

Devotion
21 June 2017.

The Holy Spirit - fruit of the Spirit, by Gabrielle Wright

Matthew 7:15-20 reads, “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. *Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*”

This last sentence in *italics* sounds like a threat and a motivation for us to start making sure that we bear good fruit.

No bad tree can bear good fruit. The fruit we bear depends on what is inside us.

So how do we make sure we bear good fruit? By accepting Jesus as our personal Lord and Saviour and accepting the Holy Spirit who comes to live in us and unites us with God.

It is *not us*, but the Holy Spirit in us that makes us bear the fruit of the Spirit.

In Paul’s letter to the church at Philippi he said that he was confident that “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

As we journey through life with the Holy Spirit, we will be made more and more holy by the Holy Spirit, further detached from the world, and set apart more and more for God alone.

As this happens we will begin to see that the fruit of the Spirit becomes more evident in us.

It is better to draw near to God than it is to try to force yourself to be perfectly loving, joyful, patient, peaceful, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled.

These are the automatic result of a healthy relationship with God, the Holy Spirit.