

SOP: Introduction to Bearing Spiritual Fruit

John 15:1-11

What is spiritual fruit:

- It is a term used to describe the nine attributes of a godly life that the Holy Spirit develops in people who have accepted Jesus Christ—**Fruit of character—Galatians 5:22-23**
- It describes the standard of Christian **behavior that bears the fruit of His works** in your life—**Colossians 1:10-12**
- It describes the ultimate outcome of the gospel message being sown through you—Matthew 13:36-43, Romans 16:5 (convert=first fruits)
- **Abiding** is how **all** spiritual fruit is produced.
- Life bears after its' kind
- God's **original design**—be fruitful and multiply
- We produce the fruit that our thoughts, words, and actions have generated
- We bear the fruit of what we have conceived—believed—received
- Fruitfulness comes from sustained relational oneness with the Father, Son, and Spirit
- As I abide in love—I reproduce the seeds sown by the Holy Spirit in me.
- Responding to His kindness towards me—causes me to bear witness of that quality and begin to bear fruit through an accurate reflection of Him.

We Mature Through Seasons and Stages

Seasons: (cycles that are repetitive as tree matures to full fruit bearing capability)

Winter—No evidence of life

Spring—leaf and flower—flowers begin to blossom on tree as days get warmer—

Summer—canopy of trees become more dense—fruit begins to develop during long summer days—ripening takes place—

Fall—trees lose their leaves—fruit is ready to harvest

- **II Peter 1:3-10**
- **Hebrews 6:11-12**
- **James 5:7**

Stages

Matthew 4:26-28

And He was saying, "The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts up and grows—how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.

Infant: absorbs nourishment and learns to live loved/return to joy

Child: learns to accurately reflect and display attributes that are being displayed to them—and walk in obedience to the will and ways of God

Teen: learns to leave behind childish ways, and develop and steward spiritual gifts

Adult: entrusted with the care of others—in families and the church

Elder: entrusted with the stories, wisdom and vision of the community