



## Looking for Signs of Life

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor – June 9, 2013

Luke 6:43 – 45

### INTRODUCTION

→ QUESTION: How do you know if a person is controlled by the flesh or God's Spirit?

→ ANSWER: You know it by their conduct or "fruit"

→ Fruit of the flesh vs. Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-23; 6:7-8)

PRINCIPLE #1: Things produce (or reproduce) according to nature.

→ QUESTION: What is your predominant nature? FLESH or SPIRIT? (1 Peter 1:3-4)

### ROOTS & FRUITS

→ Good (Tree) Roots

→ Good Fruits

→ Bad (Tree) Roots

→ Bad Fruits

→ Bad = rotten or worthless (cf. Matthew 7:15-20)

PRINCIPLE #2: Who you are at the core of your being will be reflected in how you think, talk & act.

PRINCIPLE #3: Whatever you put into your life will eventually come out.

PRINCIPLE #4: A successful walk with Christ is more like preventative than curative medicine.

PRINCIPLE #5: Unlike agriculture or the animal kingdom, we humans can change our dominant nature.

### PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, I invite You to inspect the "fruit" of my life and change what is wrong or unhealthy in my spirit. I surrender to You and ask You to guide my thoughts, attitudes, words and actions. Please fill me with Your purifying power and hold my fleshly instincts at bay. I do not want sin to control my life. I want You to control my life so that what comes out of me reflects the life-changing overflow of Your work in me. In Jesus' name. Amen.*



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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

**Lesson Aim:** To grow in our understanding of how we need to allow God to examine the spiritual “fruit” of our lives so that we can grow to be more like Christ and live a life that reveals Him.

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

1. **READ Luke 6:43-45.** What is Jesus referring to when He talks about “bad fruit” and “good fruit”?
2. How does the tree and its fruit metaphor help us to recognize whether a person is living by the Holy Spirit or living by the “flesh”?
3. If you were to examine your relationships and/or activities, where would you say you are producing “good fruit”? Where might you be producing some “bad fruit”?

4. One of the principles from Pastor Scott’s teaching was: **Whatever you put into your life will eventually come out.** What is contributing (circumstances, your choices, etc.) to the “good fruit” in your relationships and/or activities? What is contributing to the “bad fruit” in your relationships and/or activities?
5. Why is heart change more important than just behavioral change?
6. **READ Galatians 5:13-26.** What are some ways we can (intentionally or unintentionally) choose to live “in the flesh”? What are some ways we can (intentionally) choose to live “by the Spirit”?
7. What are some changes you can personally make this week to live by the Spirit and allow for more “good fruit” to grow in your relationships?

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday’s message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at [theBridgeFresno.com](http://theBridgeFresno.com) by clicking on the “Messages” link.