

## ***Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.8)***

"Mr. Goodstuff, Who Do You Think You Are? "

(Galatians 5:22)

*"The fruit of the Spirit is ...Goodness" (NKJV)*

**Introduction:** If you want to lose weight, one fruit diet says you must eat nine fruits a day. Raw fruits and vegetables are the best source of energy and nutrition. One of the suggested fruits you should eat are grapes. Not only are they a good low-calorie snack, but they are healthy for you too. Grapes are often called the "Queen of fruits," because they possess excellent cleansing properties for the human body. Grapes detoxify the body and help build iron rich blood. The fruit of "goodness is just like the grape. Strong's concordance describes goodness as a virtue. Thyer's says it is uprightness of heart and life, while Wuest calls goodness the faithfulness and fidelity as produced in the life of a yielded Christian. (i.e.) *Christians should be good like grapes!* So, if you eat a lot of grapes – good for you, but, when you have the fruit of goodness you're "Mr. Goodstuff!" Because *Christian's are not just supposed to be good, but we are divinely designed to partner with God and be good for something.* If we are going to be "Mr. Goodstuff's" there are 3 things, you'll need...

### ***I. Have a character of goodness:***

*Goodness means different things to different people.* But the Apostle Paul says the good life is spiritual. *"the fruit of the spirit is goodness."* Since it is the fruit of the spirit, we know that this kind of goodness can only come from God. And seeing as our character is behind all we say & do, having a character of goodness...

#### ***A. Is a result of the filling of the Spirit –***

*There is a definite relationship between being filled with the Spirit and our ability to have a character of goodness.*

1. Our model is Jesus, (*Acts 10:38a*)
2. How are people anointed by the Spirit today? They are "filled with the Spirit." (Something every believer has.)
  - a. This is the claim of every Christian - (*Rom 8:9,16; 1Cor 6:19*)

*But notice, even though every Christian possess the Holy Spirit, not every Christian is "filled with the Spirit."*

- b. This is the command of every Christian to -(*Eph 5:18*)

*All believers possess the Holy Spirit – Yet they operate for years without giving the Spirit the control He needs to have in their lives.*

- c. There is a commitment required of every believer - (*Rom 12:1-2*)

*If I am going to ever have a character of goodness – I must submit myself to the filling control of the Holy Spirit.*

It is the aim of the Holy Spirit to produce the character of Christ in every believer, making us good (godly) people. So, a character of goodness...

#### ***B. Is a result of the fruit of the Spirit – (Eph 5:8-10)***

1. It is only as the Holy Spirit is allowed to produce His fruit in us, that we do not – (*Gal.5:16,17*)
2. It is only as the Holy Spirit is allowed to produce His fruit in us, that we – (*v25*)
3. It is only as the Holy Spirit is allowed to produce His fruit in us, that we take the – (*Gal 6:10*)

*So, if you want to truly be a "Mr. Goodstuff" you'll need a character of goodness that only comes by a fresh fruit -filling of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13) Goodness is only possible with God. So, we must daily ask for the Holy Spirit to do His work in us, but we also must yield to Him control of our hearts. Those who do will....*

### ***II. Have a conduct of goodness:***

The Holy Spirit's purpose is to produce goodness in our lives and good character leads to good conduct. *but we all know...*

#### ***A. All Christian's have the potential for great evil –***

1. Even the apostle Paul struggled with it & wrote about it in, (*Rom 7:21*)
2. You recall a rich young ruler in (*Mk.10:20*)
3. Why do we all have such a great potential to do evil? (*Rom 7:18*)
4. How do we conquer such a problem? (*Mark 10:17-18*)

*Get that down in your heart. Only God is good. (Ps. 34:8; Rom. 8:28; Ps. 119:39; Js 1:17; Rom. 12:2) So, if we are going to talk about good, then we are going to have to talk about God. Because without God, there is no good.*

- a. Peter tells us, the moment we believed upon Christ, (*2 Pe.1:4*)
    - b. The word "Participate" is literally "become partners" to "share" in...
    - c. What Peter is saying is, *Believers take on God's very nature; each one is a "new creation"* (*2 Cor 5:17*). This is the only way we can truly do good. Therefore...

#### ***B. All Christian's have the potential for great good – (II Th 1:11) The Holy Spirit does not just help us have character of goodness, but also the conduct of goodness.***

1. Jesus said - (*Matt 12:35*) *However,* Just because we possess a new, divine, nature doesn't mean we will always conduct ourselves by it.
2. When Jesus said, (*Matt 15:19*) He was saying whatever force you are spending your time feeding and investing in - is the conduct you'll live out!

God is good – and if you don't act like God it's because you're not investing enough time in the things of God – The Bible says, *"the fruit of the spirit is goodness,"* not human goodness – this is God's goodness, expressed through us as we live in partnership with His divine nature living through us! *We need to become the kind of believers who...)*

### ***III. Have a consistency of goodness: (Rom 15:14)***

If you're a believer you're already full of God's goodness – you just need to practice it. (*Col 1:10*) Here are three ways we can start to have a consistency of goodness in our lives today;

1. *Fulfilling goodness by God's Word - (Ps 37:3; Mic. 6:8; 1 Tim 6:18; Eph.2:8-10*
2. *Fulfilling goodness by loving others – Gal 6:10; Matt 5:43-44) 1Thes 5:15; (Heb 13:16)*
3. *Fulfilling goodness by our witness – (1 Pe 2:12; Mt. 5:16; Tit. 2:7-8; Rom 12:9,21)*