*Series: Life in the Spirit, 3*

A Fruitful Life **Galatians 5:16-26, Psalm 1**

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

**1 Samuel 16:7**

Being controlled by the Holy Spirit will be evident in the heart first; but the Bible says we can also observe it by the fruit of our lives.

1) A life near the source – **Psalm 1:3, John 15:4**

“The blessed man is like a tree, planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

“No branch can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the vine.”

2) A seasonal life – **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven, a time to plant and a time to uproot.”

An intentional life – planting requires effort, attention to conditions

A life of patience – the agricultural life demands waiting for harvest

3) A life of integrity – **Galatians 5:16-26**

2 contrasts: the sinful nature vs. life in the Spirit

acts vs. fruit, momentary vs. long term choices

4) A pruned life – **John 15:1-2**

“My Father cuts off every branch that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

5) A life of awareness – **Matthew 7:15-20**

“Beware of false prophets, you will recognize them by their fruits.”

To ponder: Do I chafe when God uses the pruning shears on me?

What does it mean to be planted by streams of water, or to remain in the vine?

Am I impatient, expecting immediate fruit, or constant fruit?

Do I judge others by their outward appearance, or examine fruit?