

Study Guide: "Authentic Fruit"

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This guide reviews and deepens understanding of the sermon presented in the "Authentic Fruit 10/12/25" video from the NewLifeBenson YouTube channel. The content explores the nature of genuine spiritual fruit, the futility of self-manufactured holiness, and how the Holy Spirit and life's trials cultivate an authentic Christian walk.

Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2–3 sentences, drawing exclusively from the information provided in the source material.

1. According to the speaker, what is the fundamental problem with believers trying to "take an inventory" of the fruits of the Spirit and bolster the ones they are lacking?
2. How does the speaker define "Gentleness" as one of the fruits of the Spirit, and what common misconception does this definition challenge?
3. Summarize the events of the story from Acts 19 involving the seven sons of Sceva.
4. What was the evil spirit's specific response to the itinerant Jewish exorcists, and what does this response reveal about spiritual authority?
5. What was the speaker's initial spiritual state when he learned his son, Chase, had been hurt, and how did this perception change?
6. Describe two specific instances from the speaker's personal testimony where God used a "wait" or a new obstacle to keep him in a vulnerable position and dependent on Him.
7. Beyond performing miracles like casting out demons, what other kinds of "fruits" did the Apostle Paul display in his life, according to the sermon?
8. Why does the speaker use Charlie Kirk as an example of authentic fruit, and what specific quality does he highlight?
9. What lesson did the speaker's old baseball coach teach him, and how does the speaker parallel this to God's relationship with believers?
10. The speaker repeatedly mentions that his pastor, Steve, ends lessons with an opportunity for the congregation to do something. What is this recurring call to action?

Answer Key

1. The problem with this mindset is that it undermines the true nature of spiritual fruit—evidence of divine life that believers cannot produce on their own. Attempting to “mechanically change” one’s life without reliance on the Holy Spirit is futile and spiritually empty.
2. Gentleness is defined as power under control, often translated as meekness. This challenges the misconception that gentleness is weakness; rather, it represents disciplined strength guided by the Spirit.
3. In Ephesus, a city steeped in sorcery and magic, the seven sons of Sceva—Jewish exorcists—attempted to imitate Paul by invoking “the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” Lacking true connection to Christ, they failed disastrously.
4. The evil spirit replied, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” The possessed man overpowered all seven, leaving them naked and wounded. This revealed that spiritual authority cannot be borrowed or faked.
5. Initially, the speaker believed he was spiritually strong—active in study, training, and fellowship. However, through his son’s accident, God revealed areas of pride and self-reliance, teaching him humility and dependence.
6. One example was when a doctor who had given hopeful news later discovered fractures in Chase’s vertebrae. Another occurred when a state pamphlet thanking Chase for being an organ donor reminded the family of God’s mercy and sovereignty.
7. Paul’s fruits included steadfastness amid persecution—imprisonments, beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, hunger, and anxiety for the churches. His endurance and humility demonstrated Spirit-borne character.
8. The speaker highlights Charlie Kirk’s self-control as true fruit. While Kirk’s intellect is natural talent, his restraint and grace under pressure in hostile settings reveal genuine spiritual maturity.
9. The coach told him, “You think you’re in trouble when I’m on you—worry when I leave you alone.” Likewise, God’s correction is a mark of His love; absence of chastening may suggest complacency or conformity to the world.
10. Pastor Steve consistently calls for self-examination—inviting believers to evaluate their lives, inspect their fruit, and seek the Spirit’s transformative work within.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Formulate comprehensive responses, using examples and scripture references from the sermon.

1. Analyze the speaker’s claim that authentic fruit cannot be fabricated. Using Galatians 5, Romans 7, and Acts 19, explain the contrast between human effort and walking in the Spirit.

2. Examine the statement, “God kept us in a vulnerable position every time to grow us that we might bear authentic fruit.” How did the trials surrounding the accident serve as divine chastening leading to dependence?
3. Discuss how suffering and persecution produce authentic fruit. Compare Paul’s endurance, the speaker’s experiences, and the believer’s call to expect hardship.
4. Contrast the “unusual miracles” of Acts 19 with the counterfeit efforts of itinerant exorcists. How does this passage illustrate the difference between divine power and human imitation?
5. Evaluate the importance of self-examination. How do Pastor Steve’s teachings, Paul’s self-awareness, and the speaker’s “microscope moment” together demonstrate that only the Spirit can reveal sin and produce fruit?

Glossary of Key Terms

Term	Definition (from Source Context)
Authentic Fruit	Spiritual qualities that are evidence of divine life within the believer—grown by the Spirit, unique to each individual, and tested for purity by fire.
Chastening	God’s loving correction; likened to a coach’s discipline. It is both proof of sonship and a method of growth.
Ephesus (1st Century)	A pagan city steeped in magic and idolatry—symbolizing the spiritual darkness confronted by Paul’s ministry.
Fruits of the Spirit	Galatians 5 attributes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness (power under control), and self-control. Each is evidence of the Spirit’s inner work.
Itinerant Jewish Exorcists	“Vagabond Jews” who imitated true spiritual power for profit, exemplified by the seven sons of Sceva.
Sanctification	The lifelong process of being made holy—marked by the believer’s inner struggle between flesh and Spirit.
Unusual Miracles	Extraordinary acts of healing in Ephesus through Paul’s garments, demonstrating God’s unique power and authenticity.
Yoke of Bondage	From Galatians 5:1—refers to enslavement to legalism and human effort, contrasted with the liberty found in Christ.

Greek Words

(No Greek terms were used in this document.)