

The Fruit

Of the

Spirit

An anthology

A collaborative collection of Writings, Art and Photography  
From the Creative Arts Ministry of Hilldale Baptist Church



# **The Fruit of the Spirit**

An anthology—a collaborative collection of writings,  
art and photography from members and friends of  
Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, TN.

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Worship Pastor

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**Holy Spirit**  
Acrylic and Gold Leaf  
Kristi Huang



## Foreword

The purpose of this anthology wasn't to create a theological treatise on the Fruit of the Spirit – although you'll find a lot of theology in these pages. It wasn't to make a “coffee table” book to sit out for guests in your home to flip through the pages while you finish getting supper ready – although you'll find many beautiful photographs that others will want to see.

We had four purposes in mind as we were asking for writings, art and photography for our anthology. These purposes were to create a book that will—

- encourage believers in their relationship with Christ Jesus.
- show the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers in a way that engages the heart and mind of the readers.
- be a witness to the world of the transforming power of God.
- inspire creativity in ourselves and others.

Jesus promised that He would send another Counselor – one to go alongside of us, to teach us all things. (John 14:16-17, 26) In the first chapter of Acts Jesus told His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Today the Holy Spirit continues working in the lives of believers – those who follow Jesus Christ and proclaim Him as Lord.

Having writers, artists, and photographers from a variety of backgrounds and ages gives the reader an eclectic look at the work of the Holy Spirit. Seeing the work of the Spirit through the eyes of others will help you see His work in your own life. Like the many facets of a diamond, this collection will reflect the Holy Spirit from a variety of angles helping us see

Him and His work more clearly. My prayer is that you will see the Holy Spirit's work in your own life and that a desire to allow Him to work and produce His fruit in your life will grow stronger with each page.

You may or may not agree with each writer or artist. Use your questions as a jumping-off place for your own study. Begin each chapter with a prayer that the Holy Spirit would speak to you and reveal Himself to you. At the end of each chapter you may want to write down things that you have learned about the Holy Spirit and about yourself through what you have read and seen in that chapter. For instance, what is the Holy Spirit asking you to do or say now that you have read a chapter on "joy"? What areas of your life are easiest to let the Holy Spirit control? What do you need to work on – or rather, allow *Him* to work on, to make you more like Christ? Are there Bible verses you could memorize that will help you in that area?

Don't rush through reading this anthology. Take your time. Allow God's Spirit to speak to your heart and your mind. Some of the writings or artwork may be easy to follow or understand. Others may inspire deeper thoughts to chew on for a day or two. Have your Bible nearby as you read. Look at the verses before and after those that are quoted to get a fuller understanding of what you have read.

I would love to hear what the Holy Spirit says to you as you read through this book. You can email me at [llittleton@hilldale.org](mailto:llittleton@hilldale.org). If our book has inspired you to write or paint or photograph and you would like to submit something for our next book, send me an email with your interest and I'll put you on our email list to receive information about future projects.

~ R. Lyndel Littleton  
Worship Pastor, Hilldale Baptist Church

## A little “fruit” trivia

Grammatically, do you say *Fruit* or *Fruits*?

The word *Fruit* is a noun. The word is an exception where the noun is both countable and uncountable. So the plural of Fruit can be either Fruit OR Fruits.

When we think of Fruit as a group collectively and in a non-specific way, then we tend to use the word Fruit (without S).

- You should eat five servings of fruit and vegetables every day.
- Fruit is good for your health.
- Would you like some fruit?
- There isn't much fresh fruit available in winter.

If you are emphasizing the different kinds of fruit, then you can use *fruits*.

- My three favorite fruits are bananas, melons and strawberries.
- The supermarket has a wide selection of exotic fruits such as Papaya and Mango.
- The juice is made from a variety of fresh fruits.
- I love oranges and other citrus fruits.

If you are not sure which to use, the safest thing is to just use *Fruit* all the time.

## **Fruits that people think are Vegetables**

The following are actually fruits in a botanical sense, but they are commonly thought of as vegetables due to their culinary uses:

avocado, cucumber, eggplant, green beans, peppers, pumpkin, squash, tomato, zucchini.

Yes, that's right, the so called vegetables above are in reality fruit, not vegetables.

## **A piece of fruit**

We often say *a piece of fruit* when we refer to one fruit (one apple, one orange etc.) without specifying which one it is.

She always has a piece of fruit with her breakfast.

## **The fruit of something**

The fruit (or fruits) of something is an expression which means the good results that you obtain from something such as hard work.

The award he received is the fruit of his hard work and always trying to do his best.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faith, and self-control.

## **Fruit vs. Fruits—Does it matter?**

Is the Fruit of the Spirit one fruit with nine attributes or nine individual fruits? You'll notice in the writings in our anthology that we don't answer this question. Some of our writers approached their writing with the one fruit with nine attributes in mind while others obviously address one of the nine fruits. Which is correct?

The previous page gives a grammatical answer, but not necessarily a definitive answer. "The fruit (or fruits) of something is an expression which means the good results that you obtain from something such as hard work" which in our case of "fruit of the Spirit" would be good results from the work of the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is at work in a person's life He will produce fruit. If a person is allowing the Holy Spirit to work in his life he will have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faith and self-control evident in his life. However, each of us can point to one or more of the fruits that are more difficult for us to cultivate in our own lives. We may have a lot of patience, but our gentleness may be difficult to see. So in that way, it is easy to see the "fruit" as nine individual fruits at varying levels of maturity.

Which line of thought is correct? I would suggest that both are correct. It is "and" not "one or the other." If He abides in us and we abide in Him we will produce much fruit. Fruit is a non-count noun. It can be one or many. The point is that it is the work of the Holy Spirit. He is working to make us more like Christ in our thoughts and actions. The Holy Spirit produces fruit, He gives gifts, He empowers us to be witnesses, He guides us to truth (He is called the Spirit of Truth), He teaches, and so much more! (I suppose that could be another book!)

This anthology is presented as the thoughts of many. It is our prayer



that the Holy Spirit will take what is here and teach you, guide you, and inspire you. Allow Him to work in your life and make you more like Christ Jesus. (And bear much fruit(s).)

~ Lyndel



**The Fruit of the Spirit**  
Colored Pencils and Ink  
Kristi Huang





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