

## Develop the fruit and let the gifts operate

### Abstract:

*Fruit of the spirit and gifts of the spirit are two important aspects of the New Testament Church. Often emphasizing one over the other causes spiritual imbalance. The objective of this article is to stress upon the need of prioritizing the development of fruit of the spirit than the operation of the gifts. The various sections of this article deal with, contrasting the gifts and fruit with an emphasis on how to acquire them, comparison of the development of fruit with a tree bearing fruits in a natural sense, the importance of abiding on the vine and the need of a holy life for bearing fruit, the necessity of operating the gifts under the anointing and the caution one should take, not to fall from the grace and loose the glory.*

We often hear statements like “I admire Christ and His teachings, but Christianity failed in following Jesus, emphasizing the external, neglecting the real truth of the Master.”- A militant leader and Black Muslim minister, the late Malcolm X. Christianity became a major contributor for the pollution in the spiritual realm. We are just religious noise unless we live in love and fulfill the will of God. The message of the Cross is not transmitted without distortion unless the media is transparent and doesn't counter. Church is more aggressive in these days to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth, but a lot more to be done in the lives of each individual within the church. John Wesley says, “When the witness and the fruit of the Spirit meet together, there can be no stronger proof that we are of God”. We believers need to be aware of such priorities and position them accordingly to fulfill the divine purpose as we live. When I went for a spiritual counsel to a renowned evangelist Dr. Clifford Kumar in the beginning of my spiritual walk, the only advice he gave was “Develop the fruit of the spirit in your life, gifts will operate instinctively.” How true it's in accordance with the scriptures. Isn't it amazing as we build our Christian life on the strong foundation, the Rock of Ages and His teachings? In this article, the fruit of the spirit and the gifts of the spirit are dealt in conjunction with each other.

### 1. Gifts are given, but fruit is developed.

Every single human in this world is born with a set of gifts and characters. As they grow these gifts and characters start exhibiting in them. These gifts or talents give them uniqueness and identity among others. Some are good in singing, some in dance, some in music, some in studies and some in sports, etc. These gifts can be developed as they practice and put more effort towards achieving excellence. The option of using these gifts with a spirit of achievement, to satisfy the evil desires or to glorify the living God is left to the individuals. These gifts or talents are totally different from the gifts of the spirit that Bible talks about in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. They are supernatural. Human ability, talents and intellect cannot augment these supernatural gifts of the spirit. For the very same reason the ordinary fishermen were able to perform miracles, heal the sick and cast the devil out.

On the other hand, every child has its unique set of characters by birth. Some are greedy, some adamant, some mischievous, some gentle, etc. In addition to these characters, they also pick up good and bad characters from the surroundings as they grow. Eventually they end up having a set of “bad” character that can be classified and grouped under Galatians 5:19-21 and another set of “good” character that can be grouped under Galatians 5: 22 and 23. The process of developing the fruit of the spirit involves - getting rid of each one under the “bad” and developing the ones under “good” that eventually results in *love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance*. To summarize, gifts are given, as what we have is natural and we need is supernatural, fruit is developed as we have trace of them already within us.

It’s better to go one step further to understand the contrast between Gifts and Spirit even though both are governed by the same Holy Spirit.

<b>Gifts</b>	<b>Fruit</b>
Gifts are given	Fruit is developed
Short term process	Longer process, may be years together
Gifts are to be desired (I Corinthians 14:1)	Need to pursue (I Corinthians 14:1)
Gifts are distributed among believers	Fruit is for all believers
Gifts impact others	Fruit impacts self
Gifts lead other to Christ	Fruit prepares us for eternal life
Demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit	Demonstration of the presence (the very being of Christ) of the Holy Spirit
Its absence hampers the ministry	Its absence will cast life into fire
It doesn’t characterize a person	It characterizes a person
No one is expected to have all gifts	Every one is expected to develop all fruits

Bearing fruit is nothing but developing Christ like characters within us. We are called Christians not because we are born to Christian parents, but because we have Christ in us. His abiding presence within us is the greatest truth that makes us different from the rest. World doesn’t have any problem in believing the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, but it has problem in accepting that He lives in us. World doesn’t expect supernatural gifts in us, it expects our natural life to be Christ like. Miracles bring many people to the cross, but Christ less Christian life drives many away from the cross. Gift alone is not sufficient. Even though gift is required to bring many towards Jesus, fruit is required to retain them with Jesus. Gift is associated with the power of the Holy Spirit and fruit is associated with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Having gifts show only His power working in us, but having fruit assures His very presence within us and this is the ultimate source of His power.

Developing fruit is a real challenge for each Christian. It does not happen all of a sudden. It’s like rowing a boat against the direction of the wind. It’s creating a desire within us that is against the desires of the flesh. It requires a great deal of effort to develop fruit of the spirit within us. Think of the disciples, who were with Jesus for more than three years, yet there was no fruit in their lives. They were performing miracles in the name of Jesus, but when the situation changes, we can see Peter cutting the ear of the high priest’s servant. They have seen Jesus raising the dead with their own eyes, still they betrayed

the Master. How much more challenging it's today, for us to develop Christ like characters, as we walk in faith. It's only possible by constantly abiding on Him and keeping us away from the secret sins.

## 2. A tree to be planted:

A barren land cannot produce fruits unless trees are planted. Planting a tree involves a process of preparing the land, sowing the seed, watering, protecting the young plant, allowing sufficient amount of sunlight to fall on the plant, nourishing the land periodically, etc. [1]A seed is alive, it contains life, it does nothing until planted, it's much smaller than the plant it produces, it always produces after its kind, it begins its growth in secret (underground), it takes time to produce, it's persistent, it's not affected by other seeds, it stops growing without nourishment and more seeds planted produce a larger harvest. In Luke 8:11 Jesus said that the seed is the word of God. When word of God falls in a fertile mind, it builds faith in it, Holy Spirit convicts sin, confession happens and new life is born within Christ. Preparation of the land is important and it's done by the Holy Spirit while hearing the word of God. The seed also represents death. John 12:24 says, *except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.* As the death of the seed bring a tree that bears fruit, the death of our sinful nature results in a new life that is righteous and bears fruit. I Peter 2:24 *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* 1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

This new life as a young plant needs to be protected from the surroundings. Some one should take charge of this young plant. It needs to be protected from cattle, wind, flood, insects, diseases, etc. For the same reason a new born Christian is brought to the church and the Shepherd is given charge of this new plant. The plant needs guidance on how to withstand the wind, even if it happens to loose few leaves, break few branches and still stand firm, suck water and nourishment from the ground to ensure the supply required for the growth with a focused vision of bearing fruits to the master who planted the plant. In the same manner every young believer needs guidance on how to withstand the attack of the enemy, discouragement, losses, failures, sicknesses and still stand straight, grow in faith and move towards bearing fruit to the master who has already bought him with His own blood.

As water and nourishment are essential for the growth of a plant, the spiritual nourishment which comes from the word of God is essential for a Christian life. As the pesticides are applied or sprinkled on the plant to protect from insects and diseases, the blood of Jesus to be applied over the believer to protect him from the attack of the enemy. As sunlight falls on the plant and photosynthesis happens, the sun of righteousness shines his rays of Holy Spirit upon the believer to enrich him with the heavenly manna that supplies energy for his life to bear fruit.

## 3. Branches should abide in the true vine

John 15:4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.* The word "abide" brings a deep

sense of spiritual act in a true believer. In fact it's a hidden secret and experience of many mighty people of God who surrendered their lives for the great calling. It's worth to look at the dictionary meaning of the word "abide" According to the Webster online dictionary [2], abide is to comply; to obey; to submit; to conform; to stay; to live; to tolerate; to continue; to wait.

Our Lord Jesus says in John 15:5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* Jesus is dealing with the word abide in a way much beyond the human comprehension and the literal meaning one could arrive at. It's not just depending on Him, not just leaning on Him but becoming one and the same as the branches and the tree. Rev. Andrew Murray [3] says, "When a new graft is placed in a vine and it abides there, there is a twofold process that takes place. The graft shoots its little roots and fibers down into the stem, and the stem grows up into the graft, and what has been called the structural union is effected. The graft abides and becomes one with the vine, and even though the vine were to die, would still be one wood with it. Then there is the second process, in which the sap of the vine enters the new structure, and uses it as a passage through which sap can flow up to show itself in young shoots and leaves and fruit. Here is the vital union. Into the graft which abides in the stock, the stock enters with sap to abide in it." Such an experience is required for every single believer who would like to bring forth much fruit.

#### Powerful secret of abiding:

[4] The secret of living is bearing fruit

The secret of bearing fruit is abiding

***The secret of abiding is obeying***

The secret of obeying is loving

The secret of loving is knowing

Jesus said in John 15:10, *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love* is the powerful secret for such an experience where the divinity and humanity transact with each other. This obedience shows complete dependency that demands absolute surrender where we are spiritually confined to say "No" to everything else. At this juncture, a man of God looses sight on himself, his surroundings and even the next move in his life and says "Lord I don't need to understand, I just hold your hands". What a privilege it's to depend on God for every single moment in our lives!

Abiding is not just obeying, it's much beyond that. Bible evidences such a great abiding nature of individuals who decided to cling on someone whom they found worth doing so.

Naomi along with her husband and two sons went to Moab because of a famine in the land of Judah. In Moab, Naomi's two sons found wives. However, things went sour. First Naomi's husband died, leaving her without support except for what her sons could provide. Then the two sons died, leaving her at the mercies of her two daughters-in-law and their families. As Naomi decided to go back to Judah, she encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Ruth refused to leave Naomi said, Ruth1:17 "*Where*

*thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried.*” Look at what Ruth is talking about. Is it not reflecting the abiding nature of Ruth? It’s not just obeying, it’s going beyond. If Ruth did not take the decision of going beyond obedience, Jesus would not have come in that line of promise.

In II Kings 2:1-6, we see the Lord was sending Elijah to four different places (Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho and Jordan) before he was taken into heaven by the whirlwind. At each step of the journey Elijah was saying “stay here, don’t go any further“ and he was testing Elisha to see if he would stay with him and how much he wanted to follow him. And Elisha passed the test saying *“As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.”* Is it not reflecting the abiding nature of Elisha? It’s not just obeying, it’s going beyond. If Elisha obeyed and stayed in the initial place, he would not have received the double portion. Look at what Paul says in Philippians 3:13-14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus....but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.*

If Ruth and Elisha had such an abiding nature in those days, how much more we need to abide on the true vine Christ Jesus in these last days. Such an abiding nature is highly essential not only to bear fruit, but even to escape the snares of the enemy. As we abide on him more and more, His abiding presence will never leave us as we read in Exodus 13:22 *Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.*

**Everything is shattered in a moment when we are cut off from the vine**

It’s highly dangerous to get disconnected from the main stem, which is Christ himself even for a little moment. The enemy is walking like a roaring lion seeking whom to devour I Peter 5:8. If we are not careful enough to avoid this disconnect, he will shatter everything we built over a period of time. Our hard effort, the price we paid in controlling our flesh, maintaining the anointing, building up the ministry, etc. will become futile in a fraction of a second. Bible evidences such situation where the absence of the abiding presence of the Lord brought such a tragedy in the lives of people.

Adam and Eve gave room to the enemy and lost the presence of the Holy God, brought curse to men and women, the land and even the serpent. As God drew out Adam and Eve from His presence, they lost the glory and started giving birth to the entire world in sin. It’s just a disobedience that separated them from the abiding presence of the living God.

Jesus after performing the miracle of feeding the multitude went to a mountain for prayer asking his disciples to cross the sea towards Gennesaret. A momentary absence of His presence brought in great chaos among the disciples who couldn’t even maneuver the ship regardless of being fishermen. Jesus had to rush to the spot to save them from the danger. Today, the high level of uncertainty around us doesn’t permit us to be away from His presence even for a while. We need Him so much as the disciples needed Him in that night.

Bible describes a heartbreaking incident in Bethany in John 11. There was a tragedy in the family Jesus loved the most. Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha was dead. Jesus arrived at that place four days later after he died. As soon as Martha heard that Jesus is coming she ran unto him and said “*Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died*”. What an amazing spiritual truth her statement brings forth!

We need to be planted by the rivers of water to have a constant touch with the streams of living water that produces fruit. Never allow the level of the living water, the anointing to go down. Who knows? May be that is the moment the enemy finds it easy to sneak through. Let the abiding presence of the Living God produce more fruit in us and the anointing of the Holy Spirit that is the result of His presence, triggers the gifts to operate through our lives.

#### 4. Holy life by destroying the flesh with spirit

The importance of holy life:

God has made our lives so precious by the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We have been chosen to bring such a great blessing in millions of lives. We have been expected by our heavenly father to live a life that sets a model for others to follow. People who are seeing how the Lord is glorified in our lives through the operation of the gifts don't fail to observe our lives behind the screen. We need to have a clean and transparent life in the sight of men as Paul says in II Corinthians 8:21 *Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

It would have been much easier to maintain a holy life if we were born as holy angels, unfortunately we were born in sin, Psalm 51:5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.* Even though God made a provision, it's optional for us to choose holy life or the pleasures of sin. At one point of time every Christian ought to make a decision that sets the rest of their life in this earth. It happened to Moses, the man who has seen God face to face. Hebrews 11:24-25 *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*

Every man of God in the history was challenged for their holy life at some point of time. Everyone had craving flesh, frustrating relationships, terrible experiences, clueless crossroads and irrevocable damages made, but they were not allowed to be in that state for ever. The mighty hands of God unleashed them in a unique and special manner to live a holy life that pleased Him. They began to bear fruit and serve the Lord with such a great anointing. We are not expected to serve Him being away from the flesh, we still remain in the same flesh once alive but now dead. Keeping the dead as dead is the price we have to pay to inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world Mathew: 25:34.

Flesh and the spirit:

A holy life before man and before God is essential for bearing fruit. A man who lives in flesh cannot produce spiritual fruit. Because Bible says in Galatians 5:17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one*

*to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* Even if someone wants to develop and demonstrate the fruit of the spirit the flesh doesn't allow that as it's of the spirit. The only mechanism to develop the fruit of the spirit is to destroy the flesh. Unless this is done systematically with more care and with highest priority, one can easily lose the battle with the flesh and end up in doing what flesh desires. Destruction of flesh is going to be a life long affair. Remember what Paul says in Romans 7:23 *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.* Any one who fails to fight it out is certainly the target of this law of sin. Every believer, who is bearing fruit or willing to bear fruit is challenged to identify the "another law" that's warring within him and destroy the source of it, that is the flesh. Those who have not done this end up in the most miserable state of the Christian life where they start bearing the fruit of the flesh that as listed in Galatians 5:19-21 rather than bearing the fruit of the spirit. At this point of time the Gifts of God, given once, still operate as He is so merciful, kind and patient waiting for the repentance. It not only affects that individual, but it also affects the people around him, his ministry and leads to mass destruction.

### Crucified with Christ:

The first thing that happens when a person comes into the Kingdom of God is that he must choose to crucify the flesh. Jesus is not going to crucify us. He told us to bring our flesh to the cross. Every true believer must go through this process of being crucified with Christ. The words of Paul the apostle makes it clear in *Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.* He has left a challenge in *Galatians 5:24 "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts"* to every Christian who would like to live a holy life to bear fruit and to demonstrate the gifts of the spirit in his life. This is the price one has to pay in order to maintain the work of the Holy Spirit and to operate under the anointing.

### Saying "No" to the human senses:

How does one crucify the flesh with the affection and lusts? We are talking about a death for sin, not a death in sin. James clearly talks about the death in sin in James 1:14-15.

*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* This death in sin comes from "his own lust". Those who choose to avoid this death need to die for sin, in other words according to Paul, *need to be crucified with Christ.* When we are crucified with Christ, according to Galatians 2:20, we die and Christ lives in us, then no more lust and no more sin. According to James in 1:14, *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.* This temptation comes by yielding to the human senses. Therefore being crucified with Christ simply means to say "No" to the human senses such as vision, hearing, smell, touch, taste and more. It requires a great deal of initiative, submission, commitment and zeal to say "No" to what has been part of our routine ordinary life. It's almost like, when our whole being tells us to look at something that quenches our thirst, we need to put our foot and say "No". Yes, it appears to be tough in the beginning. But the secret is that, when we

take this initiative from our part, the grace of God makes it possible and leads us into a holy life. The Holy Spirit, the blood of Jesus and the words He spoke continually keep our flesh crucified with Christ till that day. This crucified life results in fruit bearing, anointed and gift operating.

## 5. Let the gifts operate under the anointing

When spiritual fruit is seen in our lives as a result of abiding in the vine and living a holy life, it's the right moment to release our faith and allow the gifts to operate under the great anointing.

The most common list of the spiritual gifts is found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. The descriptions are taken from Harold Horton's valuable book [5], The Gifts of the Spirit.

1. Word of wisdom: "Supernatural knowledge supernaturally and divinely applied" (1 Corinthians 2:10). Word of wisdom addresses things that will happen in the future.
2. Word of knowledge: "Supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God" (knowledge that only God could know) Word of knowledge addresses information about the past and present.
3. Discerning spirits: "Supernatural insight into the secret realm of spirits. By its operation we may know the true source and nature of any supernatural manifestation, whether divine or satanic"
4. Gifts of healings: "Supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities without natural means of any sort"
5. The working of miracles: "Operates by the energy or dynamic force of the Spirit in reversals or suspensions of natural laws. A miracle is a sovereign act of the Spirit of God irrespective of laws or systems" and "a miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature."
6. Faith : "A gift of the Spirit to the saint that he might work miracles, or rather receive them...Those who possess Faith the Gift of the Spirit believe God in such a way that God honors their word as His own and miraculously brings it to pass...Faith's operation is more passive than active. Miracles' power does things by the Spirit. Faith's power receives or enjoys things by the Spirit."
7. Different kinds of tongues: "Supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker - not understood by the mind of the speaker - nearly always not understood by the hearer."
8. Interpretation of tongues: "Supernatural showing forth by the Spirit of the meaning of an utterance in other tongues. This interpretation is not an operation of the mind of the interpreter but the mind of the Spirit of God."
9. Prophecy: "Divinely inspired and anointed utterance. It is entirely supernatural...a supernatural utterance in a known tongue" It often operates in conjunction with words of wisdom and/or knowledge

Additional spiritual gifts are listed in Romans 12 and in I Corinthians 12

In Romans 12:6-8

1. Ministry



2. Teaching
3. Exhortation
4. Leadership
5. Mercy

In I Corinthians 12:28

6. Helps
7. Administrations

Five Fold Ministry Gifts are recorded in Ephesians 4:11

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers

The reason why they are called spiritual gifts or ministry gifts is that operation of these gifts are not by the human intelligence, they need to be operated under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We need to ensure the following fundamental elements [6] in our lives in order to operate under the anointing.

### **1. We must love righteousness and hate wickedness**

Old Testament righteousness refers to righteous acts, but New Testament righteousness is by faith that comes as a result of what Jesus has done on the cross. We must be willing to do what is necessary for God to anoint us with the ability to get results. We should not allow sin to limit the anointing in our lives. The apostle Paul had such a heavy anointing in his life as he loved righteousness and behaved with just and blameless, I Thessalonians 2:10. Bible witnesses great miracles by Paul. The anointing on him was so profound that even the objects in contact with his body were wet with the anointing and were used to heal the sick and cast the devil out Acts 19:12.

### **2. To operate in the anointing, we must walk in love.**

The fruit of the spirit love is deposited in every born-again Christian Galatians 5:22-23. The gifts can be compared to the Excellency of love I Corinthians 13. We must walk in love in order to demonstrate the power of the spirit. The hidden truth is that no one can have more anointing than the amount of love one has. In the same time we should not allow the action of others to loose our anointing. Strife, hatred, unforgiveness and bitterness prevent the anointing from operating in our lives. When we walk in love and stay anointed, the negative situations will melt away. We need to develop a heart that moves with compassion and love for others. When such a release of love is in action without limit, the emptiness within us is filled with the mighty anointing that triggers the gifts to operate. Jesus did the same throughout His ministry. I have seen many gifted men of God doing the same. The moment they lay hands on sick, tear runs from their eyes, such a heavy anointing is released and the sick is healed instantaneously.

### **3. To operate in the anointing, we must live a life of praise.**

Often the spirit of complaining reduces the intensity of the anointing. Praise and worship intensify the level of anointing. Let “Thank You, Lord” be always an appropriate response to every situation. Praising God for what is given is much better than complaining for what is not there. A habit of praising Him while getting up in the morning, while walking in the noon time and settling back at home when the sun goes down is always an appropriate way to ensure God’s anointing is abundant in our lives. We should never forget the fact that certain troubles in our lives are great opportunities to see power of God at work in our lives. Walk over it with praise and singing and with the gratitude will keep us warm and safe through the day. Never forget, a desolated place void of food and drink created an opportunity for our Lord Jesus to feed the multitude performing a miracle.

There is a great danger involved if we allow our gifts to operate outside the anointing. This awareness is very essential for every believer who is using and willing to use the spiritual gifts. There are two important reasons why such awareness is essential. Firstly, there is only a thin line of demarcation to know we are within the anointing or outside the anointing; it’s easy to slip away unless we are really careful. Secondly, the moment we slip away from the anointing, the impact in the ministry and among the people is going to be huge and can cause huge amount of damage.

Do the gifts operate outside the anointing? Yes they do. The Bible says that God gives spiritual gifts irrevocably Romans 11:29 (NIV). That means he will not take a gift away from us, even if we are not using our gift or using it improperly. It’s worth analyzing what exactly happens when one tries to operate the God given gifts outside the anointing. When the gift is operating for a specific purpose, it’s the Holy Spirit who utters the words or works out a miracle. When we operate outside the anointing the following may happen.

### Flesh erupts instantly in the absence of anointing

When we are in the anointing we are under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is no way our flesh can take control. The moment we are cutoff from the vine, we loose the constant touch with the streams of living water, we are withered and the flesh comes in control. Romans 8:13 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.* While gifts operate under the anointing, the Holy Spirit achieves the divine purpose in the person for whom the gift is operating. In the absence of anointing, the carnal nature of man dominates and the gifts operate with the earthly purpose of achieving benefits for all who are involved. It’s going to be self motivated, seeks self pride, self exaltation, the cross has been removed and self occupies, ego dominates, results in false teaching, people are more emotional than spiritual, rather looking at Jesus they look at the man of God who has already lost the anointing, false promises results in disappointment, all sort of chaos come in the congregation without much delay and ultimately everything end in death as it’s predestined for those who live in flesh.

Bible accounts for many such instances. One such instance is recorded in 2 Samuel 7:1-17, where Nathan the prophet for a moment operates outside the anointing and utters

words from the flesh. King David was discussing his desire to build a temple for God, with Nathan, who was a prophet of God. In verse 3, we find documented Nathan's immediate response to David's stated desire:

And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee." Here we see Nathan, a prophet of God, incorrectly advising David that it would be a great idea for David to build the temple! When a prophet who is of God conveys a message as being from God, that message is always true. It's interesting that in this incident between David and Nathan, we see God intervening through a vision to Nathan, who was then required to go back to rectify his erroneous human advice. What a tragedy it would have been if David acted upon Nathan's words that is against the will of God spoken by flesh outside the anointing.

### Devil the liar and the deceiver rushes in where there is no anointing

It's more frightening to know that the devil is in action when there is no anointing. It's easy for the devil to work through the flesh that is void of anointing. Anything that God does, no matter what it's, the devil will try to counterfeit. We as the children of the most High God must learn to recognize these counterfeits. The devil is also capable of producing convincing signs and wonders with the purpose of deceiving God's people who are filled with the Holy Spirit. A man of God, once blessed with the gifts operating under the anointing gives room to the flesh, can notice the diminishing presence of God in him. Gifts can still operate in Him as the Gifts are irrevocable. Devil has intelligence, power and experience to identify such empty vessels and occupy them with the purpose of mass deception. People still look at the miracles and wonders through the minister of God. In Mathew 7:22-23 Jesus says, "*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" According to this scripture the man of God fallen from God's glory still continue to perform miracles, continue to cast out devils and continue to prophesy, yet Jesus calls them workers of iniquity. That means they are no more working for the Living God, they are working for someone else - the deceiver the liar. Once Satan deceives his people through the life of the already deceived man of God, he apparently performs miracles and healing by relocating the demon, which is the cause of the infirmity.

We may think, "Is there any place for the enemy in one who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit?" Our only safety is in going on with God and constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit. We must not forget Demas. He must have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, for he appears to have been one of Paul's right-hand workers, but the enemy got him to the place where he loved this present world, and he fell away, II Timothy 4:10.

In I Samuel 10:1, Saul was anointed by Samuel and in I Samuel 10:10 Saul Prophesied as the spirit of God came upon him. In I Samuel 13:8-14 we see Saul lost his anointing when he walked away from his calling. Very soon we see in I Samuel 16:14 *But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.* The most dangerous part of his life is in I Samuel 18:10 where the evil spirit came upon Saul and he prophesied and Saul twice made attempt to kill David. That is the work of

the devil who deceives his people to such an extent where gift is still operating with a purpose that is against the divine plan of God.

Wigglesworth writes in his book on Spiritual Gifts [7], “The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” Romans 11:29 (NIV) and they remain under every circumstance except this: if you fall from grace and use a gift, it will work against you. If you use tongues out of the will of God, interpretation will condemn you. If you have been used and the gift has been exercised and then you have fallen from your high place, it will work against you. What a tragedy it is, if we fail to operate the gifts under the anointing.

## 6. Operation of gifts does not guarantee the existence of fruit

Know them by their fruits:

Jesus knowing the innocent nature and ignorance of his people gives a warning not to accept everyone who comes in His name. Knowing the fact that there may be people with gifts in operation not by the Holy Spirit any more, but by the deceiver himself, as they have already fallen from the grace and lost their glory. Jesus said that beware of such evil ministers and their ministries. There may be gifts still operating as it was given once and not taken back, but that does not guarantee they belong to me anymore. The only way to know whom they belong to is to know them by their fruit. In Luke 6:44, *For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.* In Mathew 7:15-17 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.*

Not the miracle, but the inner life:

It's interesting to note that Jesus did not say, “ Look for signs, wonders, miracles and the spectacular ones”. Rather He simply said men are to be judged by what they are, not what they do. This does not question the miracle working power of God. God uses His people to perform extraordinary to fulfill His divine purpose. Ron Hembree in his book [8] impresses upon how important fruit is compared to the signs and wonders. Miracles can be mimicked and gifts can be imitated, but the fruit of the Spirit can never be imitated. It's what a person is, not what he does. Gifts are external, but fruit is internal. Miracles fade, but fruit remains. The fruit of the Spirit destroys personal pride in anything we accomplish or in anything God does through us. Indeed, Christ did work many miracles and did great works. However, He chided some for following Him only because of His miracles and told other frankly, “See that thou tell no man.” John declared there were many great works and signs He performed that were not even recorded. Christ was not interested in stunning men with His power, but saving men by His blood. The ones Christ raised from the dead are dead again. Those He healed have long been forgotten in flesh and remembered only in word. Those miracles and their immediate usefulness are now wasted, except for encouragement to remember Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. However, the kingdom He preached has filled the whole earth with its influence just as He said it would. The truth is that, the main message of the New Testament has little to do with miracles or signs. The crux of

Christ's message and the apostle's admonition concerned the inner man and his development. The power of Christ is not in His miracle, but in His message.

### Biblical evidences of nonexistence of fruit:

Bible evidences many individuals through whom the gifts were operating but there were no smell of any fruit.

#### **Judas**

Judas, who cast out the demons and healed many along with the other 11 disciples, failed to exhibit the Christ filled inner life. In fact Jesus looking at the similar crowd and says in Mathew 7:21, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*" It was a matter of authority, who was in charge. In other words Jesus was not Lord over their lives but they used his name for power exhibitions and to fulfill anything that their hearts desired. Allowing the Lord to rule over our hearts and fulfilling His will is a secret to ensure fruit of the spirit in our lives.

#### **Samson:**

Samson was a chosen vessel of God to deliver Israel out of the hands of Philistines. The gift of working of miracles was working in him in a supernatural manner. He did wonders when the spirit of the Lord came upon him. He tore the roaring lion as he would have torn a young goat with bare hands. He burnt the corn fields, vine yards and olives of Philistines with three hundred foxes. With a jaw of an ass, slew thousand men. Such a mighty man of God, chosen with a divine purpose, gift of strength operating in him was dealing with lust of the flesh instead of running away from it. There were miracles but there is no fruit 'self control'.

#### **The magicians of Pharaoh:**

Not only Moses and Aaron, even Pharaoh's wise men, the sorcerers and the magicians of Egypt performed miracles. Satan is capable of performing such miracles to deceive God's children. A close observation of their behavior, dealings, association and private life will tell whether they are chosen and appointed by Heaven or hell. Gifts can not tell who they are, only the fruit will identify them.

#### **Prophets among Israel:**

In Jeremiah we can see the lamentation of the Lord repeatedly regarding the prophets among Israel in those days. Jeremiah 14:14 *Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.* Also in Jeremiah 6:13 and 15, we see the prophets and priests were liars and they were practicing deceit. They were not even feeling ashamed due to their nasty behavior. They lived in such a sinful life and still prophesied. Such a fruitless life wounded the heart of the Lord and He says in Jeremiah 14:15 *By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.* Not only in the days of Jeremiah, even today such prophets are among us. They cannot be identified by their gifts; only the evidence of fruit will tell they are real or phony. The day of the Lord will reveal them *as therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world,* Mathew 13:40.

### Biblical evidences of existence of fruit:

**Joseph:**

Joseph was a man of God in his own land as well as in Egypt. What a fruitful life he lived in the house of Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, when his wife forced him to lie by her. God revealed his future as well as the future of the nation through Joseph. Joseph was an interpreter of dream not only to his family but even to the kingdom. We can say that the gift of Word of Wisdom was in operation in Joseph's life. Look at the fruit of the spirit in his life. When Pharaoh asked "Can you interpret my dreams?". Joseph replied, "I can't, but God can,". He was exalting God, didn't fail to give glory to Him. During the famine, when his brothers came to Joseph and bowed before him for food, Joseph did everything to take care of his family during the famine. No wonder why God testified about Joseph through Jacob and said *Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall*, Genesis 49:22 (NIV).

**Daniel:**

When we have a fruitful life, it doesn't matter whether we have gift or not, God performs miracle for us. Daniel is an example for such a man of God, who had a great faith in the Lord that moved the hands of the Lord to perform supernatural events. Daniel taken as a captive to Babylon refrained himself from the royal food and drink. He got grace in the sight of Nebuchadnezzar and was found ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in his entire realm. The Gift of Word of Wisdom was in operation in Daniel so deeply that he could interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. Look at his confidence in Daniel 2:45 *the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure*. When king lifted Daniel, he never failed to give glory to the Lord to whom belongs wisdom and might. The Lord even rescued Daniel from the power of the lions. Seeing such a great faith in Daniel, king Darius issued a decree that in every part of his kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. What a challenge it is to demonstrate the existence of the living God by exhibiting fruit of the spirit like Daniel.

**The danger:**

The danger is not that the gifts will stop functioning in us, but the gifts will still continue to operate in us. That's the reason why a person can not be known by his gifts. It's the same reason why gifts of the Spirit are not the signs for holiness, but the fruit is. It's the same reason why gifts of spirit not always lead one to the cross, but the fruit is. The still bigger danger, I would say it's a threat to those who already have been filled with Holy Spirit is in Judges 16:20 *And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him*. Samson did not know that the Lord had left him. Loosing His presence, without knowing, is the tragedy one will face if he continues to stay in sin, hardening the heart, repeatedly saying "No" to His warning. There is no way to hold Him as it's not known when He will leave. The end of such life is pathetic as once rejected by God, it's nearly impossible to get his acceptance ever.

I would like to conclude with few questions. Is it not important to act towards developing the fruit, rather than neglecting it? Is it not wise to abide in Him rather than attempting on self? Is it not worth throwing away the filth and having a holy life that pleases God? Is it not proper to long for his presence and anointing for the gifts to

operate with a divine purpose? Is it not reasonable relying on the fruit than on the gifts as the former ceases and the later never fails?

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