

# Diving Deeper into Discipleship for May 22, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

*The Gifts and the Giver: The Spirit Produces Fruit*

## Sermon Reflection Questions:

- What "way of walking" guides your life? Lists of rules? Unchecked passions and desires? Ask God to teach you what it looks like to keep in step with the Spirit.
- Are you maintaining a connection with the true Vine, or are you trying to create spiritual fruit by your own strength?
- Which form of "spiritual cultivation" can you focus on for the next few weeks?
- Is there a particular form of fruit that's missing in your life? Invite the Holy Spirit to help you see opportunities to grow in that area.

## Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Deuteronomy 5:32-33** | What does this passage suggest are some benefits of walking with God in obedience?
- **Psalms 119:129-133** | When our "footsteps" are guided by Scripture and Spirit, what do we receive as a result?
- **Matthew 12:33-37** | In this passage, to what specific part of our lives does Jesus tie the idea of fruitfulness?

## Weekly Spiritual Practice

### May Practice: Essentials for Confession | Ending Point

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 145, 153)

- Confession is a difficult discipline for us because we all too often view the believing community as a fellowship of saints before we see it as a fellowship of sinners. We feel that everyone else has advanced so far into holiness that we are isolated and alone in our sin. We cannot bear to reveal our failures to others. We imagine that we are the only ones who have not stepped onto the high road to Heaven. Therefore, we hide ourselves.
- Another essential in the preparation of confession—there must be a definite termination point in the self-examination process. Otherwise, we can easily fall into a permanent habit of self-condemnation. Confession begins in sorrow, but it ends in joy. There is celebration in the forgiveness of sins because it results in a genuinely changed life.
- As you have contemplated confession over the last several weeks, is there something you need to confess? How can you use these essentials as you work through it? If you missed any of the essentials, they can be found in the past sermon notes on our website from each of the past sermons.