfect image of God (see Col. 2:9 and Heb. 1:3). However, Christians have understood this concept in three different though complementary ways:

- 1. The qualities and attributes that distinguish humanity from the animals. Some of these qualities are: reason, will, personality, etc.
- 2. The ability to be in a relationship with God. This relationship constitutes the image of God in us.
- 3. The caring of God's creation is what demonstrates God's image in human beings.

It is possible that all three things are involved in what the image of God is. Humans are the image of God because they are able to relate to God, to each other, and to God's creation. In addition, humans represent God in this creation. When humans are reconciled with God, the abundant life that results allows the image of God to come through more clearly.



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• Who I Am in Christ

The Apostle Paul

The Apostle Paul is one of the great champions of the faith and worthy of imitation (1 Cor. 4:16). Paul candidly spoke about his past: a past full of pride and violence. He strongly contrasted the person he was, what he valued and what gave him meaning, with the person he became after his encounter with the risen Christ. His value, his goal and meaning for life were linked to Christ.

Paul before and after

Gal. 1:13-14: Phil. 3:4-6

before, I was...

- · born a Jew
- · a Roman citizen
- · circumcised on the eighth day
- · of the tribe of Benjamin
- · a Pharisee
- · persecutor of the church
- · zealous for the tradition of my ancestors

now, I am...

- · an apostle of Christ
- · an apostle to the Gentiles
- a new person, all of my ancestry and ethnic background is worthless compared to the value of Christ
- a prisoner of Jesus
- · a slave to everyone

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of Bod, who loved me and gave himself for me.

who i am and who i will be in CHRiST

The story of the Bible does not end on the cross. In fact, the cross opened new possibilities. The goal of the biblical story is not just the salvation of humanity through the gracious work of Jesus on the cross. God desires to redeem and restore all of his creation. The conclusion of this magnificent story is the creation of new heavens and new earth. All things will be made new! In that new creation, God will make things the way they should be.

I am a new creature.

2 Cor. 5:1-5, 16-19; Phil. 3:20-21

- I have had a total makeover of my mind and spirit and my new body is on order.
- My inner self has been recreated after a new model of human being—Jesus.
- My body will be made new after the pattern of Jesus' resurrected body.

I am born of God.

John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:29; 1 John 4:7

- · I have been born into God's family.
- I am now a child of God after the likeness of Jesus.
- Jesus is the "firstborn" example from the dead of what I shall be in the resurrection.

I am adopted of God.

Rom. 8:15; Eph. 1:5; Heb. 2:10-12

- · God has selected me to be his child.
- · I am no longer an orphan.
- · Jesus is my older brother.
- Because of him, I now share in the glory of being God's child.

I am a child of the promise.

Rom. 9:8; Gal. 4:23

- I am a child of Abraham, a promised child.
- I am a spiritual descendant of the father of faith.
- I am called to carry on this spiritual heritage in the world.

I am Jesus' friend.

John 15:15

- · Jesus considers me his friend.
- I am a servant of Jesus Christ, yet he calls me friend.

I am a citizen of heaven.

Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20

- I belong with all those through history who have loved God.
- I am a member of God's heavenly kingdom.
- · My true identity is with the people of God.



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I am blessed with every spiritual blessing.

Eph. 1:3; 2:7

- I have all that can be had of God's treasures.
- I have been given unfathomable riches in Christ.
- It will take the rest of eternity to unfold all these blessings.

I am God's workmanship.

Eph. 2:10

- · I am a work of art.
- I have been made by the most creative Artist ever.
- I am a poem of God's love.

I am a temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16

- · I have God living in me.
- · I am God's house.
- I have been made holy for God to live in me.

I am a member of Christ's body.

Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27

- · I am connected in a living way to Jesus.
- I am a part of a living organism bigger than myself.
- I have a purpose and function in that body.

I am sealed.

2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30

- · I have God's royal seal upon me.
- · I have God's seal of ownership.
- I have God's guarantee of a quality product in me.

I am made pure.

1 John 1:9, 3:3

- · I am made clean.
- · Christ's life and death purify me.
- I am being made holy for God by his Spirit working in me.

I am secure.

Rom. 8:28, 31-38

- I know that God works things for my good in all circumstances.
- · I am free from all condemnation.
- I know that nothing can separate me from the love of God.

I am safe.

2 Cor. 1:21-22

I am safe because God has

- · Anointed me.
- · Set his seal of ownership on me.
- · Put his Spirit in my heart as a guarantee.

I am victorious.

Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57

- I cannot be beaten.
- I cannot be stopped by death, thanks to Christ.
- I shall be a winner in the end because God is for me.

I am going to live forever.

John 5:24: 6:47: 11:25-26: 17:3

- · I will live on with God.
- My spirit shall not die but go to be with God.
- Even if my body dies, I will live again and get a new body in the resurrection.

I am in God's planned will as an heir of all creation.

Rom. 8:17, 32; Eph. 1:9-11

- I am going to inherit the universe with Christ.
- I know this because God has given all authority and power to Jesus and I belong to him.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

the three R's - Reconciled, Ransomed, and Redeemed

Reconciled—to be reconciled means to be united again or to become friends again. Human sin and rebellion caused hostility between God and humanity. However, Jesus united us again in friendship with God by his death on the cross.

Ransomed—a ransom is a price that is paid for release; to be ransomed is to be freed at a cost. The Bible tells us that humanity was held hostage to sin, death and the Devil. Jesus' death was the ransom paid to free us from that slavery and reconcile us to God.

Redeemed—to redeem means to buy back again. Jesus' death paid the voucher, canceling the debt we owed.

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Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NIV)

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