



# *The Fruit of the Spirit*

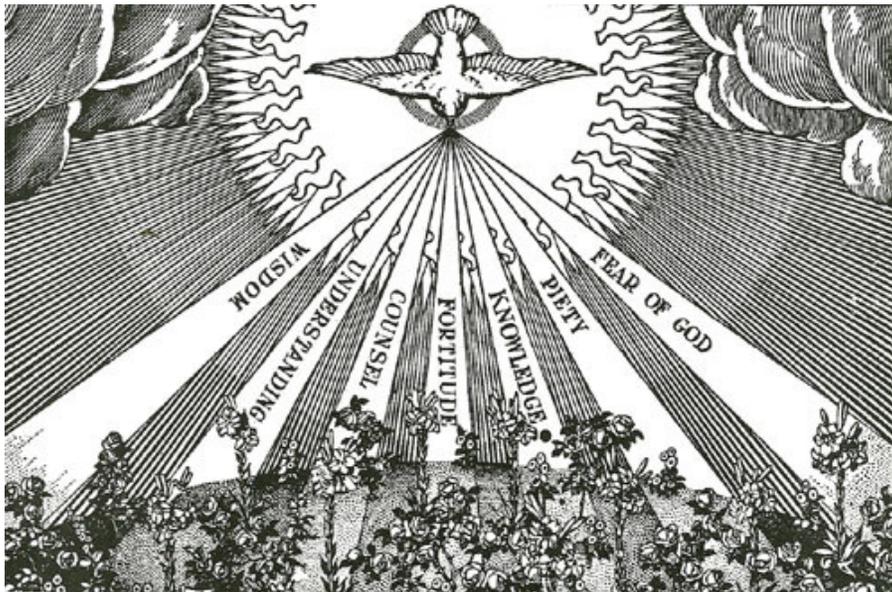
*By - Max Lucado*



The Bible says, “If God were to withdraw his Spirit, all life would disappear, and mankind would return again to dust” (Job 34:14-15). And Ephesians 1:13 says that the

Holy Spirit enters the believer upon confession of faith. From that point forward the Christian has access to the very power and personality of God. They begin to think the way God thinks, love the way God loves, and see the way God sees. And this power includes the gifts of the Spirit: “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

As our relationship with God is secured and unmarred by rebellion, sin, or stubborn behavior, we can expect a harvest of fruit! We need not force it, but we can expect it. It simply falls to us to stay connected. And because God’s promises are unbreakable our hope is unshakable!



## **Responsive Reading:** Exodus 2:1-4, 7-8, 12-20

- LDR: Then God spoke all these words:  
 1-6: You shall have no other gods before me.  
 7-12: You shall not make for yourself an idol.  
 13-18: You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God.  
 19-24: You shall remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.  
 25-31: You shall honor your father and your mother.  
 1-6: You shall not murder.  
 7-12: You shall not commit adultery.  
 13-18: You shall not steal.  
 19-24: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
 25-31: You shall not covet your neighbor's possessions or spouse.
- LDR: Then the people said:  
 ALL: These are the commandments that we will keep all our days.

## **Lesson:** Isaiah 5:1b-7

The Prophet said:

*“My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.”*

*“Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?”*

*“I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.”*

*“[Know this:] the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!”*

## **Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-43, 45

Jesus said: *“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, He put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.” ...*

## Gospel – cont'd

*"When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 'But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 'Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' His listeners said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'"*

Jesus said to them, *"Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom."*

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard this parable, they realized that he was speaking about them.

## SALEM FAMILY EVENTS



SUNDAY SCHOOL  
**NEWS**

- Watch for a list of resources for families with small children on our website and/or in future bulletins...coming soon!

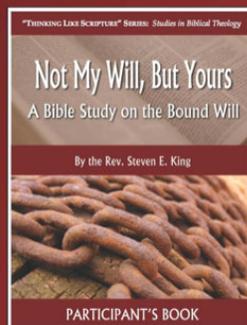
- watch for a newsletter with updates about the fall Sunday services, gatherings, and activities



Last Week

Fall 2020  
**ONLINE BIBLE STUDY**  
Hosted by Sola Publishing  
Monday Evenings (on Zoom)  
Starting October 5th

Presented by the study's author:  
The Rev. Dr. Steven E. King - Sola's Managing Editor



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Week's Service.....

### **INDOORS!!!!!!**

**...for those who are comfortable (make sure you have this part) and at 9:30. Precautions will be taken (mostly, limited numbers, spread out, and masks). For those who are not comfortable w/ gathering indoors, the virtual service will still be offered through out web-site -- (<https://www.salemlc-oxford.org>)**

On Monday, Oct 5th, from 9:30am until 5pm, our association, the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ), is having their annual meeting. Becky and Paul Fiske of our congregation are attending it; you can speak to them about their experiences if you'd like. You may also 'attend' the convention yourself by watching the live stream at <https://www.lcmc.net/live>. A schedule of the day's events can be found at <https://www.lcmc.net/ag-books/summaries>.



Plans are being made to have the annual autumn leaf cleanup on October 17<sup>th</sup>... more details to come...

Confirmation Class/process for adults (confirmed or refresher), will be starting soon-- more info ... see Pastor Rob!



## GRINABLES



**Student:** I don't understand why my grade was so low. How did I do on my research paper? **Teacher:** Actually, you didn't turn in a research paper. You turned in a random assemblage of sentences. In fact, the sentences you apparently kidnapped in the dead of night and forced into this violent and arbitrary plan of yours clearly seemed to be placed on the pages against their will. Reading your paper was like watching unfamiliar, uncomfortable people interacting at a cocktail party that no one wanted to attend in the first place. You didn't submit a research paper. You submitted a hostage situation.