The Holy Spirit

The Fruit of the Spirit Lesson 11

I. Introduction

A. The desirable qualities described in Galatians 5:22-23 are the result of the indwelling and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

B. The mere exercise of human will does not produce these qualities to the degree required for acceptable service to God.

C. It is by the bearing of the fruit of the Spirit that we validate and know that we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

II. The Fruit of the Spirit

A. These Qualities are Produced by the Sanctifying Work of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit does indwell the Christian (review).

2. Matt 26:41; Rom 7:7-8:8 -- the unaided human spirit cannot produce them.

3. II Thess 2:13 -- sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit

4. Gal 5:23 -- these qualities are in accordance with all of God's law.

B. Purpose of this "List"

1. Not to exhort the reader to try and produce these qualities by force or will.

2. There are some actions for which human beings are responsible.

3. These are evidence of the sealing and indwelling of the Spirit (II Cor 1:22).

4. The "down payment" on eternal life (Eph 1:13-14).

C. What the Christian is Asked to do in Galatians Chapter 5

1. Refrain from using freedom to indulge the flesh (v. 13).

2. Serve in love (v. 14).

3. Live and walk by the Spirit (vv. 16, 25).

4. Crucify the flesh (v. 24).

D. The Qualities Themselves (verses 22-23)

1. Love -- active affection, expressed in the giving of oneself and one's possessions.

2. Joy -- a desirable spiritual state characterized by contentment and satisfaction.

3. Peace -- harmony with oneself, God, and others.

4. Patience -- continued pursuit of an objective in the face of opposition; letting God work in His

 time.

5. Kindness -- graciousness, calmness, willingness to do good deeds for the glory of God.

6. Goodness -- that which is beneficial in its effect because of its inherent quality.

7. Faithfulness -- firmly persuaded and holding fast to the things believed.

8. Gentleness -- the acceptance of God's dealings with one as good and therefore not to be resisted; product of humility.

9. Self-control -- refusal to be controlled or dominated by anything except God, moderation in things practiced and in receipt of blessings allowed.

III. The Fruit of the Spirit and Eternal Life

A. We are told that we are sealed by the Spirit as a down payment on (or assurance of) eternal life (II Cor 1:22, 5:5; Eph 1:14); but how?

B. While the fullness of eternal life will be received when Christ returns, we begin to live this eternal, abundant life now, because "eternal" speaks of quality, not duration (I John 2:17, 3:10-15, 5:11-13).

C. We can have the assurance of the seal and the promise of fullness of eternal life when the appearance of the fruit of the Spirit begins to show that the Spirit is producing eternal life in us.