Grace and peace to you, beloved of God.

Let’s take time to reflect deeply on what the Bible teaches about the vital role of the Holy Spirit in helping us bear lasting spiritual fruit.

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1. God Has Appointed Us to Bear Fruit

Jesus Himself said in John 15:16

> “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

This verse shows that bearing fruit is not optional for believers—it’s part of our divine calling. God saved us and appointed us to be fruitful, both in our inner character and in our outward ministry.

In the New Testament, “fruit” represents two major areas:

A. The Fruit of the Spirit – Character Transformation

These are inner qualities produced by the Holy Spirit as we are sanctified and transformed into Christ’s image.

Galatians 5:22–23

> “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

This kind of fruit reflects God’s nature and is a mark of true spiritual maturity (cf. Matthew 7:16-20). We cannot produce this fruit by human effort—it only grows in us as we surrender to the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.

B. The Fruit of Ministry – Winning Souls

This is the outward result of our service in God’s Kingdom—bringing others to faith in Christ.

Philippians 1:21–22

> “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor...”

This “fruit of labor” refers to people being saved and discipled through our ministry (cf. Romans 1:13). Just as an apple tree is expected to bear apples, Christians are expected to multiply spiritual life in others.

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2. Both Types of Fruit Depend on the Holy Spirit

We cannot walk in holiness without the Holy Spirit because He is the one who sanctifies us (cf. Romans 8:13–14). His very name—“Holy” Spirit—points to His role in setting us apart from sin and empowering us to live in obedience.

Likewise, we cannot lead others to Christ by our own strength or persuasive words. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts hearts and draws people to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 2:4–5

> “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”

Jesus also said in John 6:44

> “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him…”
> *And we know from John 16:8 that it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin and righteousness.*

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3. A Spiritual Analogy: Fishing for Souls

Jesus said, *“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (Matthew 4:19). Soul-winning is compared to fishing. To catch fish successfully, a fisherman must meet certain conditions. These

can also teach us important spiritual lessons:

A. You Must Be in the Boat (In Christ)

No fisherman can catch fish while standing outside the boat. Spiritually, Christ is our boat—our place of safety and authority. To draw people to Christ, we ourselves must be *in Christ*—not merely religious or moral, but born again and abiding in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17

> “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

You can’t invite others into a life you haven’t experienced yourself.

B. You Must Know How to Swim (Overcome the World)

If a fisherman falls into the sea, he must know how to swim. Likewise, we must be spiritually mature enough to resist the world's temptations. If we're still tied to sinful habits, we're in danger of being pulled back into the world while trying to reach others.

2 Peter 2:20–21gives a sober warning:

> "...the latter end is worse for them than the beginning... it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness..."

We must overcome the world through Christ before we try to save others from it.

C. You Must Have a Net or Hook (The Word of God)

Fishermen use nets and hooks to catch fish. Spiritually, these represent the Word of God and the power of the Gospel.

Romans 10:17

> “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

If we don’t know the Scriptures well, we’ll have nothing solid to offer those we’re trying to reach. Every believer must be equipped with sound doctrine and a living testimony.

D. You Must Fish at Night (Go into Darkness with Light)

Fish are often caught at night. In the same way, the world today is in deep moral and spiritual darkness. That is where the Gospel is most urgently needed.

Jesus said in Luke 5:31

> “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”

We cannot limit our preaching to the church walls—we must go out to the “dark places” of the world where the lost are. Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

E. You Must Have a Lamp (The Holy Spirit)

Finally, the most essential tool in fishing at night is a lamp—to draw the fish. In the same way, we need the presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit, who gives light in the darkness.

Matthew 25:1–13 tells the parable of the ten virgins—only those who had oil (the Holy Spirit) in their lamps were ready when the bridegroom came.

Philippians 2:15 says:

> “...you shine as lights in the world.”

No matter how skilled or gifted you are, if you lack the Holy Spirit, your ministry will have no lasting impact. We need the Spirit’s

power to draw people to Christ through the light of our lives and our message.

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4. Conclusion: Seek the Holy Spirit Daily

To bear fruit that pleases God and lasts into eternity, we must:

- Abide in Christ (John 15:4–5)
- Walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

We cannot bear fruit or lead others to salvation without the Spirit’s help. So let us seek Him with all our hearts.

Let the words of Zechariah 4:6 guide you:

> “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.

God bless you as you pursue a Spirit-filled life and bring others into His Kingdom.

Preach the Gospel boldly, and let your life shine brightly in this dark world.

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