The Difference Between Gifts and Fruit

It is essential to clearly understand the fundamental difference between the charismatic gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit as given by St. Paul.

'Fruit' is the natural result of an inner principle of life brought forth through a process of constant growth. By contrast, 'gifts' are found in a completed condition even though their use can be made more perfect through the recipient in the course of time. 'Fruit' comes gradually from the inside, whereas charismatic 'gifts' come all at once from an outer source.

Offensive Play Call—Gifts and Fruit

1. What are the different types of spiritual, or charismatic, gifts? Which gifts do you possess?

1 Corinthians 12:7–10 ________________________________

2. Can these gifts be acquired or are they given?

1 Corinthians 12:11 ________________________________
3. What is the primary purpose of these gifts?

1 Corinthians 14:26 ________________________________________________

**Your Game Plan**

**Watch Video Now: Life in the Spirit: Gifts and Fruit**

4. Are you judged by such spiritual gifts or by the fruit you produce? Or both?

Matthew 7:16 / 25:26–30 ________________________________________________

5. How are you using your gifts to build up the body of Christ?

Ephesians 4:11-13 _________________________________________________

**Summary**

What is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?

**The fruit of the Spirit is always the same.** The Holy Spirit desires to develop in each Christian a character that is like Christ’s. When that character is developed, it will include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, which is the fruit of the Spirit.

**The charismatic or spiritual gifts are almost always different.** The Holy Spirit equips each Christian with a unique set of gifts and talents, which includes wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. There may be similarities in the gifts and talents different Christians have, but God never makes an exact copy or replica of a person.

**The fruit of the Spirit is the goal.** The fruit of the Spirit is the goal of the Christian journey. Developing a Christ-like journey is a life long goal.

**The gifts are the way of achieving the goal.** The gifts of the Spirit are given to help us and others toward the goal of a Christ-like character.
The fruit of the Spirit is about who we are becoming. The fruit of the Spirit defines what a Christian is, or is at least becoming. It is about the kind of person God wants us to be for eternity.

The spiritual gifts of the Spirit. The gifts of the Spirit are about how we serve God, this side of eternity. Some gifts, such as teaching and preaching are only temporary gifts, because they will not be needed in heaven.

**Executing Your Game Plan**

Write down one of your gifts along with a few ways you can use your gift.

Use one of your gifts this week to build up the body of Christ, His Church and share at the next meeting.