

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT FULFILLED



HEAR

Read Galatians 5:16, 22-23 and Revelation 21:1-5

- In the Galatians passage, who produces the fruit?
- What is the role of the Spirit? Of people?
- In the Revelations passage, what does God do?
- How do these two passages relate?

In Rev. 21 we see the Holy City coming down out of heaven from God, as a bride for God. It is a place of peace, where the old order of death, mourning, crying and pain are gone. Everything is new! But it is a city; God has transformed some of the work of human hands and has incorporated it into the new creation.

In our current old order of things, we might have lofty ambitions to change the world that might be frustrated. Or, we might have opportunity to do great things, but we do them out of our sinful natures (e.g. selfishness, pride, fear), or we fail to grasp the opportunity. We are broken, and the world is broken. In the midst of this brokenness, Paul invites us to live, not out of our sinful nature, but by relying on and cooperating with the Holy Spirit. We are called to this both when we have great opportunities before us, and when our hopes and ambitions are frustrated. If we live by the Spirit, scripture promises that we will bear the fruit of the Spirit, fruit that we know will last (John 15:16). It is this fruit that we can know for certain will be taken up by God into the new creation, and this fruit is evident when we look at the new Jerusalem. God's economy is not restricted by our brokenness. When we depend upon the Holy Spirit and say "yes" to his leading, we will get to contribute towards the building of the new creation!



RESPOND

Go and do

As you anticipate your first job, where is God inviting you to let go of the flesh, selfishness, your sinful nature (and we all have it)? Where is God inviting you to let go and to embrace the leading of the Holy Spirit?

The next time you are going to class, sitting down to study, or starting a shift at work, pray and ask God to produce the fruits of the Spirit in you. Ask the Lord to show you how you could contribute towards love, joy and peace (and other fruit of the Spirit) flourishing in your class, study group or workplace. As you do this, you're partnering with the Godhead in the renewing of all of creation through your work.



DEBRIEF

Reflect on what you learned

- Did the Lord reveal a specific fruit of the Spirit to produce in your studies or job?
- Did you observe any differences in how you did your work? Any examples of positive fruit that God produced in you or your relationship?
- How might God want to give you vision for using a future career for the flourishing of all creation?