

The Fruit of Regeneration

By Brother Lucien LeSage, Grace Bible Baptist Church, Denham Springs, La.
<http://sovereigngrace.ddns.net:81/BornOfTheFleshAndBornOfTheSpirit.html>

Why did Jesus use the term "fruit" for good works so many times? May I use the analogy of a fruit tree? Let's say an apple tree. Does an apple tree obtain life because someone hung apples on it? Does it become a different tree, now an apple tree, because someone hung apples on it? Do apples produce life in an apple tree? Or is it that the tree first has life and is an apple tree and therefore produces apples? These are rhetorical questions as the answers are obvious. Only God can give life. So in the spiritual realm it is the same. Men are dead in sins and God quickens to life and that new man that is created in the new birth produces the fruit of godly sorrow, repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord. Listen to Jesus words in Mathew's gospel chapter seven: "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. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matthew 7:15-20). Notice Jesus said that a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit and a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit. It is the old man that was "born of the flesh" that cannot bring forth good fruit. But the new man that God has created "cannot bring forth evil fruit". Now we still live in this body of flesh and we must crucify the old man daily or that old man will rob us of our joy in the Lord. You see we are not a reformed people. It is not that the old man has been reformed at all, but a new man has been created. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2nd Corinthians 5:17).

So my friend, godly sorrow and repentance and true faith in Jesus Christ are but the fruit of the quickening of the Holy Spirit. We have nothing to boast of. Our "salvation is", as Jonah said, "of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). We are saved by faith, but faith is what brings us forth and the cause of it is the quickening of the Holy Spirit. Babies in the flesh breath, cry and grow and do all sorts of things that pertain to the life in the flesh, but these are the results of being quickend in your mother's womb.



Today is October 08, 2023

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught for Sixty-One Years" Since October 21, 1961

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Prayer Request

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family and church, Baby Titus Massey Kathy Johnson.

Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

From the PASTOR'S DESK

"Walking with God."

By Pastor Randy Johnson

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

Have you ever dreamed of walking with God? Have you ever thought what it would be like to take your Heavenly Father's hand and walk with Him? As Christians we have that opportunity every day of our earthly life to walk with God. However, realistically speaking God does not have a body, so holding His hand is impossible. "God is a Spirit" John 4:25 but walking with our Heavenly Father is a real thing for every believer in Jesus Christ. However, the question is how much do you truly want to walk with God? Walking with God requires walking "in the light, as he is in the light" because that is where God is. God does not walk in darkness, because you only find Him in the light, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5. If you are walking in darkness then you are not walking with God. John wrote in verse 6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:" God's element is only in light and never in darkness, therefore we will never find God in darkness. God told us "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" Ephesians 5:8 The word "were" is past tense not a present word. As believers saved by grace thru the glorious blood of our Saviour, we are no longer in darkness, but in light because in Christ there is no darkness. The Lord warned us "And **have no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness..." Eph. 5:11 This is not a request but rather a command from God. God promised that He would never leave nor forsake us, He never promised that we would not leave nor forsake Him. Christians sometimes do fall back and walk in darkness. And when they do, their fellowship with God is separated. Remember when Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God? Christians try also to hide from God when living and walking in darkness. God said, "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Eph. 5:12 However, it is much more shameful to commit them. Our work as Christians is to rebuke darkness, not to join it. God went on to say in Eph. 5:13 "But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light."

"Walking with God." Continued

Do we want to have real fellowship with God and allow the things we do in this world to be manifested for the world to see, or hide from God in darkness? Look at it this way, God said, "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24 If a believer is walking in darkness they are hiding from God, they have little or no fellowship with God. Serving darkness or mammon will cause a believer to despise God and the light He is in. If you are not in the light of God, you are not serving the Lord, you are not happy as a Christian because you are hiding in the world's darkness. Jesus said, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." John 3:20 – 21. Darkness is the place of the lost, not the place of Christians, do not find yourself in a place where you separate yourself from God. Allow your works in this world to be in the light, in fellowship with God, Jesus, and the Word of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16 Is your light shining before men or are you ashamed of the light, do you despise the light? Today is a good day to repent, ask the Lord to forgive you and to start a new walk in the light and in fellowship with God. And that all starts by getting into church, getting everything right between you and the Lord, and living as a witness against darkness and walking in fellowship with our Father.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Church will be observing the Lord's Supper** on Sunday Oct. 22. This is one day after our churches 62nd Anniversary.

COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS.
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.
COUNT YOUR
MANY BLESSINGS
SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE.