

Episode 24. "The Fruit of the Spirit, Part One."

Tuesday, October 26, 2021. 41 Minutes Long.

A serious but humorous discussion of the most important and necessary power in any Christian's life – "The Fruit of the Spirit." This unique episode tells what the "fruit" is, and how it works, and why it's necessary. A desperately needed episode. This is Part One. Episode 25 is Part Two.

John (00:00):

John Shields opens the episode by saying:

John (00:12):

Well, hello again, my friends! This is Episode 24 in our bi-weekly series of "Saving Christianity." We're coming to you every-other-Tuesday from Christian Family Online. I'm your host, John Shields. And thank you for joining us today. You'll remember in an earlier episode we talked about how to be a mature Christian. And we said that a mature Christian is a person who has made a habit to be *Spirit-filled*. In other words, a mature Christian is one whose habitual motivator is the *Holy Spirit*. Now, that's so important, I want to say that again: The habitual motivator in their life is the Holy Spirit. Such Christians are doing what we call living the "Early Christian Lifestyle." So now we're in Episode 24. And we're continuing to dig deep into the subject of mature Christians. And the title of this episode is, "The Fruit of the Spirit" (Part One).

John (01:18):

That's right! "The Fruit of the Spirit." And you're going to be glad that you joined in on the podcast today. It's an exciting subject, and we're going to discuss the mysterious subject of the *fruit of the Spirit* because it directly is linked to Spiritual growth in Christians. And I know that most Christians have heard of the fruit of the Spirit in Sunday school, or from the pulpit. But many aren't sure what it *means* ... or if they *have* it ... or even if they *need* it. (Chuckles.) So we're going to answer all of those questions, hopefully, today in this episode. And I know, Owen, I am looking forward to it. So let's go ahead and start. Owen, welcome to Episode 24!

Co-Host, Owen Allen, Joins the Conversation (02:06):

Thank you, John! It's great to be back in the studio again. You know, this "flying solo" thing that you talk about is good once in a while. (Chuckles.) And we've done that, really, for the past several episodes, due to our travel schedules. But I don't like it that much. I'm really happy to be back, all of us here together, in the studio with our intrepid producer, Shannon Wolfe. And by the way, a big "hello" to you too, Shannon. But guys, to get us started, I think it's important to know that *Jesus* is the Person in the New Testament who talked the *most* about the fruit of the Spirit. Now, frankly, I was raised thinking that the apostle *Paul* said the most about it. Because

of especially his big comment in Galatians, chapter five, which we'll talk about. But he didn't, though. He didn't, *Jesus* did.

John (03:00):

Yeah, that's right. If you mention that the fruit of the Spirit to most Christians, or to many – even some pastors and priests – they immediately think of Paul and what he said there in the book of Galatians. But the most verses ... this is interesting ... about the fruit of the Spirit are actually in the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, by *Jesus*.

Owen (03:25):

That's right. That's very, very interesting. And you know what. Even digging deeper as you say, John, a lot of people don't realize that Jesus's half-brother, *James*, also talked about the fruit of the spirit, as did the writer of the book of *Hebrews*.

John (03:42):

Again, that's so true. And another ... it's a ... Owen, another strange thing is that many people call it the "fruits" – F R U I T S – of the Spirit, making the word *plural*. Now, you say what difference does that make? Well, it's *not* plural in the original Greek. The word is singular. And yet it is true that there are many parts to the fruit. So that's one thing we need to explain: That conflict.

Owen (04:12):

Yeah, that's something we're going to cover. We need to cover that because for years I didn't understand that. You know, it's a funny thing, John. When you're even on the Internet, for example, and you look up articles on the fruit of the Spirit. You'll see that many of the articles are in the *plural*. They say, you know, welcome to the *fruits* of the Spirit, and so on. So there's some misunderstandings about the fruit of the Spirit. But you know John, even worse, there's some misinformation. For example, most people, many people ... I was one of them for many years ... I was taught that there are nine – *nine* – fruit of the Spirit. But in fact, if you dig deeper, and we'll talk about that, there are actually at least twenty, and maybe more,

John (04:59):

I do ... I think, Owen, the most important thing here at the beginning we want to just say is that the fruit ... the most important thing is that *Jesus* said the most about it. Not *Paul*. And that makes the fruit a very important thing in the Christian life.

Owen (05:16):

Totally. You know, and here's a funny thing, John. I was looking back, and we've mentioned the fruit in half a dozen of our episodes in this podcast since we started a year ago. But you know, we haven't devoted a full episode to it. And so I think it's way past time for us to do that, and we're doing that now.

John (05:40):

Yeah, for sure. But here – what's the best way to start such an important subject?

Owen (05:45):

Well, I think we've both said this so often, John, that the best way to start anything in Christianity is with a clear *definition* (chuckles) of the term. So why don't we *define* the "fruit of the Spirit," if we can here, in the clearest possible way.

John (06:05):

Yeah. You know, a definition is always best. For example, many people think that just because Paul said in Galatians that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, and peace, the "fruit" is those *human emotions*. And if Christians are more loving and kind, they "have" the fruit of the Spirit.

Owen (06:27):

Yeah, isn't that interesting! I think most people think that. It's so common. But here's the problem: That's the exact *opposite* of what the Early Christians taught. You know, if you look at that phrase, "the fruit of the Spirit," you'll notice what is the *last* word there? SPIRIT! So the fruit of the spirit is *from* the Holy Spirit of God – from the Trinity. It's not from *human* emotions. Has nothing to do with them. And that's really a huge point in understanding Christianity. The fruit of the Spirit is made up of *supernatural* emotions. Not human emotions. So what does that tell us? The fruit starts in the Throne Room of God, and it comes down to Christians through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit who's within them.

John (07:24):

Wow! Wow! Boy that gets to the point. And I bet, Owen, that a lot of people have never thought of the fruit of the Spirit that way.

Owen (07:35):

Well, it's true. I mean, you wonder how we can be Christians all our lives and be so superficial. You know, I was about a quarter of an inch deep most of my life. But that's true. And so here's what let's do in this episode. Let's try to explain to our friends as clearly as we can what the fruit of the Spirit is.

John (08:00):

Yeah, and something we said from the very beginning: We don't want to focus so much on the *problem* as we do the *solution*. And this is part of that. So let's be faithful to the true meaning of the original Greek word that Jesus, Paul, James, and the writer of Hebrews used.

Owen (08:19):

Yeah, that's what we always want to do. I was thinking about that driving to the studio in my car: How important it is to be faithful to the original Greek words. You know, I may have told this story, John. But I was teaching a class one time, and a guy came up to me at break and he said, "You must really like Greece, don't you!" And I said, "Well, I've been there. But I don't know, I don't like it all that much."

Owen (08:49):

He said, "Well, you talk about Greece all the time. Why do you talk about Greece?" And I realized he did not know that the New Testament was written in *Greek*. And what's interesting is it's an *extinct* form of Greek: Koine' Greek. Nobody even knows exactly what that sounded like. I remember I had a Greek teacher one time that took a vacation to Greece, and said she didn't understand anything they said, or anything she saw written. Because Modern Greek is that different.

Owen (09:18):

Well ... so I found out the hard way that you don't really understand Christianity, and you don't really understand the Bible, unless you dig into the original Greek. So to do that, I think an easy way to start is to give an example. You know (chuckles), my wife, Joanna, likes fresh fruit. And whenever we're out driving through the countryside and she sees a farmer's fruit stand, she always wants to stop and park and go in. And that's a funny thing, I guess. Most drivers face that problem when they're out in the countryside. But ... and you see lines and lines of cars (chuckles) at these places. But here's my point: There's one special fruit stand ... I could take you there today ... that she likes. And it's easy to recognize because on top of it it's got a *huge yellow sign*. And that great big yellow sign has two words on it: "Fresh Produce." "*Fresh Produce*." And every time we pull up and I sit looking at that sign, I think about the Holy Spirit. Because He's the world's first, best, and only "*Fresh Produce*."

John (10:40):

Yeah, I see what you mean. Man, that is exciting. Because original Greek word for *fruit* in the New Testament, as we know, can also be translated as "produce."

Owen (10:51):

That's right. So the farmer that put up that big sign ... he's telling the public that in his stand he's selling what his fields "produced." In other words, the apples and peaches and whatever in his stand are the "product" of his fields. And that's what the New Testament is saying. That's what it means when it talks about – quotes – "the fruit of the Spirit." Those are supernatural emotions. We're going to talk about them. But they are the "product" of the Holy Spirit.

Owen (11:28):

I think it ... Owen, it's interesting isn't it, that the First Century word for the fruit of the Spirit is an *agricultural* word.

Owen (11:36):

It is. And I think that *is* so interesting. Because remember, of course, where Jesus didn't spend that much time in the *cities*. When you think about it, He spent a lot of His time outdoors in the *countryside*. And who was in the crowds that followed him? Farmers, shepherds, vineyard workers. So, let's get to our point here: The agricultural word, John, for "fruit," in the New Testament in First Century Greek is *Karpos* ... *Karpos*. And it actually comes – this is funny – from a root word that means to "pick a piece of fruit off of a tree." That's the root of *karpos*.

Owen (12:16):

So and as you said, John, it can be translated "produce" of a tree. Or what a tree "produces," you could say it. Or the "result" of having a tree, you might could say. But in this case, *karpos* is referring to what the Holy Spirit produces in us. Or, I could say ... maybe we could say ... the result of having the Holy Spirit indwell us. And here's what He produces – maybe put these in my words: Wonderful, supernatural, *inner emotions*. And they create wonderful, supernatural, *outer behavior* in us.

John (12:58):

Wow. And so, Owen, let's link that. So that also means that *only* Christians can have the fruit of the Spirit. Because they're the *only* ones ... *we're* the only ones – Christians – who are indwelled by the Holy Spirit. And the Spirit is the *only* one who can produce the fruit. So the fruit is a very important part of Christianity.

Owen (13:29):

And you know, John. I just have to say this. Looking back over my many, many, moons in the institutional congregations I've been a member of – and how many sermons have I heard on the Holy ... on the fruit of the Spirit? You know, how many in-depth teachings did I ever have in Sunday school on the fruit of the Spirit? Isn't it strange? And yet, I think we all three of us agree that that's one of the most important things in Christianity. And why? Because the fruit of the Spirit is the *character and personality* of the Holy Spirit. So if we're expressing the fruit in our lives, we're expressing the *character and personality* of Christ. And isn't it true? Can't we agree? *That's what Christians are supposed to be doing!*

John (14:29):

Yeah. Or what about this, Owen? If we look at that in reverse, we can conclude, I think, that the reason so many Christians today are referred to as hypocritical, boring, and irrelevant, is that many are not – my emphasis is on the "not" – expressing the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.

Owen (14:57):

Hmm, boy that hurts. (Chuckles.) And yet that's what all the polls show, don't they! Gallup, and Pew, and Barna. They relentlessly, endlessly come up with *that* result when they do national polls. Well, so let's try to repeat now our little definition for our friends out in Podcast Land:

The fruit of the Spirit is Spiritual emotions that the Holy Spirit produces – there's that word! – produces in Christians. And these supernatural emotions in turn produce Spiritual outer behavior in Christians.

Owen (15:35):

In other words, *emotions* and *behavior* are linked and are virtually the same thing. And this Spiritual behavior is what Christians are supposed to be showing to the world. Now that brings up a big question, doesn't it? (Chuckles.) *How do we do all this?* How do Christians express the fruit, since it's supernatural and it's not human? Then how is it that we *release* it and our daily lives?

John (16:07):

Yeah and I think, Owen, the first thing we need to remember is that ... just as a reminder ... the fruit of the Spirit is *behavior*. It's our conduct – by *us* – that the Holy Spirit is expressing through us. And that's supernatural and amazing.

Owen (16:27):

Oh, Yeah! Supernatural and amazing is what the Christian life was meant to be. Well, so let's talk about *how* exactly, precisely does that happen? You know, John, our friends out in Podcast Land might remember – way back – Episode 16 in the podcast. It had the title: "The Spirit-Filling Crisis." Maybe they would like to go back and re-listen to that now. Because in that episode, we say that *all* Christians ... every Christian, none are left out ... are supposed to be Spirit-Filled. And we say that Spirit-Filling is commanded by God. We remember, we talked about Paul's famous statement: "*Be filled with the Spirit!*" And he uses the Greek command tense there. So we're commanded to do that. But the point is, why? *Why* would God want Christians to be Spirit-filled? What's the connection?

John (17:29):

Well, ah, let me take a stab at that. (Chuckles.) Now the answer is that being Spirit-filled is the way Christians release – or *express* – the fruit of the Spirit. In fact, expressing the fruit is the *purpose* of Spirit-filling.

Owen (17:48):

And you know, most people had never linked those two things, John. I mean, I never did. But Spirit-filling is the only way ... emphasis as you say, on the *only* ... Spirit-filling is the *only* way to release the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. And as you said, that is the whole point of Spirit-filling.

John (18:09):

Owen, let's be even more specific. So the fruit of the Spirit is the "sign" ... or the "indicator" ... or we might say the "proof" ... that a Christian is *Spirit-filled*.

Owen (18:26):

Well you know, John, that is an incredibly important point. Showing the wonderful emotions of the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives as the sign – the *only* sign – that we're Spirit-filled. And sadly, as you say, "We've got a problem, Houston." *Not* showing these emotions shows we're *not* Spirit-filled. Not that we're not going to heaven. I didn't say that. I said not ... that we're *not* Spirit-filled. You know, we've heard Christians say things – or I have – like faithful attendance to their congregation; or faithful tithing; or expressing Spiritual gifts; or something else is the "sign" that a Christian is Spirit-filled. But you know, if you analyze it that's not true. Because Christians who are not – emphasis on *not* – Spirit-filled do all of these things. They're just doing them with what I sometimes call "defective" *human emotions*, instead of the pure heavenly *Spiritual emotions*.

Owen (19:35):

And here's something that strikes me, John. Jesus said in Matthew 7:20 that *here's* how you know who's really and truly a Christian and a Spirit-filled Christian. He said,

"You will know them by their *fruit*."

Owen (19:38):

Not by their attendance. Not by their tithing. He said, "*You will know them by their fruit.*" And He used our word *karpos* there when He said it. So he was saying that no matter what else Christians do. No matter what Christians say they are. If they're truly Spirit-filled Christians, they are expressing the *fruit of the Spirit*.

John (20:18):

Yeah, the principle ... just to restate ... we need to remember is that the fruit of the Spirit *is* going to manifest in our behavior. So if we ask, "What does the Spirit *produce* in us?" Or, if we ask, "What's the *result* of the Spirit in us?" Then the answer, the conclusion, is that it produces *Spiritual behavior*. Real-life, real-time, daily-living, behavior.

Owen (20:52):

Yeah, just personal conduct, your personal lifestyle. You know and, John, since we're talking about behavior at the moment, and the behaviors that make up the fruit of the Spirit, let's go back to something we said at the top of the show. Remember, we were talking about the fact that the apostle Paul, when he made his personal list of some of the fruit – nobody thinks he was trying to list them *all* – but he did *not* say "fruits" of the Spirit. He said "fruit," singular, of the Spirit. But

look. Since there are about twenty or more – I think we have a list of twenty in our files – we need to understand *why* Paul would use the *singular* form of the word when actually the fruit is made up of *many* different emotions.

John (21:46):

Yeah and this is definitely ... this is a good place to answer that question. And it's a very important question. And it has a very important answer.

Owen (21:56):

Well, I think so. Because here's that answer: Paul used the singular form of the word "fruit" because *all* of the behaviors that make up the fruit of the Spirit indwell Christians *all* at once. They come to us as one – quotes – "package." They're expressed in us *together*. If we have one of them, we have *all* of them. And here's why. Think about it: The fruit of the Spirit, as we said earlier, is the personality and character of the Holy Spirit, and ...

John (22:34):

... and He's not in pieces! Right?

Owen (22:37):

Exactly! (Laughter.) In fact, I thought about putting that in some of my notes. (Chuckles.) "He's not in pieces." But look at it this way, John. The Holy Spirit is not *only* love. He's not *only* joy. He's not *only* peace. He's *all* of those things at once. And He indwells us *all* at once as a complete Person. So here's what's interesting: A person who's baptized in the Spirit – becomes a Christian – he or she is completely immersed in *all* of the Spirit's power. And the purpose of that is because the Spirit wants to be able to give an appropriate response for *any* situation that we face.

John (23:27):

Yeah, I love that, Owen. It's not that ... it's not like He makes a delivery one day and another delivery the next day. He "backs up to you" and delivers it *all* in one swipe! I love that! And it's overwhelming. In practical terms, that means that when we are Spirit-filled we have the "equipment" to respond correctly to any situation – wow! – at any time.

Owen (23:56):

Well, think about that! And I don't know if it's "equipment" or what it is. (Laughter.) I don't know a good word, John. But think about it. Imagine as we walk through the day as a Spirit-filled Christian, we can respond to every situation instantly and correctly. Look! If we're in a situation that requires courage – we have *courage*. We walk down the street a minute, we're in a situation that requires patience – we have *patience*. Everything we need is always there. And that's why the fruit is *singular*. It's not broken up into pieces.

John (24:34):

Yeah. That'd be like saying, "Oh, well, I need some *peace* today. Oh, wait! That's not going to be delivered 'til Thursday!" (Laughter.) "It's not going to help me today. I haven't gotten it."

John (24:36):

But Owen, and that answers another big question. We said several times that there are more than *nine* fruit of the Spirit that Paul listed in Galatians 5. And we've talked about that ... you know from our research and our notes ... that there are *twenty* at least or more of the fruit.

Owen (25:03):

Yeah, John. I don't know if anybody knows for sure. And I don't think it matters how *many* of the fruit there are, how *many* of these wonderful emotions there are. But like you said, we've found in our reading that there are at least *twenty*. And our friends need to know that in our book *Saving Christianity* we have a chart ... I believe it's on page 167 ... that shows all twenty of them, and it shows where you can find them in the New Testament.

Owen (25:05):

And you know, John, when you look up that list – really, it almost takes your breath away. Because think about this. When Christians are Spirit-filled, they have every type of *supernatural behavior* ... this is probably the wrong phrase but ... at their fingertips. They not only have love, and joy, and peace – we know that. But look, they also have hope, and endurance, and purity, and understanding, and insight, and many, many more. At least twenty more.

John (26:08):

Yeah, that is awesome. I like to think of it, Owen, is that now we have the ability. You know, that God has given us the ability. And isn't that the whole point of being a Christian? That's why ... isn't that *why* ... Christianity spread worldwide in only 70 years after it was founded. People actually saw in "High Definition" the wonderful fruit of the Spirit in Christians. And they wanted it, too. So they became Christians to get it. And that's how Christianity spread to every town and village in the world.

Owen (26:51):

Well sometimes I sit and think about it, John. You know, today we tend to rely on *two* things: Spoken words and printed words. So – and I've done this – but you know, we ask somebody, "Are you *saved*?" You know, we talk about the famous "Chaplain of Bourbon Street" years ago that used to grab tourists by the sleeve and say, "Are you *saved*, brother?" Or we give tracts: We hand people a little bulletin and it tells them how to be *saved*. But they didn't do any of *that* in the First Century. So what did they do? They just *behaved supernaturally*. And people said, "Ooh, look at that! I want that!" Isn't it amazing ...

John (27:36):

... that seems like a better way to live! (Laughter.)

Owen (27:40):

I think God had that in mind!

John (27:42):

Yeah, for sure.

Owen (27:42):

Well, so the fruit of the Spirit ... here's what I think about it, John. I think that it's not only a *responsibility*. As we said, God has commanded it. But it's also a *privilege*. It's also a *blessing*. And if I could say this, it's also an *honor*. And that's what you and I would expect, wouldn't we, from something coming to us directly from the Throne Room of Heaven? Wouldn't you expect it to be something absolutely honorable and respectful?

John (28:17):

Yeah! You know that's true! And the more we learn about being Christians, the more exciting and fulfilling it becomes. I love that.

Owen (28:30):

You know, I'm always amazed. I was thinking of it driving, again, to the studio today. A little thing like picking up the Bible. Isn't it funny that every time you pick up the Bible and open it, you see something you've never noticed before! How could that be? See ... I've been reading the Bible since I was a small child. I used to sit on my grandmother's lap – she was blind – and read the Bible to her when I was five, or six, or seven. So that's many, many moons ago. And yet every time I pick it up, I say, "Ooh, wow, look at that! I never saw that before!" How could that be?

Owen (29:13):

You'd think you'd run *out* of it sometimes! (Laughter.) But you don't. It's just an amazing thing. Well – I think maybe a deeper point is that it's so important for us as Christians to be Spirit-filled *all* the time. You know, we should make it a permanent *habit*. I believe we said that back in Episode 16. Well we've probably said it more than *once* in earlier episodes. Spirit-filling is the only way ... let me back up and say that again. Spirit-filling is the *only* way that we can experience the full power and the full meaning of what it is to be a Christian.

John (29:58):

That is so true, Owen. Nothing could be truer. In fact ... and this again is just one of the highlights from me personally being a Christian ... is that the *deeper* we go into Christianity, in-

to our life in Christ, the *better* it gets. And I love that there. I love the fact that it's endless. (Laughter.) You know, it's just ... you're not going to ever reach a point and just: "That's it." It's just endless. And the interesting (thing is) it stretches right on into eternity.

Owen (30:38):

And you know another thing too is: It's endlessly *true*. One of the things that I often see in reading the Bible, or talking to people, or reading books or something. I see these connections, just like we've made today. I see these connections (and) I think:

Wow, I never noticed *that* before. These two principles, or these two ideas, *support* one another and they're connected.

Owen (31:04):

Well – what area of knowledge can you get into that's *that* way? You know that ... whether it's biology or chemistry ... never *ends*? Always gets *deeper*. And always gets more *true*. Isn't that an interesting thing to think about? Well how, if you had to guess, John, how many Christians would you say are *filled* with the Spirit, and expressing the fruit of the Spirit all day, every day?

John (31:38):

Do you mind if I "Take the Fifth?" (Laughter.) I'd rather not answer that question. And I think that gives my answer right there. I think I would just have to say from all of my experience, and all of the research, that it's by far the *minority* of people who would actually say, "Yes, I am a Christian." The reality of experiencing what we're talking about is *minimal*, at best.

Owen (32:20):

So I used to ... when I was a management consultant I used to ... teach managers to do what I called, "Find the True Cause." So let's link backwards: What's causing *that*? Why would *that* be true? As wonderful as the fruit is?

John (32:37):

Are you asking *me* again?

Owen (32:39):

Yeah!

John (32:39):

Oh, wow!

Owen (32:39):

I don't know! (Laughter.)

John (32:39):

There are multiple ... I mean I think they're just a bunch of different reasons. And of course, we've touched on them now throughout the broadcast. And in a sense, it comes all the way back to *Saving Christianity*. You know, the beginning of this podcast and the book and everything related to it. It's exploring that, and seeing that problem. And now we're talking about the *solution* to that. But Owen, I would just like to just say – just a short answer to that – is people, you know, "You don't *know* what you don't *know*." And I, and I just really believe that people don't *know*. Which is sad. But the other thing is – is there's so little of this actually *lived*. They haven't seen the example of this. And so they don't really have anything to compare it to.

Owen (33:45):

No frame of reference! So I think *all* that's true. You know, you stop and think about it: It isn't really *taught*. We referred to that. It isn't really *modeled*. We referred to that. So there's a lack of *knowledge*, a lack of *understanding*. Like you said, "You don't even know what you don't *know*." I would re-phrase that: "You don't know what you don't *have*," either. You know, if you've not seen it ... if you'd never seen a car, you wouldn't miss it. If you'd never seen a plane, you wouldn't know they exist. But then we link even further back with: "Why would *that* be true?" Why would it be true that Christianity today does not *teach* it and does not *model* it?

John (34:30):

Well, Owen (chuckles), I would just maybe just throw out one and that is this: Something that we've talked about before, is that the institution – the "framework" of Christianity, if you will, the "infrastructure" – is not even ... it's not ... it can't produce, in fact, *hinders* what we're talking about now.

Owen (35:03):

I think that's totally true, John. And like you say, we've talked about that endlessly – in the book and other places. I don't know that we've done a podcast episode on it yet. But it's what I call "structure." You know, the Holy Spirit, when Christianity was founded on the Day of Pentecost in the First Century, He gave those first Christians, that first group, a particular *structure* by which they were to meet, and worship, and fellowship, and live. And they did it for three centuries. But today, we use a *different* structure. And of course, as we say so often, I've always run around telling everybody in the grocery store and everywhere I go: "If we *do* what they did, we'll *have* what they had." And so I believe, and it's what we live by: If we go back to that original "structure," we will have the *same* fruit of the Spirit, the *same* experiences, that they had.

John (36:08):

Yeah, yeah. It's no doubt, Owen, that we need ... you know, I think it fits here. You remember in the Gospels, when Jesus used the illustration of *you can't put new wine in an old wineskin*. And I think about that. He said it just won't work. (Laughter.) It'll burst. It won't ... it can't contain it. And so, we're talking ... and He ... and that's what of course He was referencing now. You know, you're going to have to have a *new wineskin*. And unfortunately – not to be negative here – but just to state a truth: We have held on to a wineskin that is *incapable* of doing what we're talking about.

Owen (37:07):

That's so sad. And so true. So *sad*, and so *true*. You know, "structure" – *Organizational Structure* is what we're talking about – is a funny, funny thing. And a basic rule of it is that the design of a "structure" should match its *purpose*. Architects say that. Engineers say that. And strangely enough, if you design something for a certain purpose, it'll produce *that* and nothing else. (Laughter.) And so that's what's happened to us back in history. I'm sure we'll make a podcast episode on that one day. And we cover that in the first two or three chapters of our book, *Saving Christianity*. But the old "structure" that was so powerful was done away with. And a new "structure" was created for a *different* purpose. And it serves *that* purpose. But not the original purpose.

John (38:10):

Owen, I think about it. It sounds so silly. But you've talked about this for years. It'd be like we designed this "structure" to produce cakes. Just to be silly, and so we get it all (built) and we hit the "On" switch. And at the end of it, you know, we're standing there, and you know we designed it to produce *cakes*. Right? And it's *not* producing cakes! So what do we do? So it's designed to do *that*.

John (38:54):

And we're ... no ... we're *wondering*, right?

Owen (38:57):

Yeah. (Chuckles.) "Why doesn't it *do it!*"

John (39:00):

Yeah, and so ... or, so we're looking at this, and we're standing there. People are standing there wondering, "Wonder why this is *not* working?"

Owen (39:10):

"Why don't we see *cakes* coming out?"

John (39:11):

Yeah, yeah, so we're trying to get to the *solution* to that.

Owen (39:15):

Yeah, it's really interesting: Way back in history somebody *had* the cake machine. (Laughter.) Wonderful *cake* was coming out. And then somebody said, "You know, I don't like that at all. What we really need are *PIES!*" (Laughter.) "Let's make *pies!*"

John (39:27):

Yeah, right. Yeah!

Owen (39:27):

So they came up with a whole new "structure." And we've got it *today*. But no *cakes* are coming out. (Chuckles.) Well, John, I don't know, man. I see the big clock on the wall telling me that we're running tight on this episode. But here's what I think. We agreed before we started that we'd need two – probably two – parts of this, such a wonderful subject as "The Fruit of the Spirit."

Owen (39:57):

So we're calling this episode "Part One." And we're going to continue now with "Part Two" in two weeks. So but, I think maybe right here ... as I think about it ... let's end "Part One" here and give our friends out in Podcast Land time to think about what we've said here. To pray about what we've said here. And to sort of get ready for "Part Two" when it comes out.

John (40:26):

Yeah, and I want to remind our friends that this is Episode 24, and that a script and a recording you can find that on our website. It's: www.goSCpod.com. That's G-O-S-C-P-O-D.com.

Owen (40:45):

Yes, indeedy. And I think all of us are going to be looking forward to "Part Two," because we want to go even deeper into this amazing subject of being Spirit-filled, and expressing in our lives the incredible fruit of the Spirit.

Owen (40:45):

But in the meantime, this is Owen Allen ...

John (41:00):

... and this is John Shields, speaking for me and for Shannon Wolf, our producer ...

Owen (41:08):

... and all of us together are saying to you: May the God of our fathers bless you, and keep you, and guide you, and protect you, until we meet again.

Owen and John (41:35):

Owen and John end the episode.