

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 46)

THE PRIORITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (CONTINUED). John 14-16 contain Jesus' teaching on the present ministry of the Holy Spirit. He helps us (14:16). He shows us the truth (14:17). He teaches us (14:26). He reminds us (14:26). He bears fruit in us (15:4). He is Christ's presence in us (15:7). He is Christ's testimony in us (15:26). He the convicting power in us (16:8). He speaks through us (16:13). He is Christ's glory in us (16:14). The word "fruit" occurs eight times in John 15. The vine and the branches metaphor explains how the Holy Spirit produces fruit in Christ's disciples. Fruit-bearing is the work of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). This is the character fruit of the Holy spirit. Fruit also speaks of souls harvested for Christ (John 4:35-38). True disciples bear fruit. The more we yield to the Holy Spirit, the more fruit we bear. Jesus finalized His teaching on the Holy Spirit with a reminder. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you" (John 15:16). The work of the Holy Spirit and prayer go together. The power of the Holy Spirit is impossible without prayer. This leads to the priority of prayer.