

**John 232 “Apart From Me You Can Do Nothing” John 15:5-6**

**Ephesians 4:11-12 So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up**

**God’s purpose in our fellowship with Him is to bring us to full spiritual maturity.**

**Matthew 28:16-20 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

**This joy which comes from the fact that the God of the universe wants us to be happy like Him is the ultimate in the Christian life and it doesn’t happen overnight.**

**So, as the vine is planted not simply for the exercise of physical growth, the believer is saved (not just to avoid Hell), he’s saved and left on earth for three things; the purpose or end result of the production of ‘fruit, more fruit and much fruit.’**

**We’ve all heard the expression, “It’s like watching plants grow” and as growing believers in Christ, our progress is very often imperceptible but when we break through to full spiritual maturity or ripeness, then we’ll see fruit in bunches.**

**And spiritual growth is related to our moment by moment rapport with the True Vine, Jesus Christ.**

**One difference between the filling of the Holy Spirit and positional truth is that commands come from the filling of the Holy Spirit; such as Ephesians 5:18 and Galatians 5:16.**

**Recovering from 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9 places us back in experiential fellowship; filled with, to be influenced by, the Holy Spirit which is the pre-requisite for abiding in Christ and walking in His Light.**

**Positional truth understood and applied must come before any effective service in the Lord.**

**The stability and security of our relationship with the Lord Jesus throughout eternity depends upon positional truth, while the power of our experiential relationship here on earth in the Christian life depends upon the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

**“Much fruit” is always a result of first spiritually inhaling or learning of the mind of Christ and then spiritually exhaling processed biblical truth by expressing grace orientation such as in forgiving others as Jesus forgave and mastering the details of this life.**

**No believer produces anything of value at any time apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**It is vitally important that we abide or remain in experiential fellowship with our Lord through**

**the filling of the Holy Spirit and it’s equally important that His words continue to abide or remain in us.**

**Deuteronomy 32:22-23 For a fire will be kindled by My wrath; one that burns down to the realm of the dead below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap calamities on them and spend My arrows against them.**

**Psalm 78:21-22** When the LORD heard them, He was furious; His fire broke out against Jacob and His wrath rose against Israel, for they did not believe in God or trust in His deliverance.

**Isaiah 42:25** So he poured out on them His burning anger, the violence of war. It enveloped them in flames, yet they did not understand; it consumed them but they did not take it to heart.

**Psalm 89:46** How long, LORD? Will You hide Yourself forever? How long will Your wrath burn like fire?

**Ezekiel 22:21** I will gather you and I will blow on you with My fiery wrath and you will be melted inside her (Jerusalem).

**Jeremiah 4:4** Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire because of the evil you have done—burn with no one to quench it.

**Jeremiah 5:14** Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty says: Because the people have spoken these words, I will make My words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes.