

## From John Wesley's Compilation of Hymns:

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell  
With Me"

GRACIOUS Spirit, dwell with  
me!

I myself would gracious be,  
And with words that help and  
heal  
Would thy life in mine reveal;  
And with actions bold and meek  
Would for Christ my Saviour  
speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me!  
I myself would truthful be,  
And with wisdom kind and clear  
Let thy life in mine appear;  
And with actions brotherly  
Speak my Lord's sincerity.

Tender Spirit, dwell with me!  
I myself would tender be;  
Shut my heart up like a flower  
At temptation's darksome hour,  
Open it when shines the sun,  
And his love by fragrance own.

Mighty Spirit, dwell with me!  
I myself would mighty be,  
Mighty so as to prevail  
Where unaided man must fail,  
Ever by a mighty hope  
Pressing on, and bearing up.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me!  
I myself would holy be,  
Separate from sin, I would  
Choose, and cherish all things  
good;  
And whatever I can be  
Give to him who gave me thee.

## Benediction

Please stand and receive  
the benediction...

?? May you be motivated,  
challenged, encouraged &  
changed by this 40 Day  
journey and all it's key ele-  
ments.

?? May God the Father  
bless you and keep you  
this week as you live out  
the fruitful life.

?? May the Son intercede  
for you that your life might  
be more fruitful than you  
ever imagined

?? May you live by the  
Spirit.

?? May you keep in step  
with the Spirit.

?? May you be filled with  
the Holy Spirit! Amen.

## the fruit of the spirit galatians 5:16-25 / David Drury

### Opening Story

A man was being tailgated by a stressed-out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection with him. As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping the guy off in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."

## **Hypocrisy...**

The problem most people have with the church isn't believing in Jesus. The problem most people have with the church is our own hypocrisy.

**ILL** = The church has become like that 2<sup>nd</sup> level of strawberries. — Pull out box and explain

?? Our church needs to change the way it views evangelism and discipleship — the way it reaches out and grows within. We've divided the two, and two things have happened:

1. We often lack growth in our lives
2. We often lack evangelistic fruit in our lives

And even when we do "DO" evangelism....+

**Q** = "Unfortunately, we would rather **point the way** to Jesus than to **live the way** of Jesus."

?? As we will find today, being real and having the Spirit IN you is what counter-acts hypocrisy and bears fruit that lasts.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..."*

**Turn to Galatians 5:16-25 and we'll discover how to live the way of Jesus.**

*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit; and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*

*The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immor-*

That's the theoretical side... and the Biblical principle.

But if you're a practical person, consider this:

?? A life lived by the Spirit is the greatest evangelistic "method" in the world.

?? We invent all sorts of ways and means to help people to "get it" in the world.

?? But nothing works quite like them seeing us really "get it" ourselves — when the HOLY SPIRIT has changed WHO WE ARE...

?? instead of only **feeling** it, **thinking** it, **doing** it... we **ARE IT!**

THEN...

**Q** = "Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary use words." - St. Francis of Assisi

1 Peter 3:15 = "Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have."

are you in step with the spirit today?

**If so** – then continue to live by the Spirit.

**If not and you never have fully been so** – commit for the first time today to live by the Spirit.

**If not and you need to get back in step** – make a mid-course correction and re-commit today to live by the Spirit again.

**WHAT I FEEL—emotions & heart**

?? Risk of being passionate but unrooted Xian

**WHAT I THINK—beliefs & mind**

?? Risk of being just an intellectual Xian

**WHAT I DO—actions & strength**

ILL = Martin Luther climbing the steps of Scala Sancta in Rome on his knees, trying to act his way to righteousness.

?? Risk of being just a legalistic Xian

**WHAT I AM—identity & soul**

*ality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

**Brief Prayer**

?? **NEED 2 Volunteers—tallest**

**a spiritual tug-of-war**

There is a spiritual tug of war happening in my life:

1) My **sinful nature**, as we see in verses 16-21, is pulling me towards all kind of habitual practices that destroy my life and others.

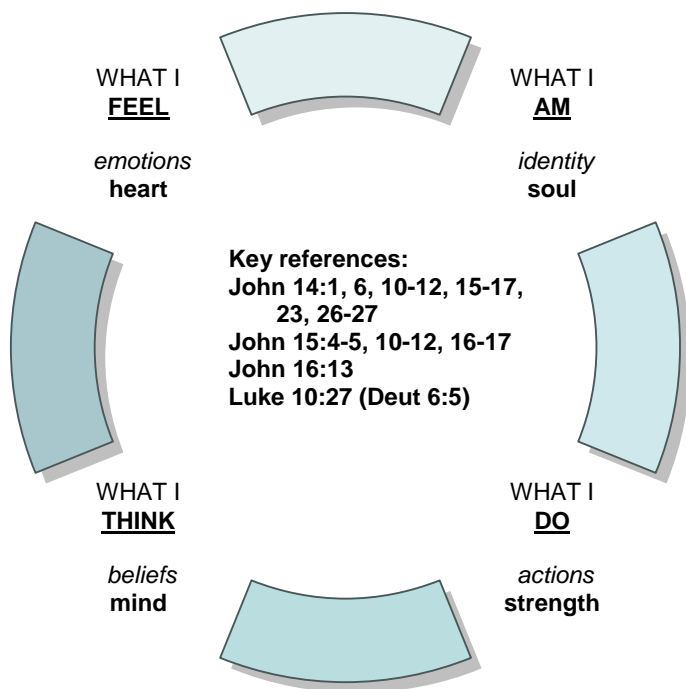
?? You're the flag on the rope! – hanging over the mud.

**Q** = It's okay to admit that you have this pull in your heart. Saint Augustine himself, one of the greatest Christians that ever lived, frequently prayed: "Lord, deliver me from that evil man, myself."

2) The **Spirit**, however, is pulling me towards all kinds of habitual practices that bless my life and others: the fruitful life.

?? **Guys can step down**

?? We do live in a world of hate that chases only happiness. A world of conflict and hurry. A harsh world of broken promises that only ends in rage.



**I haven't really CHANGED if I only feel, think and act differently. I need to CHANGE WHO I AM. My identity, my soul, needs to be in step with the Spirit**

**BUT — Q** = “The harvest will not self-reap, but it will self-destruct.” - Wayne Cordiero

To live by the Spirit enables us to live in a counter-cultural way:

- ?? It enables us to have **Love**, not hate.
- ?? **Joy** over the empty promise of Happiness.
- ?? **Peace** in what seems like a world of perpetual conflict.
- ?? **Patience** when all around us hurries.
- ?? **Kindness** and **Goodness** when so many are harsh.
- ?? **Faithfulness** when our every inclination is to break our promises.
- ?? **Gentleness** and **Self-Control** in a world that can only turn to rage to solve its many problems.

**SELF TEST** = \*When you **HATE** someone, you know you’re not keeping in step with the Spirit.

?? Religion that does not lead us to love isn’t right religion – being in the vine always leads to **love**.

**Q** = “Love - the root of all the rest.” - John Wesley’s comment on the Fruit of the Spirit in his Commentary on Galatians

There is a spiritual tug of war happening in my heart and in yours – and after a long struggle I think many of us are ready to be done with the tugging. It’s time to pull the sinful nature off its heels and into the mud-pit between us. It’s time to live by the Spirit. It’s time to keep in step with the Spirit.

**ILL** = Hold up different kinds of fruit — everyone guess what kind it is—in unison say it.

You know a tree by its fruit.... You know what type of plant each of these kinds of fruit come from. The Fruit

of the Spirit are “obvious” identifiers of where we come from = Jesus — and there are obvious objections to the way many Christians live.

## **you know a tree by its fruit**

### **READ:**

*“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” - Luke 6:43-44*

- ?? The world knows that these fruit of the spirit qualities are to be sought after—but the world just mimics this fruit — right now there is a great pouring out of giving for the Tsunami Victims — it’s amazing (\$8,000 from our own church) — but I wonder about 3 years from now?
- ?? Trying to manufacture the fruit of the Spirit without being attached to the Vine is like creating a wax apple. From a distance it might look the part – but once you bite into it you know that the quality is only skin-deep.

**STORY** = my Grandmother setting aside a that rotten crème puff for me.

What your neighbor or co-worker who doesn’t know Christ needs is for you to live by the spirit toward them.

## **dynamics of the fruitful life...**

In searching the scriptures... I see the pattern of fruitfulness emerging. A more holistic way of looking at our spiritual lives. There are at least four parts, as we’re reminded in Luke 10:27 = “Love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **strength** and with all your **mind**”