

Evidence of The Fruit of the Spirit

Not everyone who says to Me "Lord, Lord" shall enter the kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Matthew 7:21.

The difference between a *servant of God* and an *instrument of God* is brought out in Matthew 7:21-23.

An *instrument* is a person whom God uses, whether that person is right or not. God will bless His Word, whether a saint or a sinner preaches it. But the *servant* of God lives in the fulness of the His Spirit, evidencing the life of obedience.

Our Lord says in effect "When you judge the work someone is doing, don't judge by the fact that you see Me at work. Judge Him by his fruit." What is that? The fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit, ie character.

Many can do the work of God, but no one can imitate the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

(Oswald Chambers - Devotions for a Deeper Life, October 31).

Obedience – the fruit of a broken and a contrite heart

Luke 22:31-38

Christ permitted His disciples to be sifted for He emphatically stated "Satan has desired to have you that he may sift you...but I have prayed for you, that your faith would not fail." Not that you do not fail into sin, but "that your faith fail not".

As a result of the sifting everyone of the disciples suffered from a broken heart. In Pilgrims Progress, John Bunyan talks about the "excellency of the broken heart." The sacrifice which God requires is not "obedience in sacrifice" but a broken heart. "A broken and contrite spirit, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:17. Peter denied with oaths and curses that he never knew Jesus. That was the supreme point of self-revelation. The other disciples also fell away; and I am sure that when they realized their weakness they too were broken hearted.

Prayer Thought: *Self-revelation is at times painful, but always helpful. Heavenly Father, I desire to know who am for the eternal well-being of my soul.*

(Oswald Chambers – Devotions for a Deeper Life, November 4.)