

AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP
MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

TOPIC: **Understanding the Fruit-Gifts Relationship**
TEXT: **Rom 12:6–8; Gal 5:22-23**

FACILITATOR: **Pastor Tunde Olugboji**
DATE: **November 29, 2023**

Learning Objectives

1. To discuss the relationship between the fruit of the spirit and gifts of the spirit.
2. To proffer a scriptural response to the question of the lack of alignment between an individual's character, and the spiritual gifts they operate in.

GIFTS

There are 3 biblical lists of the gifts of the Spirit, or spiritual gifts. (**Rom 12:6–8; 1 Cor 12:4–11; and 1 Cor 12:27-28**) We could also include **Eph 4:11**, but that is a list of offices within the church, not spiritual gifts, per se.

From these 3 passages, we have a list of gifts that looks something like this:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Administration | 10. Knowledge |
| 2. Apostleship | 11. Leadership |
| 3. Discernment | 12. Mercy |
| 4. Evangelism | 13. Miracles |
| 5. Exhortation | 14. Prophecy |
| 6. Faith | 15. Service |
| 7. Giving | 16. Shepherding |
| 8. Healing | 17. Teaching |
| 9. Interpretation of Tongues | 18. Tongues |
| | 19. Wisdom |

Gifts are given for the common good (**1 Cor 12:7**). And they can be categorized into 3 types:

1. speaking gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy)
2. knowing gifts (word of knowledge, word of wisdom & discerning of spirits)
3. power gifts (faith, healing, and miracles)

Spiritual gifts are given by the Spirit, and the Spirit *determines*. (**1 Cor 12:11**)

- The different spiritual gifts include *apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles, those with gifts of healing, those who help others, those with gifts of administration, those speaking in different kinds of tongues*. (**1 Cor 12:27-28**)

Note that the gift of Prophecy builds up the church (**1 Cor 14:3**), while speaking in tongues builds up the individual. (**1 Cor 14:4**) These gifts are evidence that the Holy Spirit has come upon a believer, and the believer given power to be his witnesses (**Act 1:8**); they are evidence that we are Spirit-filled. (**Act 2:4**)

Rom 11:29 says “*God’s gifts and his callings are irrevocable* or “*without repentance*” (KJV); “*can never be withdrawn*.” (NLT) Gifts are given, not earned. And we can ask God for them. (**Mat 7:7**)

- **1 Cor 14:1** tells us to “*eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy*.” There’s nothing wrong with craving the gifts of the Spirit; in fact, it’s encouraged.

FRUITS Gal 5: 22-23 (NIV) outlines 9 fruits of the Spirit

Faithfulness, Gentleness, Goodness, Joy, Kindness, Love, Patience, Peace, and Self-Control.

The Greek word for fruit is *karpos*, meaning *the produce of a tree, plant; or animal* (i.e., offspring or young). In a figurative sense *karpos* means that which is produced, as in conduct or actions. This figurative sense is how Paul used the word *karpos* in **Gal 5**.

- Jesus in **Mat 7: 16** says “*You will know them by their fruits.*” “Them” refers to false prophets. In **Mat 23:3**, Jesus told the people to follow the teachings of the Pharisees and the scribes, but not to do as they do, because they don’t practice what they teach.
- *For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.* **Matt 24:24**
- No matter how good or convincing someone sounds, if he is bearing bad fruit, be careful when you encounter them. **Look out for their fruit, not necessary their gift.** The fruit is evidence of godly character in a disciple’s life because they can only grow out of a life that is dead to self and lives by the Spirit. (**Gal 5:16, 24, 25**)

WHAT’S THE RELATIONSHIP?

There is an eternal aspect to the fruit. *Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.* (**1 Co 13:8**) If you have been genuinely walking with God, you will cultivate fruit in your life.

- Gifts, on the other hand, will remain whether or not we’re growing in our relationship with Christ.

Fruit is something that inevitably appears on a healthy tree or a spiritually healthy believer. Gifts, however, are freely and unconditionally given regardless of the ability of the receiver to develop their relationship with Christ. Gifts are very important (see **John 4:48**), but the fruit shows who we really are in Christ. We need a combination of the gifts and fruit to truly fulfil our purpose. Cultivating the fruit will make you more effective in operating your gifts.