

# **THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**By**

**Shora Kuetu**

Edition: ANJC Productions The Alliance of Nations for Jesus-Christ

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The Alliance of Nations for Jesus-Christ

5 av. de l'Orme à Martin / 91080 Courcouronnes

Ph : 00 33 1 60 79 14 65 / Fax : 00 33 1 60 79 38 65 [www.tv2vie.org](http://www.tv2vie.org)

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ISBN : 2-35194-019-8 / Legal Deposit : 3rd trimester 2013

Printed in France by Graph-M / 77111 Soignolles

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## INTRODUCTION

The first couple in the human history: Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden, amongst all kinds of fruitful trees. Surely, they were eating daily the fruit from the tree of life, and the first jobs that man had were: agriculture, gardening and watching over the garden. Adam, the first gardener had to look after the Garden of Eden whose landowner was God. In the past, the term 'gardener' was used on one hand for the man who created and looked after the landowners' gardens (those gardens belonging to the rich noblemen) and also for those people producing fruits and vegetables for towns' provisions.

Therefore, before his fall, Adam had also been a great farmer. Agriculture had its origin in Mesopotamia, between the river Tiger and Euphrates, the place where God has set man to cultivate the earth. (Genesis 2: 15).

Thus, Cain, Adam and Eve's first son, was a ploughman (Genesis 4: 2.). This activity was continued by the people of Israel, whom God indeed had ordered to celebrate the harvest feast when He asked for the firstfruits of the earth (Exodus 23: 16-19). Jesus presents Himself as the Sower or the Farmer. From Genesis, God presents Himself as being **the Gardener** by excellency.

*"Then God said: 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with 'And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.'" (Genesis 1: 11-12).*

In the parable with the 4 fields, Jesus is the One who seeds the Word along the path, between rocky places, between thorns and also on good soil. (Matthew 13:1-9).

According to this parable, but a quarter of Christians bring fruits that will reach maturity.

In the Bible, the trees and the plants have generally speaking a symbolic meaning. Israel is compared with a fig tree, a vine and an olive tree. (Isaiah 5; Zechariah 3: 10; Matthew 24: 32).

*"By 7<sup>th</sup> day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the 7<sup>th</sup> day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the 7<sup>th</sup> day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens-and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground-the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made **all kinds of trees** grow out of the ground-trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separate into four headwaters. The name of the 1<sup>st</sup> is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.) The name of the 2<sup>nd</sup> river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush. The name of the 3<sup>rd</sup> river is the Hidechel; it runs along the east side of Asshur. And the 4<sup>th</sup> river is the Euphrates. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man: 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.'" (Genesis 2:7-17).*

Garden of Eden was the place Adam and Eve lived, a land filled with fruitful trees of different species and all kind of varieties.

The Garden of Eden was surrounded by 4 river branches and each one of these channels had a name with a special meaning. Those 4 rivers were:

-Pishon: name which means augmentation.

-Gihon: name meaning spring, source of water. This river was near Jerusalem where Solomon was later anointed and proclaimed king. (1 Kings 1: 38)

- Hidechel: name meaning rapid; this river is known today as the River Tiger (Tigris in Latin).

-Euphrates: name meaning fertility.

All 4 river channels speak of the blessings given to us by the Holy Spirit. He/She who is anointed by God's Spirit will know a rapid (Hidechel) augmentation/growing (Pison) of fruits in life. He/she will enjoy a great fertility (Euphrates) and will be a source (Gihon) of blessings for others -John 4: 13-15.

Eden, meaning «delicacies» or «pleasures», was a place of joy, of happiness, of delight where man beamed and blossomed because of the fruits of his garden. After the fall, the Lord chased him out of this garden to stop him from having access to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:22-24).

Later, Yahweh/ YHWH chose Israel to build another garden out of him, a temporary Eden. But, such as Adam, due to his sins and lack of bearing fruits, Israel, too, was disqualified.

If most Jews have been cut and are now detached from the true olive tree, according to Romans 11, it is because, as God's first vine, they had not brought the fruits God expected them to bear:

*"I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. 'Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? **When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?** Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.' The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress."* (Isaiah 5: 1-7)

*"Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. **But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.**"* (Hebrews 6: 7-8)

The people of Israel has been the Lord's vine, a regularly watered vine; and Yahweh was hoping it would bear good fruits, but it produced evil fruits and has ended up being burnt by fire (the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, in 70 A.C.).

The people of Israel has been rejected by God, put out of His sight because he didn't bear fruits. In fact, the Lord sent many of His servants to this people to challenge them regarding the need to bring fruits, but these men were dilapidated, chased away, some of them even killed. Then, He sent His only Son who was also executed. (Mark 12: 1-12)

John the Baptist asked the Hebrew leaders to bring fruits worthy of repentance.

*"This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one calling in the desert <Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.>' John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves: <We have Abraham as our father.> I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham'.**"* (Matthew 3: 1-9).

According to John the Baptist, Israel, God's vine, was this tree that didn't bear fruits. He has prophesied that those trees without fruit would be cut.

*"The ax is already at the root of the trees, **so every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.**"* (Matthew 3: 10).

Unfortunately, John the Baptist's prophecy is fulfilled because Paul says in his writings that Israel has been cut as he didn't bear fruits.

*"If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then: 'Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.' Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith.*

*Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.” (Romans 11: 17-21).*

What has happened to Israel will also happen again with those Christians who bear no fruit. They will be cut and thrown into the Gehenna’s fire (John 15: 1-8) because the history of the Church is similar to the Jewish history. *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

*“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.’ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did--and in one day 23,000 of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did--and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel. **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!** (1 Corinthians 10: 1-12).*

Let’s fear God and let’s bear fruits so we don’t end up by being cut (from the Vine: Jesus- n.tr.) and separated from Christ, our Tree, because that had happened to some of the Jews can happen to any of us, too. Many stories and parables in the Gospels show us well that the Lord’s desire for us is to bear fruits according to the Scriptures.

**The Sterile Fig Tree cursed by God:** Matthew 21: 18 -22.

The sterile Christians will be cut and thrown into the fire: Matthew 3: 10.

**The Parable of the Vine workers:** Matthew 21: 33-41.

**The Parable of the Fig Tree:** Luca 13: 6-9.

We will see across this book that to bring fruits – a sine qua non condition– means in fact giving your life entirely to Jesus Christ. Acquiring the Holy Spirit’s fruits is not an impossible thing, because with God ‘all is possible’, and with Him we will do great deeds or better said: ‘gain the victory’. (Psalm 60: 12).

## CHAPTER I: THE FIRSTFRUITS

Even at the beginning of Israel's walk with the Lord Shavuot, the Bible teaches us how extremely important the fruits are for God, because He Himself has established the celebration of harvest, the celebration of the firstfruits.

In Israel, the firstfruits meant bringing the first ripen fruits- fruits offered to the Lord God, similar to the offering of the first-borns of men and of animals. The Lord has established 7 celebrations in Israel, among which the celebration of the firstfruits when the Hebrews' first plants were being harvested.

### 1) The Celebration of the FirstFruits

*"YHWH said to Moses: 'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: <When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest, **bring to the priest a sheaf of the 1<sup>st</sup> grain you harvest. He is to wave the sheaf before the Lord so it will be accepted on your behalf;** the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath. On the day you wave the sheaf, you must sacrifice as a burnt offering to the Lord a lamb a year old without defect, together with its grain offering of 2 tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil-an offering made to the Lord by fire, a pleasing aroma-and its drink offering of a quarter of a hin of wine. You must not eat any bread, or roasted or new grain, until the very day you bring this offering to your God. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, wherever you live."* (Leviticus 23: 9-14).

This celebration is the prefiguration for our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection and also the Christians' resurrection as they are God's fruits. (1 Corinthians 15:20).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration of the Lord God, that of the firstfruits, in Hebrew 'Omer', used to take place in the first week of Easter; it is presented in the Bible as the celebration of the thanksgiving for the harvest. It was in correlation with the sacrifices' service.

During this celebration, the Jews couldn't eat the fruits of the new until the first sheaf of wheat had been set upon the altar and presented before Yahweh, in sign of gratitude for the harvest: «. » (Leviticus 23: 14).

During king Hezekiah's reign: *"As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything."*(2 Chronicles 31: 5).

At return from exile: *"for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moon festivals and appointed feasts; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God. 'We-the priests, the Levites and the people-have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the Law. We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree.' As it is also written in the Law, we will bring the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, of our herds and of our flocks to the house of our God, to the priests ministering there."* (Nehemiah 10: 35-36)

The firstfruits, offered thus to God, were meant for the priests and Levites: *"I give you all the finest olive oil and all the finest new wine and grain they give the Lord as the firstfruits of their harvest."*- meaning given to Aaron (Numbers 18: 12).

*"You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine and oil, and the first wool from the shearing of your sheep."* (Deuteronomy 18: 4)

The offering of the firstfruits therefore consist in an act of love, obedience and gratitude. The Israelite manifested his love towards God by obedience, giving Him back a part, the first and the best of what he received through His generosity. Thus, he claimed YHWH as the Creator, as the One to Whom all things belong, as the One Who offers us all we have.

And this generous God, in His infinite generosity wants still today to bless the one who honours Him with his goods:

*“Honour the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverbs 3: 9-10).*

*“When you enter the land and plant any kind of fruit tree, regard its fruit as forbidden. For three years you are to consider it forbidden; it must not be eaten. In the 4<sup>th</sup> year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to the Lord. But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way your harvest will be increased. I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19: 23-25).*

Canaan was a land where milk and honey flew: *“But I said to you: ‘You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.’ I am the Lord your God, who has set you apart from the nations.” (Leviticus 20: 24).*

Once set free from Egypt and arrived in Canaan, the children of Israel have received from the Lord the undoubted order not to eat from Canaan’s fruits for the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 years. This formal interdiction from God/Yeshoua is justified due to Canaan (Noah’s nephew)’s curse. Truly, Noah has cursed his nephew who then lived in the land of Canaan. The children of Israel entered the Promised Land almost 1,000 years after Noah’s proclaimed curse upon his nephew. Nevertheless, the country they have found when they got there was cursed, spiritually polluted and putrefied, thus in great need for time in order to be set clean.

*“Do not plant 2 kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled.” (Deuteronomy 22: 9).*

There should not have been many kind of seeds in the same field because mixing was forbidden, unlike for the Canaanites who used to mix everything up.

Noah’s curse had hard consequences upon Canaan and its descendants. These consequences were and are: idolatry, incest, prostitution, predicting the future, rebellion, human sacrifices, etc.

2 deities were particularly venerated by the Canaanites: Baal and Astraea.

**Baal**, whose name means ‘master’ or ‘lord’, was the knight of clouds and the master of thunder. He was a god of Canaanite origin and you have to remember that Canaan had been cursed by Noah.

**Astraea**, also named Asherah, was an important deity, also of Canaanite origin. She was the goddess of fecundity whose cult, with a powerful sexual character, was the origin of a decadent immorality, because her prophetesses were practising a sacred prostitution. (Judges 2: 13; 1 Kings 11: 5; 2 Kings 21: 7 ; 2 Kings 23: 13). This deity or demon surely polluted the earth and the fruits of Canaan, and, in addition, this soil was also watered by Baal with other demons.

Therefore, the Canaan land was cursed and its fruits were also considered ‘uncircumcised’ or ‘uncleaned’ by the Jews, for 3 full years. In the 4<sup>th</sup> year, all fruits had to be offered to the Lord as a complete holocaust. And only in the 5<sup>th</sup> year from entering Canaan were the Jews finally able to eat them.

The same thing happens when a person converts: the Lord must mould him/her for years before entrusting him/her with a task. Time is needed for the fruits of the Holy Spirit to be ripened. In the New Testament, we see that 3 years were necessary for Jesus/Yeshoua’s followers to become established disciples (with purpose-n.tr). No fruit was to be consumed in the first years because the fruits are the consequence of a labour made inside an amounting/awakening soul. And also because this labour done inside a soul requires time, as the soul must undergo a metamorphose, a transformation. A person desiring to bring fruits must consecrate his/her soul to the Lord.

The firstfruits prescribed by the Old Testament were the fruits of the earth, those reserved for God, both in their natural state and also in a prepared/cooked state:

« *Do not hold back offerings from your granaries or your vats/vines.* » (Exodus 22: 29).

«**Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God...**» commandment repeated in Exodus 34: 26.

The Israelites, at their origins, were nomad. God promised them the sedentary life, and the firstfruits prove it. Content of their land, the Jews were remembering their fathers' pilgrimage by the celebrations done in Jerusalem where they went to bring the fruits of the soil into the Temple.

## 2) The Fruits were brought forward to God in the Temple

Pentecost is a celebration that commemorates the promulgation of TORAH on the Mount of Sinai. But it is also the harvest celebration or the firstfruits celebration day. The harvesting time was a time of celebration and of joy. Farmers knew they owed all to God.

The harvesting season started during Easter with the harvesting of rye and as a sign of gratitude, the people used to bring the offering called Omer in Jerusalem. The land products and the fruits starting to ripe, except the offerings of the first ripe fruits, were not supposed to be brought in the Temple before Pentecost. The firstfruits brought in the temple during Pentecost were: wheats, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. While passing through his field, orchard or vine, if a person saw a ripe fruit, he used to surround that plant with a straw of grass or cane saying "this is the first fruit"; so he resisted the temptation of eating it and instead he used to bring it to the Temple. After harvesting all the firstfruits and adding other fruits of superior quality, the farmer used to go into the citadel and from there all the farmers set off for Jerusalem.

Those farmers living close to Jerusalem had fresh fruits, but those coming from further zones brought in dry fruits.

The fruits were being transported in baskets beautifully decorated; and the closer the pilgrims were to the holy city, the bigger their number was; the sacrificators/priests working into the Temple used to come and greet them by saying: « Brothers, be welcomed! ».

Arrived on the Temple Mountain, each person used to carry his own basket on his shoulder by reciting this declaration: «...and He brought us in this land where milk and honey flow, He gave them to us. And now, I bring You the firstfruits that You, oh, Lord has given to me. » Then, that person used to put the basket down by the altar, kneel and then get out.

After this great ceremony, Jerusalem used to become a city full of cheerfulness and joy.

*"These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel in the desert east of the Jordan-that is, in the Arabah-opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth and Dizahab. (It takes 11 days to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by the Mount Seir road.) In the 40<sup>th</sup> year, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the Lord had commanded him concerning them. This was after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, and at Edrei had defeated Og king of Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth. East of the Jordan in the territory of Moab, Moses began to expound this law, saying: 'The Lord our God said to us at Horeb: <You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighbouring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore he would give to your fathers-to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to their descendants after them>.' At that time I said to you: 'You are too heavy a burden for me to carry alone. The Lord your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as many as the stars in the sky. May the Lord, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised!'" (Deuteronomy 26:1-11)*

Nowadays, the Lord wants us to bring Him the fruits of the Holy Spirit. He asks us to bring Him our hearts, source of all things.

## 3) Messiah, the FirstFruit of the Dead

The Jewish people's firstfruits brought before the Lord were a symbol for something to come, for Lord Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

**"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruit; then, when he comes, those who belong to him."** (1 Corinthians 15: 12-23).



Jesus is the firstfruit, the one who has blossomed (resurrected) after 3 days spent in Kingdom of Death. This is the reason why the Holy Scripture tells us that He is the first born of the dead. « *And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and **the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*** » (Colossians 1: 18). Lord Jesus is the first man who has resurrected in a glorious body, unsubject to problems known by men: sickness, hunger, tiredness, death etc.

Death is considered to be the sowing (John 12: 24) and resurrection - the blossoming.

#### 4) All Christians are also FirstFruits

As Christ's disciples, all Christians are firstfruits when compared to the rest of the people.

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.” (James 1: 18).

*“You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: ‘If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.’ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said: ‘I am trembling with fear.’ But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, **to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.** You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” (Hebrews 12: 18-24).*

Being the firstfruits amongst all God's creatures, Christians will be the first to resurrect between all people.

*“Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and **the dead in Christ will rise first.** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thessalonians 4: 13-17).*

Both the dead in Christ and the Christians remained alive will be brought forward into God's presence as firstfruits at His Return. Indeed the Rapture of the Church will take place when God will find ripen the fruits of the Christians are ripen.

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**” (Ephesians 4: 11-13)*

The fruits of the Holy Spirit come out of our Heavenly Father's heart. They are the same feelings that were in Christ and which allowed Him to perfectly accomplish the ministry given to Him by the Father (John 17).

#### 5) The Holy Spirit's Fruits, Christ's feelings or insides

The Holy Spirit's Fruits are called '**feelings**', meaning the heart, the insides/ inner being that all Christians need to manifest. *“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe your **heart** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3: 12).*

In this passage, the word translated 'heart' comes from the Greek word «splanchnon» and it has been used in Luke 1: 78 (for mercy); Acts 1: 18 (for insides); 2 Corinthians 6: 12; Philemon 1: 12; 1 John 3: 17 and Colossians 3:12 (meaning heart).

The insides also represent: the intestines, the heart, the lungs, the liver etc.

They are also considered to be the place of the most violent passions such as: anger, hate, bitterness... But for the Hebrews, the insides represented the place where the gentlest affections were born, especially: goodness/doing good, kindness, compassion etc. They are also the most profound part of a human being, the place for all emotions and feelings.

*"Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints."* (Philemon 1: 7)

The Holy Spirit's fruits come from a man's insides or from hearts purified by Lord Jesus Christ's blood. Those who bring the Holy Spirit's fruits have been deeply searched and profoundly transformed by God. In the Bible, the word 'insides' has several meanings; in its restraint meaning deals with: intestines, stomach, the place for digestion. (Ezekiel 3: 3; Revelation 10: 9).

The insides are also the place for maternity: Genesis 15: 3-4 (seed, heir); 25: 23 (belly); 2 Chronicles 32: 21 (hips); Proverbs 31:2 (body); Luke 23: 29 (stomach) and the fruit of the insides suggests also children. (Deuteronomy 7: 13; 28: 4, 11, 18, 53; Psalm 127: 3; Psalm 132: 11; Isaiah 49: 15; Micah 6: 7).

The children are the fruit coming out of their parents' insides.

### **Isaac, the fruit of Abraham's insides:**

Sarah, Abraham's wife couldn't be called 'mother' because she was infertile. According to the Scriptures, a tree is known by its fruits. (Matthew 7: 20).

*"After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.' But Abram said: 'O, Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said: 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.' Then the word of the Lord came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.'" (Genesis 15: 1-4) («from your own body» or 'insides' in English-n.tr.)*

Abraham and Sarah had been waiting for more than 25 years to have Isaac, the fruit of their union. For many long years they had been under trial before having this precious fruit. Abraham was tested too by the Lord and after the birth of his son Isaac, he went to the Mountain of Moriah to offer his son as a holocaust/ burning offering, his only son, the of his own insides (Genesis 22). It regards the altar incense/ of pleasing aroma to the Lord, where the Lord invites us to lay down the fruits coming out of our hearts. To have Isaac, Sarah waited for a long period of time. Isaac, the fruit of the love between Abraham and Sarah stayed 9 months inside her womb before being born. It's about the gestation period (being pregnant with God's vision).

### **• The Gestation**

Before the birth of a child, a gestation period is absolutely necessary or in other words, pregnancy is indeed required for the birth of each human being.

The gestation is the time period elapsed from the ovule's fecundation by the spermatozoid until the actual birth. During this time the embryo is carried inside the uterus. The normal duration of gestation/pregnancy for a woman is 9 months. The uterus is a secret place where the embryo is developing until reaching maturity. In order to be able to bring fruits, a Christian must stay and develop in the secret place that represents God's insides or His heart.

The Christian man must grow inside God's heart.

After conversion, the young Christian is put in a sort of a spiritual uterus (in the Father's hands) to be formed, moulded, cut and prepared so that he/she brings fruits. A gestation period is needed before the ripening of fruits. Those who bring the fruits of the Holy Spirit are those who have known the Father's insides. They have been formed in this womb and not in theological schools.

We can only be transformed inside the Father, in His interior/insides or, in other words, in this place alone He is able to 'transform us'.

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."* (Romans 12:2).

In this passage, the apostle is teaching us that God's will for all men is to be transformed. The verb 'to transform' used both at active diathesis and passive diathesis ('to be transformed') is the Greek word: «metamorphoo», which gives in English: 'to have a changed face', 'to be transfigured'. It is the same term used

in the Gospel according to Matthew cap.17: vs. 2, when we are told about Jesus' transfiguration. If Paul recommends this to the people already converted, it is because God wishes them to be able to go forward. This verb refers to a permanent, continuous state; to a changing needed to take place daily.

It regards the transformation of a man from a body into a different body, his changing from a being into a new one, so that this man becomes unrecognizable.

*“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.” (Philippians 3:12) and “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

In reality, this transformation corresponds with a complete changing of a human character, form and state. In fact, at the born again moment, our spirit is made perfect/complete, it is transformed forever due to the work of the cross (Hebrews 10: 14); however our soul (heart, interior) will suffer a continuous changing until the return of our Lord.

*“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save your souls.” (James 1: 21)*

A cleansing process is therefore needed in order to be able to bring and bear fruits. The transformation of a caterpillar is a beautiful example to illustrate the radical changing done in us by God. To reach this stage, this insect suffers several steps that we are going to decode together.

### • The Conception of the Egg: the Calling

It regards the seedling; God seeds us through His Word. He who receives the Word of God feels like a pregnant woman.

*“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55: 10-11).*

The verb «making it flourish» at conjunctive tense was translated in the French Bible with a past tense ‘fertilised’. («fécondé» in French)

Such as a baby who needs to grow and is closed inside his/her mother's womb for 9 months, the worker chosen by the Lord needs time to be formed in secrecy by the Lord. This is the first stage which we could call «the egg stage». It regards the period of conception or the time of incubation for the vision received by the Lord's worker.

*“Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said: ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.’ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,” (Matthew 13:36-38).*

In the parable of wheat and tars, Christians are called 'seed' or 'sperma' in Greek, which gives sperm in English. During an intimate relationship between a man and a woman, despite the fact that more than 100 million spermatozooids are freed, only one reaches the ovule (the egg). After reaching its purpose, which is the ovule, the spermatozoid must suffer an interior and exterior transformation – in the deepest secrecy.

In itself, this tiny cell contains all the necessary organs needed for the survival of the future child despite the fact that they are invisible at this stage. Therefore, the ovule/ the egg (the conception of the calling) is the place where the first transformation takes place: the worker is transformed into a viable being.

As long as found in his/her mother's womb, the baby is connected to her by the umbilical cord that allows him/her to feed and breathe. This cord represents the child's total dependency upon his/her mother, the image of man's dependency upon God – if this person wishes to bring the fruits of the Holy Spirit. In the ovule, the child is forced to absorb the same type of food as his mother. Similarly, the preparation given by the Lord in secrecy (behind closed doors) is His food for us.

The moment you receive the Lord's calling, you are transferred directly in the spiritual uterus which symbolizes your intimacy with God, the insides of the Father or the hidden place according to Matthew 6:6. Everything

takes place in secrecy; nobody knows you are in an egg and about to be transformed.

This period lasted 30 years for Lord Jesus Christ/ Yeshoua Ma'shia and 40 years for Moses, 10 years for others and so on. If you get out of this gestation period too quickly, you will suffer an abortion and will bring no fruit. Therefore be patient and wait on the Lord's time.

Know that your impatience will not bend the Lord's will, according to your wishes; God will give you the things you ask only in His time. For instance, a child aged 3 wishes greatly to have a moustache, but it's in vain as he can't have it; but at a precise moment in time, the moustache will grow naturally.

Don't do like Moses who wanted to respond his calling before the end of his gestation time – thing that brought him but rejection from his brothers.

*“One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw 2 Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong: ‘Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?’ The man said: ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?’ Then Moses was afraid and thought: ‘What I did must have become known.’ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.” (Exodus 2:11-15).*

### • **The Stage of Larva: the Birth of the Ministry**

After coming out of the egg (after birth), larva is the first stage in a person's development. For some time, the ministry (serving) is only at the level of that person's heart and this way the ministry is generated. On the other hand, this stage represents both the new birth and the birth of a specific ministry the Lord has called you to. If you are a beginner in your ministry, you need to know that there are many things to learn. Among them, you have to be extremely careful with your pride, because there are signs following you (your anointing, the miracles, prophecies...) and this stuff isn't always synonym with spiritual growth. It is important to know that God can offer you an idea (miracles, prophecies, healings...) of what your future ministry is going to be even before it becomes effective. Remember that after getting out of the egg, the larva is the first stage in a person's growth and the road towards maturity is still a long way to go.

### • **The Nymph Stage: A Transformation Phase**

The nymph represents the developing stage, the intermediary phase, one between a larva and an adult when there are many skin/hair losses or several metamorphoses taking place (as for insects). The Nymph or Nymphatic Stage starts when a larva changes skin and turns into a nymph; this process ends with another skin loss that turns the nymph into an adult insect or a butterfly.

One of the main characteristics of a nymph is that it doesn't feed, but lives out of its own reserves. Identically, this stage of transformation is absolutely necessary for the Lord's worker.

«Losing skin» is a transformation; it corresponds with the undressing of the old man and the dressing up with the new man. It allows the caterpillar to change periodically its cuticle and grow in width (or the skin loss towards growth) or to obtain new organs and even change shape (the skin loss towards metamorphosis). When the old shell became too small, the animal leave sit to gain a new one better adapted to suit its new body. (Isaiah 54: 2-3). First, this suggests the spiritual growth each child of God is called to in order to become spiritually mature or, in other words, the passing from being a child to that of being a youth and later from a youth to a father (1 John 2:12-14). Then, secondly, it regards the ministry or our serving; God invites us to have a perspective view, a panoramic and not a sectarian vision. Indeed, God's worker must have the Body of Christ's vision.

God has abolished all cultural, social, racial frontiers in Jesus Christ so that all people can have free access to the Gospel.

*“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.” (Isaiah 54: 2-3).*

### • **The Adult Age: the Maturity**

Reaching maturity, caterpillars transform into butterflies. But, such a great metamorphose needs a special time-when they stop moving- period also called nymphose. During this stage, the insect must close itself into a cocoon so that its final transformation could take place. For this purpose, it makes a big silk cocoon where it

lives during its metamorphose. This resting period is nothing else but apparent. In the end, the entire organism of the insect will transform itself. Some organs disappear, other new ones turn up (for instance wings or ) due to multiple cells rested dormant. The loss of skin that precedes the short adult life is quite long. The Father needed 30 years to form His Son, Jesus Christ, in other words 10 years of preparation in the shadow for a single (one) year of public ministry.

The worker who reaches maturity in the ministry must suffer, must pass through many other transformations in order to be able to start flying. The cocoon is the image of intimacy with the Lord, intimacy that must never be neglected.

## 6) Conclusion

We are called to have the same feelings, the same thought.

*“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:5-8).*

This commandment received from the Lord for you is to ‘HAVE!’

‘HAVE IN YOU THE SAME ATTITUDE WHICH WAS IN YESHOUA’ or in other terms:

‘HAVE THE SAME INSIDES (HEART) OF GOD!’

In the world, there are feelings of love, joy, peace, but they are not similar to the Holy Spirit’s fruits. Events such as: a child’s birth, getting married, a diploma graduation or getting a driving licence, buying a house etc. are occasions that rejoice the hearts of both heathens/unbelievers and Christians.

Nevertheless, the fruits of the Holy Spirit are the manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s life in our hearts. They are feelings coming directly from the Father’s heart.

The difference between the joy felt during a child’s birth and the joy, fruit of the Holy Spirit consists in the fact that the fruit of the Holy Spirit manifests during critics, during sorrows, when receiving bad news ...

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6)*

These manifestations are unshakeable; and often they manifest during trials.

For instance, in the mist of trials joy must mad manifest; peace – during sorrow; self-control - during criticisms and all kind of provocation, etc.

When receiving bad news, unbelievers are troubled, but those who have the fruit of the Holy Spirit will rejoice as Christ is their joy. (Nehemiah 8:10).

Those who have the fruits of the Holy Spirit don’t act the same as heathens when facing problems. Their hearts are not shaken easily because they know Whom they have believed in.

Bad news, criticism, persecutions, attacks coming from the enemy and the people’s words don’t terrify the persons who have the fruits of the Holy Spirit. And in case these persons are sad, they soon recover because the peace of Christ guards them from any fall.

## **CHAPTER II: THE SUPERIORITY OF THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OVER THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

Although this book's intention is to talk about the fruits of Holy Spirit, I wish to tell you some words about the spiritual gifts, too, as they are prayed for and sought by Christians much more than the fruits of the Holy Spirit. I would like to demonstrate the superiority of the fruits of the Holy Spirit compared to the gifts.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit grow inside the soul, while the spiritual gifts are placed at the level of the human spirit. A person recently converted can easily manifest the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The human spirit is regenerated at the moment of the new birth (Titus 3), but the soul must suffer many transformations in order to be able to bring the fruits of the Holy Spirit (James 1: 2-4).

Most Christians emphasize the spiritual gifts rather than the perfecting or the fulfilment of the soul. Sometimes, we will be surprised to notice some who call themselves 'children of God' having inadequate behaviours (sins) and cranky, moody or irascible characters, despite the fact that they prophesize, speak in heavenly tongues, sing with angel voices, do miracles, preach with anointing, have special grace in their lives.. And while plenty of people are asking, rightly, the question: 'How can it be possible for such people that have received so many gifts from the Lord to be so carnal/fleshy?', on the contrary, others, who are easily seduced by these manifested gifts, don't test these people, thus ending up by being disappointed.

### • The Spiritual Gifts

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century a.Ch. several theologians and members of priesthood have taught that the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, - called «**Charismata**» or «the spiritual gifts» in 1 Corinthians 12 - doesn't exist anymore.

Later, another doctrine has emerged from the Calvinism - «**THE CEASING OR THE ENDING**». This doctrine claims that both the spiritual gifts and also the ministries of apostles and prophets have ceased at the death of the apostles or at the end of the Primary Church. The fundament for their argument is a single, unique Bible passage:

*“Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.” (1 Corinthians 13: 8-10).*

Verse 8 tells that “the tongues will cease” and verse 10 says: “when what's perfect/perfection will come”.

This doctrine has considered that the moment of **ending, of coming to perfection** it happened when all Bible books were put together. The partisans of this teaching say that “what is perfect” in this verse refers to the completion of the canon for the Holy Scriptures (New Testament) and that this date would be 397 a.Ch., the year when the Council of Cartagena took place. Nevertheless, if we follow this reasoning, ‘the speaking in tongues’ shouldn't also exist (verse 11) and thus, for a mature Christian, love is determinant in itself alone.

In fact, what is ‘perfect’ or complete doesn't refer to the Bible.

Naturally, the perfect thing is not the Bible or something similar, but rather a condition that all believers will know following the Lord's Return. (1 Corinthians 15: 50-57).

In fact, this theory has several contestable views. The partial knowledge will surely not disappear before seeing the Lord face to face (1 Corinthians 13: 12); it's then that all prophecies will end and that all tongues will cease to exist.

If «*what is perfect*» referred to the Biblical canon/ the Scripture, then only by studying the Bible we could know God and He would be able to know us. It is true that the reformers have allowed Christians to return to the Word -once confiscated by the ecclesiastical hierarchy-, but this theory has no Biblical fundament and collapses if we examine the context of the above cited verses.

Nowadays, the spiritual gifts still exist for both the personal edification of each Christian and that of the entire Ekklesia.

«Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says: 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say: 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. » (1 Corinthians 12: 1-11).

The spiritual gifts are offered to each Christian for the use of all or in other words, to build each other up.

The spiritual gifts (prophecies, speaking in tongues, visions, healings, miracles, words of knowledge and of wisdom, interpretation of tongues, discernment of spirits) may be fake. Therefore, they are no proof for either a genuine conversion or the presence of the Holy Spirit, because demons, santanists, healers, wizards/witches, foretellers have also 'spiritual gifts' but lack the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

• **All Christians have no similar gift (but different gifts-n.tr.)**

Regarding the fruits of the Holy Spirit, Paul says that while one has been given the Spirit of Prophecy, another has the gift of doing miracles, etc. And in 1 Corinthians 12: 28- 30 he states:

«And in the church God has appointed 1<sup>st</sup> of all apostles, 2<sup>nd</sup> prophets, 3<sup>rd</sup> teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?»

-Are them all apostles? The answer is: NO.

- Are they all prophets? The answer is: NO.

-Are they all teachers? The answer is: NO.

-Are they all miracle makers? The answer is: NO.

-Do they all healers? The answer is: NO.

-Are they all speaking in tongues? The answer is: NO.

-Do they all interpret tongues? The answer is: NO.

Notice well that we can be saved without having the gift of doing miracles, the gift of healing, without being an apostle or a prophet, etc.

On the contrary, **all Christians need to have the fruits of the Holy Spirit.**

The diversity of gifts creates interdependency between Christians. But you can adore/worship Yeshoua/YHWH without having the gift of speaking in tongues, the gift of prophecy, the gift for miracles, the discernment of spirits.

In heaven, the spiritual gifts are no longer useful:

«Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. » (1 Corinthians 13: 8)

All those in Corinth had spiritual gifts and a great knowledge of the Word of God: "because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed." (1 Corinthians 1:6-7); but lacked the essential: **LOVE**, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and God Himself (Galatians 5: 22; 1 John 4: 8).

According to the Bible, despite their knowledge and gifts received from God, they were the worst of all 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians.

They were carnal or in other words they used to live by the flesh and terrible sins were done amongst their assemblies:

Paul has told them:

*“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-7).*

Love, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the one that gives us value and not the spiritual gifts. Many people seek the gifts instead of seeking the **DONNOR, THE ONE WHO OFFERS** all things, who is **Yeshoua Ma’shia**. The power of doing miracles or making people fall over in a state of trance won’t save anyone.

Instead of seeking power, anointing and miracles, seek Him, **the ALL MIGHTY**.

### • **The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are the signs of a real conversion**

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are the signs for a real conversion, of a true repentance and all Christians are called to have them. It is not written that God has given joy to one, love to another, peace to someone else, doing well to another one, gentleness to someone else, faith or fidelity to another, etc. We are called to have ALL the fruits of the Holy Spirit without exception, without lacking any fruit.

*« John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.** And do not think you can say to yourselves: <We have Abraham as our father.> I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.**’ » (Matthew 3: 4-10)*

While the ‘spiritual’ gifts, «charis» in Greek, are undeserved favours, the fruits of the Holy Spirit don’t turn up/are not born without death and suffering:

*“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12:24)*

Remember we are the salt of the earth according to the Gospel of Matthew 5: 13. The salt must be dissolved to gain flavour, for its taste to become effective. Our old man must die first for these fruits of the Holy Spirit to be produced in us, for this flavour to be born, which is able to give the taste of a godly life to all lost souls in this fallen world.

The old man represents the adamic, corrupt nature, with a born predisposition of doing evil, with a rooted, latent predisposing state existent in each human being. The old man is the natural man (or the animal man in the French translation) that Paul talked about in 1 Corinthians 2: 14: *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

Jesus has crucified the natural man or the old man on the cross, according to the Romans 6: 6: *“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”*

Thanks to this act, nowadays we can today benefit and enjoy the freedom from sin - as sin is a major obstacle in God’s calling.

In fact, the old man loves sin more than he/she loves God. He represents also the works of the earthly nature denounced by Paul in Galatians 5: 19-21: *“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

Therefore, let us understand that the gifts are a good thing, but which is indispensable are the fruits. We are saved to belong to the same plant/tree such as Christ, to be one with Him in order **to bring fruit, which is HIS**



**LIFE.**

«*If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.* » (Romans 6:5) (In the French Bible, the word this passage appears 'we have become the same plant with Him' - n. tr.)

This word has the same root as the Greek verb translated in English: to generate, to produce, to be born, to branch out, to develop, to grow or to grow bigger.

Those who have the fruits of the Holy Spirit are born of God.  
But for bringing fruits, you have to experience Christ's DEATH. (John 12: 24)

« 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples'. » (John 15:1-8)

The Christians have been saved to bring fruits which will glory the Lord:

« **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.** » (Galatians 5: 22-23)

The Christians are compared to branches that bear good fruits upon them that praise the Father. Raising a huge building for God doesn't save anyone. It is good to gain souls, to make disciples, to travel for the preaching of the Gospel, but to bring fruits is much better. People of other religions build too, make adepts/disciples, but they can't produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Holy Spirit can transform us into spiritual men. (1 Corinthians 2:15-16). Being a pastor or a priest, apostle, prophet, teacher, evangelist, ancient, the director of a Bible institute is a good thing, but having the life of the Spirit inside you for the purpose of producing fruits is even better.

### • The Fruits of the Holy Spirit, Signs of Identity

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are proofs identifying true Christians.

«*By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.* » (Matthew 7:16-20)

Christians are recognised by their fruits (those of the Holy Spirit) and not according to their spiritual gifts. As we have already noticed, while the fruits of the Holy Spirit come out of the man's soul or heart, the spiritual gifts are found in the human spirit. The devil can't imitate the fruits of the Holy Spirit because he is natural and demonic, so he can only produce the fruits of an earthly nature.

The spiritual gifts such as: prophecy, words of knowledge, tongues and interpretation of tongues, healings, miracles, words of wisdom etc. can be imitated by the devil, too and even by its demons and santanists.

We can't talk about the fruits of the Holy Spirit without speaking of the tree which bears them. The Holy Scriptures tell us of several kinds of fruitful trees, all very rich in symbolism.

« Abimelech son of Jerub-Baal went to his mother's brothers in Shechem and said to them and to his entire mother's clan: 'Ask all the citizens of Shechem: <Which is better for you: to have all 70 of Jerub-Baal's sons rule over you, or just one man?>' »

Remember, I am your flesh and blood.' When the brothers repeated all this to the citizens of Shechem, they

were inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said: 'He is our brother.'

They gave him 70 shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, and Abimelech used it to hire reckless adventurers, who became his followers. He went to his father's home in Ophrah and on one stone murdered his 70 brothers, the sons of Jerub-Baal. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerub-Baal, escaped by hiding. Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelech king.

When Jotham was told about this, he climbed up on the top of Mount Gerizim and shouted to them: <Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. One day the trees went out to anoint a king for them. They said to **the olive tree**: 'Be our king.'

But the olive tree answered: 'Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and men are honoured, to hold sway over the trees?' Next, the trees said to **the fig tree**: 'Come and be our king.'

But the fig tree replied: 'Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?' Then the trees said to **the vine**: 'Come and be our king.'

But the vine answered: 'Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and men, to hold sway over the trees'?'>" (*Judges 9: 1-13*)

The Hebrew word for tree, «**Ets**», is one of the most used words in the Hebrew Bible. It also means 'wood', 'fruitful tree' and 'pole/pillar'.

In the New Testament, the Greek word «**xulon**» was translated «**pillar**», or «**wood**» in Acts 5: 30 and also «**the tree of life**» in Revelation 2: 7.

This is the image of the cross. God uses the cross to mould us and to make us produce good crops.

## **CHAPTER III: THE FIG TREE**



The fig tree is a Mediterranean tree which resists both under the heat and also in a dry, unfavourable soil. In the Bible, the olive tree is a special tree. It has a special characteristic: none of its leaves resembles between themselves. The olive tree is often used as an image to describe the Israel people. Its fruits are used in medicine, too.

It represents the image of Torah because according to the Hebrew teachers' sayings, reading a verse into the Torah you'll find different and various meanings, that is the reason why no leaf of an olive tree is similar to another one.

In addition, the fig tree doesn't like shade and needs a sunny warm place, so heat enough for the figs' ripening.

### **• The Fig Tree announces Messiah's Return**

The fig tree is a Messianic tree because it announces Ma'shia's return. Regarding this, Jesus the Ma'shia asked His disciples:

*"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near." (Matthew 24: 32)*

In spring, the fig tree is one of the first trees to flower.

### **• The Tree under which We Learn**

The fig tree is the tree under whose shade the Jews used to study and meditate the Torah/ the Law. At its roots, they lived the experience of mind/spirit/intelligence opening – spiritual state that allowed them to understand easily what was written in the Torah's scrolls.

In addition, resting under a fig, under its shade gives us privacy, as we are seen by none, except by the Father. This special place is great for meditating God's Word, which allows us a profound intimacy with the Lord, which helps us hear His voice. In fact, the episode with Nathanael proves it very well: *"Philip found Nathanael and told him: 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him: 'Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.' 'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked. Jesus answered: 'I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.'" (John 1: 45-48)*

## THE FIG FRUIT



Nowadays, figs are considered man's most ancient fruit. It is recommended to sportsmen for its energetic value, being also called by Pluton the historian: *the food of athletes by excellency*'. Invested with the vitamins A & B, this fruit protects efficiently both the sanguine and also the respiratory vessels. It offers tonicity and energy for the human body, allowing sick people in convalescence to regain the necessary physical and mental power.

Necessary in healing scars, vitamin C makes this product a good diuretic fruit, as the fig is in the same time a natural remedy for anti-ageing.

Rich in potassium (232mg/100g), this fruit rebalances naturally the alimentation.

Its fibres (2,3g/100g) play a primordial role in the intestinal transit; choosing the most ripen olive is also important for an efficient digestion. Also, having no liquids, nor sodium nor cholesterol, this food is also prescribed to persons wanting to lose weight.

In fact, the fig consists of up to 87.55g/100g water.

Due to its iron (around 2.3g/100g), this fruit acts directly upon the red globules, bringing the much needed oxygen in all human body's tissues.

Its rich content in the vital Calcium, Phosphor, Magnesium and Ollygo elements makes man feel well and thus it is indispensable from his table. Strengthening the bone system, the olive is a great stimulant for children's well growth (for a healthy developed body). It also helps the good functioning of the neuro-muscular system of the human body.

### • The Fig Tree –the Symbol of Gentleness and Modesty/Humbleness

*"But the fig tree replied, 'Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?'"*  
(Judges 9: 11)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5: 22-23)

The olive tree, the symbol of gentleness, speaks us about our Lord Yehoshooa Ma'shia / Jesus Christ.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11: 28-30)

The fig tree is a tree that suggests rest. Jesus, in Matthew 11: 28, promises this rest. The Lord presents Himself as being the Fig Tree and if we meditate His Word, sitting in its shade (Psalm 91: 1-2), we will receive His instructions in a clear way. He doesn't rush us, nor does He impose His teaching by force, but the Master teaches us with kindness and much gentleness.

Thus, Yeshoua /Jesus reveals the Father's heart to us.

In order to receive our Master's instructions properly, we need this fruit.

The Holy Scriptures urge us to be gentle and humble to each other. Humbleness (modesty) and gentleness go hand in hand and makes us servants, true God's workers and not people waiting to be served.

*"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."* (Galatians 6:1)

***“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”*** (Ephesians 4:1-2)

***“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*** (Colossians 3:12)

***“But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness...”*** (1 Timothy 6:11)

***“Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth...”*** (2 Timothy 2: 25).

***“Remind people...to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.”*** (Titus 3: 2)

### • **The Fig Fruit (or Gentleness) represents also Honey and the Lamb of God**

The Word of God is often compared to honey (Psalm 19:10; Psalm 119: 103; Ezekiel 3: 3). It is said that he manna, the image of God's Word has the taste of honey. ***“The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.”*** (Exodus 16:31). Jesus, the Word of God is also the Rock from which honey flows from.

***“He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag...”*** (Deuteronomy 32: 13)

How could a rock get out honey, meaning gentleness? Gem comes out of the strong one, Samson's riddle tells us. God's mystery consists in this. The word must first kill the lion which is inside me, inside my ego, because only then man can absorb from me the honey / gentleness the Father has put inside me.

***“Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done. Then he went down and talked with the woman, and he liked her. Sometime later, when he went back to marry her, he turned aside to look at the lion's carcass. In it was a swarm of bees and some honey,”*** (**Judges 14: 5-8**).

Samson was forced to kill the lion (the strong man/the strong holds from his life) in order to eat the honey that was inside it (honey is a symbol of us becoming as gem, soft/malleable, sweet and gentle). The old man is strong; he must be killed on the cross so that the fruit of sweetness, the fruit of gentleness might turn up in someone's life.

After conversion, meaning after surrendering our life to the Lord, He crucifies the fleshy nature (the strong man) to give us life. Samson's story shows us how God breaks the hearts of stone; because this is the only way He is able to transform us into lambs.

Dead bodies don't answer back; they don't react to insults, to criticism... May God help us be dead inside.

John the Baptist was used to eat wild honey (**Matthew 3: 4**). Honey is a strong antiseptic, a cauterising substance, a cream with sleeping effects, even able to release pain. Honey (gentleness, the Lamb of God) brings healing.

Due to its endless virtues and antibiotic properties, honey is used in numerous pharmaceutical compositions against: painful digestions, kidney and liver diseases, gladder problems, tuberculosis, also to fight the common flu, the sore throats, all kind of severe coughs, bronchitis, nasal mucosal ulcerations, intestinal pains, diphtheria and various kind of lung diseases.

Outside the human body, it is used as a wound bandage, for burns, abscess, ulcers, and in different combinations with other substances and plants it is used to fight pains caused by rheumatism, sore eyes, skin cuts and lacerations.

### • **The Lamb of God**

***“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:7).***

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C., Isaiah, the Lord's prophet has prophesized regarding Jesus' gentle character; he talked about the innocent, honest, obedient and full of respect Lamb of God.

In the person of the Lamb, Jesus appears as the long waited Saviour:

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish***

***but have eternal life. (John 3:16)***

***«This is the Lamb of God who removes the sin of the world! » (John 1: 29)***

The Lamb had to be eaten in order to receive life.

***“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. “(John 6:54)***

In the Lamb’s person, Jesus appears as the Source of Life: ***“Jesus answered: ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” (John 4:13-14)***

But He is also the Bread of Life: ***« I am the bread of life.» (John 6:48)***

Christians are Christ’s lambs or sheep. (Matthew 10:16; John 10; John 21:15-17). They are called to manifest the Lord Himself: in other words, innocence, honesty, gentleness, obedience towards the Father; not to seek to justify before others who accuse them falsely of wrongdoing.

## CHAPTER IV: THE VINE- JESUS THE JOY



This is the tree of life. The word ‘the tree of life’ in Revelation 2:7 is said «xuo» or «xuolon» in Greek. This word gave later the word ‘wood’ from the passage in the book of Acts 5:30. The grape vine is the only Biblical tree symbolically interpreted as blood.

It is the tree of life, the tree of the New Covenant.  
 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." (John 15: 1)

### • Israel: the Old Vine

*“I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ‘Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.’ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.” (Isaiah 5: 1-7)*

The parable in **Matthew 21:33-41** talks about the judgement reaching Israel, the first vine of God, due to the fact that it hadn’t brought forward any fruit.

This parable talks to most churches today which have become the ‘property’ of their priests or pastors. Refusing to listen to the Lord’s messengers and by holding the children of God captives, these men will be severely judged by the Lord for having brought no fruit.

### • The branches: the Christians

*“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful’.” (John 15: 1-2)*

The little tree sticks, the branches (which symbolize God’s children) which are in Him must bear fruit. All persons inside Christ’s body that bring no fruit will be cut, meaning they will not be saved!

But each branch bearing fruit will be cleaned by Him; He will help it get rid of all super flu stuff, He will cut all unnecessary layers in order to mould/ ‘re-cloth’ it to bring more fruit.

The branch holds both fruits and leaves. The vine’s leaves have a specific shape that look like a heart, like a man’s heart. Therefore, the Lord, has in mind the man’s heart, He wants this organ changed into a flesh heart.

The branches are grafted into the true vine, which is of course Jesus. Grafting is not an easy job. It takes time if we want our grafting to be successful and if branch wants to bear the fruits of the Vine.

The true vine is Jesus: the source, the root, the origin, the stork and the trunk. He is the true stream of life, the source of life; and He is also the One who makes the grafting/cutting of the grape vine. The vine's life may then flows into each little branch so that that stick brings lots of grapes. (The fruits of the Vine.)

The branch is also the green shoot which grows each year, very early in in spring. (That time of the year, the shoots are trimmed and made fewer. The weak/slim ones are cut off of the trunk, and only about to 2 to 3 shoots are left so the grapes get big and juicier.-n.tr.)

## THE GRAPES



It's important to know the qualities of this fruit-the grape- for human wellbeing, because it is not by chance that the Lord asks us to bring this type of fruits.

The grape is the fruit of energy by excellency because it contains numerous sugars easily assimilated (glucose and fructose), vitamins C & B, mineral salts and ollygo-elements such as calcium, potassium, iron and even magnesium.

In itself, there is the best the nature has to offer to men. That is the reason why it has a positive role in the well-functioning of the human neuro & muscular system. Fruit of dynamism, it is recommended to all people with important energetic needs, such as growing up children and sportsmen. In autumn, a grapes diet will help you not get easily get sick in winter.

It's important to know that grapes are one of the fruits rich in fibre, like the fig or banana.

Very rich in polyphenols, which are strong antioxidants, grapes have other virtues protecting us in different ways. It guards our cardio-vascular system by delaying old age and by limiting the cholesterol and also by strengthening the resistance of blood vessels.

By the way, the leaf of the vine helps swollen feet. Due to its fluidising action, it extracts toxins and improves the blood circulation, thus reducing water retainment. It is also good to know that polyphenols are presents mostly in black grapes. They appear especially in seeds and fight against bad cells that cause old age and skin's wrinkling. Ten thousand times more active than vitamin E, they strengthen the skin's collagen and elastin. The oil coming out of the grapes' seeds (under pressure in a cold environment) is unique in the world due to its content of procyanidins - a very efficient antioxidant against the skin oxidation, in other words useful to prevent skin ageing.

Nevertheless, this oil has also other qualities, some recognised for instance in fighting cholesterol.

### • JOY- THE SYMBOL OF VINE

Joy, in Greek, is said: 1.«gil» meaning «to jump, to hopping joyfully », 2.«simhah» or «sameah» meaning «to shine», «to be sparkly», and finally the Greek term 3.«chara» translated as «intense joy».

In English, the word translated as «joy» includes more Hebrew and Greek words with different meanings, so it is vital to understand the profound significance of this term.

This word belongs to the words family whose root in Greek is «charis», meaning «mercy, grace». Therefore, we can state that joy is a result of grace. First we need grace, and then we can be joyful.

David tells us in *Psalm 16 at verse 11*: *“You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”*

In this passage we see that God is the source of joy. He Himself is His people's Joy and Delight.



Joy is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit, because He orders us to be forever merry. (1 Thessalonians 5:16). This is His Will regarding us.

It is written in Psalm 43:4, that: *“Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.”*

Nature too is called to live God’s joy because He is the One who has created it. (Isaiah 49:13). Happiness comes out of man’s relationship with God; it’s subsequently connected to salvation such as Psalm 51:12-14 shows us: ***“Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.”***

The prophet Isaiah in chapter 61 at verse 10 tells us again that this joy is connected to salvation: *“I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”* This blessing of being joyful is thus given to those Christians with a spiritual life based on Christ.

Joy, the fruit of the Spirit of God according to ***Galatians 5:22***, is also connected to spreading the Good News which is the Gospel of the Kingdom (***Philippians 1:18***).

***“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17).***

Yehoshooa has come into the world so the people might have inside them joy, a perfect joy. ***In John 17:13, He*** tells us: *“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”*

This verse shows that joy is one of God’s characteristics/attributes and that Lord Yehoshooa wants to give us His joy, to us, His children.

***“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11).***  
***“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” (John 16:24).***

Joy follows all those who are Yehoshooa Ma’shia /Jesus Christ’s disciples, because all those who walk in the Holy Spirit are God’s sons and this joy is given by the Holy Spirit.  
***«And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.» (Acts 13: 52)***

Joy accompanies miracles too made in the Name of Yehoshooa.

***“With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.” (Acts 8:7-8)***

Times of spiritual refreshing are of course a great source of endless joy for those who live them.

## • Grapes’ Crushing

In the past, in order to get wine, grapes used to be trampled down or better said crushed by feet and nowadays passed through an electric crusher. Crushing has the purpose of detaching and breaking the grains of grapes from the vine so that the pulp and the juice stream out without crushing grapes’ pips – procedure used to fasten the process of maceration during fermentation.

In the past, this crushing of grapes used to be made by hand, later by feet in huge wooden vats/tanks. Most of times, this was a job entrusted to women and its purpose was to get out the grapes’ juice which the wine grower used to then put into barrels for fermentation.

Crushing represents suffering, pogrom, persecution, insults, false accusations, calumnies suffered because of Yehoshooa’s name.

Suffering (the cross) is totally indispensable to producing crops. It has never been easy for anyone; nevertheless, suffering is a mean used by God both to perfect us, to teach us obedience and also for the strengthening and the growth of our faith.

***“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” (Hebrews 5:7-9).***

Remember Daniel's 3 friends: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, how they had to pass through the fire of trial despite their faithfulness and piety? (Daniel 3). But, after this trial, they brought much fruit.

***“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (1 Peter 1:6-7).***

As we've seen above, joy is one of the Holy Spirit's fruits, according to Galatians 5:22 and it doesn't let itself be influenced by opposite or painful life circumstances. Despite life trials, persecutions, jail terms, diseases, etc. the one who remains in Yehoshooa Ma'shia has this joy inside him/her, a joy that only God can give.

The Lord allows trials in our in order to make His joy shines in us! (and also stream out of us!-n.tr.)

***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” (James 1: 2-4).***

Joy is the direct consequence of Christ's life inside us. Suffering is the mean used by the Lord to make obvious this fruit. Thus, we have to look at trials that bring suffering as a complete joy, because they produce in us an excellent fruit. While being persecuted, instead of accusing God or other persons of something, let's be rather full of joy that we are found/ judged worthy by God to suffer for Him.

Despite being killed (by stoning-n.tr.), Stephen was able to bless both the Lord and his persecutors during this surplice. He was in joy.

We are not able to know if there is joy inside the heart of a child of God unless he/she is submitted to persecutions, insults, critics, calumnies etc., because only during those precise moments of great trial, this fruit can be truly manifested.

Yehoshooa will come to find braches bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit. As the vine's leaves are similar to a man's heart, us Christians should have the fruits inside our heart. The Lord will come in search for hearts, for clean hearts. The more people trampled us down, the more fruits we'll bear and the more we'll please God's heart.

The All eternal and Almighty Lord will purify us; will cleanse us, allowing persecutions, sufferings due to His Word, calumnies etc. The Lord works and cleans our hearts so we can get closer and closer to Him, so that at His Return, we can be ready to depart. That is the reason God allows us to be hurt and for this He uses brothers and sisters, friends, work mates, bosses and patrons etc. These persecutions are indispensable to the changing of our characters; nevertheless, this is the only way our hearts can manifest the fruits of the Spirit of Christ. Everything has but a purpose: to prepare us of His imminent return.

The hardest to bear trials are the insults, the criticism, the gossiping and the calumny coming from our closest persons.

But we shouldn't ignore the fact that the devil often uses a redoubtable weapon able to kill and discourage the children of God and this instrument is the TONGUE:

***“They said: ‘Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not be lost, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let's attack him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says.’” (Jeremiah 18:18).***

(The term 'word' here is tongue in the Jewish Bible – n.tr.)

The leaders, the chief sacrificators, the prophets, the kings and even the Jewish people wanted to kill Jeremiah through their tongues, meaning their calumnies. The tongue has been used by the devil to spread calumnies and to bring nervous breakdown, discouragement and even death.

***“Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly***

***poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. " (James 3: 4-9).***

Calumny is false talking, unjust talks against someone or defaming him/her with the purpose of destroying that person. It is good to know that this word, the word 'devil' (the Greek «diabolos» means 'calumniator, the one who calumniates.' Calumny is therefore the devil's weapon used against saints. He uses tongue to start fires in ministries, homes etc.

***"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour." (Exodus 20:16).***

Giving false evidence or false testimony, swearing wrongly against someone also means defaming or is indeed accusing him/her of something serious, through lie. Calumny and gossip, they both come out of the man's heart. ***(Mark 7: 22).***

Being forbidden by the law in the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:16), calumny comes out of an evil heart and it needs to be banished between Christians. ***(2 Corinthians 12: 20; Ephesians 4: 31; Colossians 3: 8; 1 Peter 2: 1)***

The tongue is a little organ, but able to make much more evil than a sword, teaches us saint James in chapter 3 of his homonym epistle/letter. The tongue is compared to a world of injustice, of wrongdoing, with fire, with evil that cannot be stopped, with venom, too.

The impious world refers to all evilness hidden inside man's heart and expressed through his tongue.

***"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. "Matthew 12: 34.***

The tongue can start a fire and destroy many human lives, relationships; it can cause fights between brothers ***(Proverbs 15:4).***

It is so hard to control it that it needs to be disciplined daily, by guarding it day by day. ***(Proverbs 13:3).***

The human tongue is full of venom.

Venem or the animals' poison has neuro-toxic effects over the human body (neuro system, the brain and the bone marrow); it can paralyse his respiratory system and coagulate his blood; it causes: the alteration of blood vessels which thus start haemorrhages, the destruction of red cells in the blood, heart pressure, reduction of the arterial tension, intense salivation leading to suffocation, the alteration/genetic mutation of cells and tissues and even of organs (such as kidneys etc.) ; suffocation can be quick if the bite is made on a man's face or neck.

Animals inject their venom by pinching or biting their prey.

Izabel uses calumny to paralyse, to suffocate and to destroy her victims both interiorly- spiritual death- and exteriorly – degrading and destruction of physical health- too. She desires to destroy the witnessing of God's servants who walk in integrity and live modestly. Izabel's tongue is so full of venom that those bit by her have their lives completely ruined.

In fact, she knows well that: « *a good name worth more than good smelling oil.* » ***(Ecclesiastic 7: 1).***

The devil tries to bring nervous breakdown and discouragement and also to make her prey leave his ministry. In the book of **1 Kings 19**, the Holy Scriptures tell us about Izabel's threats, about her destructive words that made Elijah fall into depression which made him ask God for his death.

***" So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say: 'May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.' Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said. 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors'." (1 Kings 19: 2-4)***

Izabel's harmful and evil tongue, behind which was the devil himself, succeeded in making Elijah leave his ministry.

You must understand that the enemy's purpose is to destroy your ministry while in the egg phase.

Many Christians leave their ministry and the Christian life due to calumnies and intimidations coming even from other Christians.

Due to Izabel's intimidations, Elijah left his post, founding himself in a place where God has established / sent him.

*"There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (1 Kings 19: 9).*

Unless we keep the joy and always stay in God's presence, we'll fall into nervous breakdown due to trials.

*"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful outrage you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. " (1 Peter 4: 12-14)*

It is not by chance that saint Peter using the word «outrage» in this passage. (not 'trial' as we found in some English Bibles. n.tr.)

Outrage, fragrant insult, gossiping are terribly serious offences, as they touch a person's honour and dignity. It consist of a simple word, a gossip, a gesture, a threat, a sign, a drawing or an object whose nature is able to affect the respect due to a person in a public position or in a Christian ministry, in order others puts doubts about a person doing the Lord's service.

There is no doubt that as God's servants/workers, you will surely suffer insults due to your calling. All those who want to respond the Lord's calling must prepare themselves to suffer all kind of calumnies and often from closest persons. If the devil doesn't succeed in destroying you through sex, love of money or pride, he will use the tongue to reach you. If you are the victim of the evil power of the tongue of those around you, hold fast on the Lord and keep on fearing Him alone. Keep on rejoicing and know this is an opportunity for you to manifest, to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

*"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. (Proverbs 17: 22).*

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5: 10-12)*

*"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy." (1 Peter 1: 6-8).*

Though in jail, Paul asked the believers to rejoice in the Lord non-stop: « **Rejoice always in the Lord. I'll say again: rejoice!** » (Philippians 4:4)

Instead of seeing Paul, the prisoner in Christ, being encouraged by those Christians still enjoying their freedom, on the contrary, we see that he is the one who encourages the saints. If you had been in jail, wouldn't you have tried to reproach that to the Lord?

The apostles were always rejoicing when faced with great pogroms and persecutions caused because of the Word of God.

*"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 5: 41-42).*

The trials suffered due to God's Word haven't destroyed the morale of the first Christians. The apostles were able confess this when remembering Jesus' teachings (Matthew 5). The Lord our God uses our brothers and sisters, even our neighbours, work/school mates and bosses/employers etc. to crush as grapes. But how do we react to all this? Is there joy coming out of our hearts during trial – as it was the case with the apostles- or there is something totally different inside us?

The Lord asks us to rejoice during critics, insults, gossiping, trials, rejections and all kind of suffering connected to our calling.

James asks us to consider trials as a reason for rejoicing:

***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. “ (James 1: 2-3)***

Peter encourages us to hold fast/resist sufferings connected to the name we bear.

***“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. “(1 Peter 3:14-18).***

Joy can be better manifested amongst suffering. In the world, trials make people fall into nervous breakdown, but Christians rejoice all the time.

## • The Fruit of the Vine - The Joy- rejoices the Father’s Heart

***“But the vine answered: ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and men, to hold sway over the trees?’” (Judges 9: 13)***

The grapes, the fruits of the vine where wine is made out of are the fruits that need to be trampled down by feet or well crushed so that the juice and the aroma can come out of them. We need joy to be able to rejoice the Lord’s heart. Therefore, being as grapes, persecutions must make us happy and glad.

The Father’s heart is not touched by us prophesizing, nor by the miracles we do. On the contrary, He rejoices when He sees our attitude of full joy in face of trials.

When the Father’s heart is rejoicing, He entrusts us other new responsibilities, with both the courage and the power to face problems: ***“Nehemiah said: ‘Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength’.” (Nehemiah 8: 10)***

Job’s happenings are rich in teachings; in a single day he lost 10 children, his flocks and his health, but he kept his joy and refused to accuse God and to ‘back charge’ Him with all the evil events.

***“His wife said to him: ‘Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!’ He replied: ‘You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?’ In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. “(Job 2: 9-10)***

The Lord, who knew Job’s heart, has testified twice about him saying there was none on earth like Job.

***“Then the Lord said to Satan: ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil’.” (Job 1: 8)***

***“Then the Lord said to Satan: ‘Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.’” (Job 2: 3)***

## • The fruit of the Vine (the Wine) rejoices People

***“A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes life merry, but money is the answer for everything.” (Ecclesiastic 10:19).***

***«...wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.” (Psalm 104:15).***

Joy is also a medicine for man’s heart.

In the Holy Bible, the wine is synonym with life which comes from above, from God. It is the image of the New Alliance/Covenant.

***“Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying: ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.’” (Matthew 26: 27-29)***

At the wedding in Cana, Lord Yehoshooa Ma'shia has transformed water into wine, wine which rejoices the guests' hearts (John 2).

Wine is the symbol of life, of Jesus Christ's blood shed for us, blood which freed us from sin and from demon/devil. (*Revelation 12:11*).

Plenty of epidemic studies made during the years '35 in the industrialised countries have proven that those populations who consume wine have a lower rate of mortality because wine 's effects upon the cardio-vascular diseases. Some research studies suggest that wine could diminish with 40% the risk of heart attack (myocardial attack) and with 25% the risk of cerebral thrombosis.

Based upon clinical and experimental data, the reduced consumption of alcohol has a favourable effect which results in fact from its action upon: the lipidic profile (cellular wall), the blood clotting parameters and reduced inflammation. This also causes a powerful dilatation of blood vessels, which enlarges the blood vessels' diameter by dilating the muscular fibres.

The cardio-protector aspect of wine is due to the fact that it contains resveratrol, a polyphenol found especially in the bio red wine.

Polyphenols are antioxidants found in the skin of grapes and it is said that they are a solution against cardio-vascular problems. According to the Health World Organisation, resveratrol reduces the risk of cardio-vascular accident with 40%.

### • Sin affects us, destroys our Joy

Nevertheless, joy can be destroyed by sin. In fact, when we sin, the Spirit of God in us grieves (Ephesians 4:30) and thus we can't feel any more joy.

This grievance of the Holy Spirit pushes us to repentance which when sincere, it produces joy in us again. In order to be able to keep this joy, we have to exercise prayer and we must stay in the Lord's presence, have communion with Christ.

*“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*

In this verse, we see clearly that our prayer and joy are strongly interconnected, because prayer is also a source of joy.

In eternity, all born again Christians, from all over the world, will be with Lord Jesus Christ in an eternal joy. They will rejoice non-stop.

*“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.” (Revelation 19:7).*

What an extraordinary joy to live forever with the King of Glory who has prepared a place for us near His Father! A heart full of joy is a heart that keeps God's commandments and remains in His love.(John 15:10-11)

### • Grievance or Sadness causing Death

*“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10.*

Our generation has more depressive people than ever and this is due to the different problems that world encounters today, comparing the past generations, as nowadays we face incurable diseases, troubles, politic & economic crisis, etc.

In all civilisations there has always been and still exists a form of joy, but the joy of the Holy Spirit allows us to live through trials and still keep the hope of a life after death.

According to an INSEE's inquest (the National Institute for Statistics and Studies, Paris –n.tr.) almost 10 400 deaths have been recorded in the metropolitan France in 2010. Knowing that the French global rate of death is 14,7 deaths for each 100,000 inhabitants, France is situated amongst the countries with a high frequency in suicides. (The average is 10,2 death for 100,000 inhabitants for the entire U.E. composed of 27 countries.) Death rate through suicide has fallen with almost 20% between 1990 and 2010, which means the diminishing rate of suicides is 8% nowadays.



(Prognosis regarding men's suicides -1<sup>st</sup> line and that of women's -2<sup>nd</sup> line, according to their ages.-n.tr.)

In 2010, in the metropolitan France, 10 334 deaths through suicide have been recorded. .

Men are the victims most likely to commit (around 75%). Also, the suicide rate grows proportionally with age, being higher for men than women.

Death through suicide consists mostly of widow or divorced men.

The age for most suicides is higher for people aged between 25 and 34 years old (it is of 10% of the total number of suicides.) At this age, 24% of deaths in men are due to suicides, while 16% deaths in women have as cause the cancerous tumours. Those with this fruit of the Holy Spirit (with joy) are called to bring hope in this perishing world. The kind of joy that we talk here has nothing to do with feelings of joyfulness manifested by people of this world.

## CHAPTER V: THE OLIVE TREE- THE PEACE



The Olive tree is the symbol of peace and testimony. (*Haggai 2-19; Amos 4-9; Revelation 11-4*).

It is always green and grows everywhere, even amongst stones. It can even survive in the desert due to its special kind of leaves. When raining, the leave cells expand to absorb water and thus, during drought, they are able to retract and block the photosynthesis activity in the detriment of fruits.

Middle East people grow them mostly for their fruits: the olives. Olives can be eaten raw. They are crushed and thus, they provide the necessary oil used in each household's daily life. Thanks to the olive oil, people can: fry food, heal burns and even perfume themselves for celebration days!

While burning olive oil in a lamp or a candleholder we are able to light an entire house.

### THE OLIVE



Consumed in a crude/unrefined state, the green or black olive is rich in natural goodness mostly due to its antioxidants, minerals, calcium and magnesium. The rich presence of Vitamin E preserves and protects the olive's skin from ultraviolet rays. For man, this vitamin ameliorates the cutaneous circulation and improves the reduction in wrinkles.

Reduced in calories (37kcal for 25 grams), the olive is a food consumed mostly in winter because it helps to strengthen naturally the human body.

### THE OLIVE- SYMBOL OF TESTIMONY AND PEACE

Thanks to the oil or anointing received from God, we are able to witness Yehoshooa and bring peace in the world. (Acts 1:8) The Hebrews used this oil, the olive oil not only as food, but mostly for lighting. (Matthew 25).

Yehoshooa declares Christians are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Through our sanctified life, heathens are and will be enlightened. (Acts 11) You are not able to witness Yehoshooa efficiently unless we have the Holy Spirit, power symbolized by oil.



Under Moses' Law/Torah and even according to the New Testament, nobody can answer God's calling unless a special anointing by oil of crushed olives has been previously received.

***“Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning. In the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain that is in front of the Testimony, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the Lord from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.” (Exodus 27:20-21)***

The oil obtained from crushed olives has been an important product since Antiquity. According to the Holy Scriptures, this product has been used both for man's alimentation, lighting the candlestick and also for anointing. It used to bring light in the Tabernacle. (Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 24:2)

Priests/sacrificators (Exodus 29:7-21), kings (1 Samuel 10:1; 16:13) and prophets (1 Kings 19:16) used to be anointed with oil before starting their service.

Oil was used to lit, but was mostly important as it represented the anointing, meaning the Power of the Holy Spirit in a person. (Luke 4: 18; Acts 10: 38; 2 Corinthians 1: 21; 1 John 2: 20 and 27)

The most excellent 'aromatics' had to be used to make 'the oil of anointing' which had served to consecrate priests and had been also used inside the Tabernacle during the Old Testament:

***“Then the Lord said to Moses: ‘Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much (that is, 250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon, 250 shekels of fragrant cane, 500 shekels of cassia—all according to the sanctuary shekel—and a hin of olive oil. Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil. Then use it to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony, the table and all its articles, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand. You shall consecrate them so they will be most holy, and whatever touches them will be holy. ‘Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.’ Say to the Israelites: ‘This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. Do not pour it on men's bodies and do not make any oil with the same formula.***

***It is sacred, and you are to consider it sacred. Whoever makes perfume like it and whoever puts it on anyone other than a priest must be cut off from his people.’”(Exodus 30: 22-33)***

- Smyrna: 500 of shekels of fresh myrtle. It is a resin/conifer-an aromatic gum obtained from the homonym tree. It is used both in producing medicine and mostly in perfumery – industry which keeps on bringing it fame, especially in the East. Man gets myrtle by exudation (natural flowing out of the tree bark) or incisions (image of suffering) made into the bark of the smyrna/myrtle tree. Then, the obtained thick and whitish liquid gets its brown colour through oxidation and finally, an essence comes out of it through the distillation/the usage of water steam.

- Cinnamon: 250 of shekels of fragrant cinnamon. This is an aromatic tree in the Extreme Orient. During Antiquity, cinnamon has been considered a perfume used for seduction. The women in love used cover their beds in cinnamon mixed with myrtle and aloe, to seduce men.

- 250 of shekels of fragrant cane. The fragrant sugar cane has been long known, especially in Asia for its medicinal properties. In some countries, it is still used to give perfume/flavour to alcohols. In the past, due to both its nice perfume and also quality of repelling insects, men used it in putrefied flower pots.

- 500 of shekels of cassia: The oil extracted from its flowers is then used in perfumery.

- A hin of olive oil: Hin is a measuring unit of around 6 litres.

The oil for holy anointing thus obtained couldn't be used for any other purposes except oiling the anointed people. The aromatics contained in the oil of anointing speak loud and clear about all glories of Christ, glories that the believers can notice.

The Hebrew word for number **8** is «shmonah», whose root is «shemen» or oil or better said the oil of anointing. This number speaks also of circumcision, renewing and resurrection.

Here it is the advice given by Salomon, the king of Israel: ***“Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil.” (Ecclesiastic 9: 8).***

• The 3 types of anointing in the Old Testament were:

The anointing was divine equipping offered to 3 types of people:

- priests. The oil they were oiled with has a special composition and couldn't be used for profane usage (Exodus 30: 22-25, 30). It used to be poured on the priest's head and thus even garments were splashed in oil (Exodus

29: 21; Leviticus 8: 12, 30; Psalm 133: 2). The chief sacrificators or the high priest used to receive a special oiling/anointing which made him stand apart from all other sacrificators. (Leviticus 21:10).

- kings. We have no indications regarding the composition of the oil used for the royal anointing. The priest or prophet consecrating the king had a full horn filled with oil which he used to pour over the future king.

(1 Samuel 10: 1; 16: 3, 13; 1 Kings 1: 39; 19: 15, 16; 2 Kings 9: 6 and 11: 12).

- prophets. As soon as oiled, they began their ministry. Their oiling could have been done by God -see Elijah or by other prophets, in Elisha's case. (1 Kings 19:16)

Those who have received the anointing were called 'anointed' (in Hebrew "Ma'shia", which is Christ in Greek.)

This title was given to Saul (1 Samuel 24: 11; 26: 9; 2 Samuel 1: 16).

In Psalms, the anointed one could refer to a king on earth or the promised Ma'shia. (Psalms 2: 2; 20: 7; 28: 8)

However, in some passages, this term denotes exclusively the promised Redeemer at end times. (Daniel 9:25-26)

## • The Oiling according to the New Covenant

In the New Testament, naturally, the oiling is the privilege of the Lord Himself. (Luke 4: 18; Acts 4: 27 and 10: 38; Hebrews 1: 9). This oiling is not a physical/material one, but it is the result of the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10: 38) It has set Jesus/Yeshoua aside for His triple ministry: of priest, of king and of prophet. The title of 'Ma'shia' or 'Christ' in Greek - the Anointed One- has been used more than 550 times in the New Testament to underline exactly the importance of this oiling, of this anointing.

All Christ's disciples have been put aside for God as kings and priests (1 Peter 2: 5,9 ; Revelation 1: 6; 5: 10), they have received a spiritual calling (2 Corinthians 1:21) through the coming of the Holy Spirit inside their hearts. This oiling remains in them and allows them to separate truth from lie, from fault. (1 John 2: 20, 27)

***"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. " (Genesis 2:7).***

In this passage, the verb "to breathe" is said «naphach» in Hebrew and means 'to light'. This is the equipment; the garment of better said the oiling with the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of Jesus there is no life, no movement, and no possible victories. The anointing is the power of the Holy Spirit, power that comes inside us to allow us to respond our calling.

***"See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. " (Exodus 31: 2-5).***

Therefore, God has entrusted Bezalel artistic aptitudes to be able to create the objects for the Tabernacle. The anointing allows us an authority against the powers of darkness and against all diseases. (Luke 10: 19).

***"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ.***

***Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.***

***And this is what he promised us—even eternal life. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray.***

***As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you.***

***But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit--just as it has taught you, remain in him." (1 John 2: 20-27).***

The anointing gives us knowledge too. In fact, an anointed person receives the knowledge about God and also about sin.

It is important to know that God's work is very hard to accomplish and without the anointing of the Holy Spirit which qualifies the servant, the worker has no success.

***"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." (2 Corinthians 3: 5).***

Thanks to our anointing we are able: to pray (Romans 8: 26), to understand the Bible (Acts 8), to witness Him (Acts 1: 8), to exercise the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12), to teach others (Mark 13), to instruct ourselves as true disciples (2 Timothy 2), to be lead according to God's Will (John 16) and to fear the Lord (John 16: 7-8). The apostles had waited in the upstairs room to be equipped, invested, and declared qualified before getting out and proclaiming the Gospel.

*"When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers."* (Acts 1: 13-14).

Truly, Yehoshooa gave them a clear instruction: ***"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*** (Luke 24:49).

Don't rush into answering your calling, because it won't serve to anything until God has equipped you well and enough in all things. Moses has made this serious error when he rushed to answer his calling / his anointing of liberating his people without being instructed or properly equipped by God.

*"The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong: 'Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?' The man said: 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?' Then Moses was afraid and thought: 'What I did must have become known'."* (Exodus 2:13-14)

*"The Lord said to Moses: 'When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.'" (Exodus 4:21)*

*"Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites, and Aaron told them everything the Lord had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people, and they believed. And when they heard that the Lord was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped."* (Exodus 4:29-31)

We might have received an authentic calling, but unless we respond to this anointing at its own time, our serving/ ministry will be useless and fruitless. We can't serve God with our own qualifications (diplomas, money etc.)

We need to be well equipped by the Lord in order to accomplish the ministry/ service He is entrusted us with. We shouldn't put our trust in our human aptitudes, in our goods, in our theological diplomas because the devil is not scared of us, nor is he of what we can represent; but he is terrified of the One Who is inside us: Yehoshooa Ma'shia/Jesus Christ.

***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*** (Acts 1:8)

The Lord Yehoshooa Ma'shia asked the apostles not to depart from Jerusalem before being clothed in the Holy Spirit. As witnesses, we are called to do as the apostles have done.

The 2 witnesses of Revelation will be also called to witness Christ.

***"And I will give power to my 2 witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the 2 olive trees and the 2 lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth."*** (Revelation 11:3-4)

The word «witness» in Greek usually means «martyr». Therefore, all persons called by the Lord and bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit could be stabbed, killed by stoning etc.

## **• The Extraction of Oil- the Mount of Gethsemane/The Cross or Our daily death to ourselves**

The process the olive oil is extracted proves us the way the Lord squeezes His servants before equipping them. The main utility for olives is the extraction of the olive oil, which is considered, by many, the best culinary oil.

Nowadays, the technique of extracting olive oil is an entirely a mechanic process and its final produce is a clean juice suffering no chemical alteration. Olives are firstly crushed to get a paste that is then passed through a press (is squeezed) to get the juice. Finally, the juice is introduced into a centrifuge to separate oil from water. The oil

is decanted in barrels to eliminate the last particles (sins).

***“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ (Matthew 26:36)***

***“They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Sit here while I pray’.” (Mark 14:32)***

***“When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.” (John 18:1)***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Adam was defeated by the devil in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3), but the last Adam was squeezed as a lemon/ as an olive to free us from death.

Lord Jesus Christ has agonised (fought) in the garden of Gethsemane, name which means «oil press». This is also the name of a garden found today at the feet of Mount Olives, beyond Kedron stream, in Jerusalem. Gethsemane wasn't a flower garden, but an olive orchard. This place is carefully looked after today and well-guarded by Franciscan/Catholic monks. It is indeed a garden with many old olive trees and also an old oak tree.

## • The Oil for the Candlestick

The fruit of the olive tree is the olive and the fruit of the olive is the olive oil. In the parable of the 10 virgins from Matthew 25, the lack of oil made 5 fool virgins miss the rapture. They had no spare oil, meaning they were lacking in the Holy Spirit, the self-breakage/sacrifice and the fruits of the Holy Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22*). The other 5 virgins, the wise ones left with the Lord as they had enough oil, even to spare; in other words they were manifesting the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their life.

***“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like 10 virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 5 of them were foolish and 5 were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.***

***The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ‘At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise: ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’***

***‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves. But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived.***

***The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied: ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matthew 25:1-13).***

Those 5 fool virgins had the lamps (image of God's Word/the Bible-Psalm 119: 105), but lack in witnessing Christ.

The apostle Paul said that knowledge puffs people up, but that love builds them up.

***“Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. “ (1 Corinthians 8:1-2).***

The 1st man, Adam, had been defeated in Eden, the last Adam, Yehoshooa Ma'shia had been squeezed as an olive in the Garden of Gethsemane and defeated the devil who wanted to make Him disobey the Father's Will and not go to the Cross.

## THE PEACE, THE FRUIT OF THE OLIVE TREE

The fruit of the olive tree represents also peace, peace associated with witnessing the Gospel (Matthew 10).

***“As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep. ‘Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you’.” (Matthew 10:7-13).***

As Yehoshooa's witnesses, Christians are bearers of peace: “ **(Romans 10:15)**.

The term «peace» comes from the Greek «eirene», meaning tranquil state of the soul- offered by salvation in Jesus Christ.

The peace is the fruit of the Holy Spirit according to Galatians 5:22. The antonym of peace is trouble, agitation... The world seeks to bring peace through any means: material, military or even diplomatic, but the efforts of this world will lead to nothing.

### **- The Peace with God**

Each person must make peace with his/her Creator because:

**“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23).**

Those who have received the anointing with the Holy Spirit are called ‘sent, empowered’ or ‘ambassadors’ entrusted to announce peace to people. Their mission is to advise unbelievers to make peace with God.

**“That God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”**

**(2 Corinthians 5:19-20)**

The mission entrusted by God to Christians is not an easy one. The world must hear the message of peace in order to be able to make peace with the Creator... *“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” (Colossians 1:27-28)*

Man must make peace with God while alive (accept Him both as the Creator and the Redeemer according to Revelation-n.tr. ), because after death judgement comes and then, it would be too late.

**“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...” (Hebrews 9:27).**

This peace has become possible through the Lord Yehoshooa Ma'shia's death upon the cross and it allowed us to make peace with His Father. Obtained thanks to Jesus's blood, this reconciliation brings us salvation.

(Romans 5: 6-11, 1 John 5:10-16). The peace which brings the assurance of salvation, allows us to name God «Daddy» and through it we are able to get close to His throne to adore Him. (Hebrews 10: 19-22; 4: 16). There is no other way except Jesus Christ of Nazareth –the only Son of God- which gives us this peace or reconciliation with God. Jesus is the Way, the only Truth and the only Life. (John 14:6) He is the Mediator, the Intercessor between the Living God and men. (1 Timothy 2:5)

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)**

**“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)**

### **- The Peace of Heart: Assurance, Trust**

**“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)**

The peace of heart is this assurance which God sets into our hearts, meaning the certitude that nothing can happen to us without the perfect Will of the Father. This assurance comes when we face problems, when we are tested/under trials. (Mark 4: 35-41) Disease, death, bad news, attacks from wizards & witches and demons, economic & politic crisis etc... will never be able to destabilize the persons with this kind of peace. This assurance is the result of the peace made with God. Only the revelation of the Father gives us assurance & trust so that each time we keep calm during troubles, unbelievers take us for fools.

This assurance (peace) is one of the fruits of the God's Spirit talked about in Galatians 5:22. The peace of heart is nothing else but trust, assurance, trust or faith that God never lies.

Money can't bring this peace; only the Holy Spirit can give it to us. A man might have the entire world's richness but lack peace.

This peace is opposite fear. The man, who has God's peace in his /her heart, is afraid of nothing! No matter what or how many the hardships would be, if we keep His peace, problems will not trouble us – the kind of troubles that worry unbelievers. Neither will the bad news disturb us if we put our trust in our God.

Yehoshooa Ma'shia told His disciples:

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.” (John 14:1)***  
***“But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”***  
***(Hebrews 10: 39)***

In the book of Psalms, David says: ***“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. (...) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (...) Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”*** (Extras from Psalm 23)

A heart with peace is a heart knowing God’s promises and grabbing hold of them tightly; (keeping them into his/her heart.)

The enemies of the peace of heart are the intimidations or the threats, worries and bad news.

Intimidation is an intended attitude whose purpose is to provoke fear in man - the fear of not being humiliated, put down, hurt or killed.

A person might not necessarily have a violent behaviour in order to cause fear, for its prey to become troubled, panicking or frightened.

Intimidation might be verbal or the result of a threatening behaviour pointed against persons well determined.

Ahab and the children of Judah were unsettled, shivering as trees in the forest, in front of the threats made by the king of Israel and by Syria.

***“When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. Now the house of David was told,: ‘Aram has allied itself with Ephraim’; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. Then the Lord said to Isaiah: ‘Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. Say to him: <Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these 2 smoldering stubs of firewood>-because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying: ‘Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it’.”*** (Isaiah 7:1-6)

Plenty of Christians lose the peace of heart due to men’s words. The Lord told Hebrews not to fear man, for he is ephemeral.

***“I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mortal men, the sons of men, who are but grass, that you forget the Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that you live in constant terror every day because of the wrath of the oppressor, who is bent on destruction? For where is the wrath of the oppressor?”*** (Isaiah 51:12-13)

May men’s threats or demons’ attacks never trouble you at all because God has everything under control!

Saint Elijah lost all this peace due to Izabel’s threats.

On the Mountain of Carmel, he stayed alone and incorruptibly, facing 400 priests of Astraea and 450 prophets of Baal. Nevertheless, despite this, at the 1<sup>st</sup> threat uttered by Izabel, Elijah has run away and loses his peace (his assurance in His God too) because this woman terrified him. In fact, she hasn’t hesitated to condemn to death all the Lord’s prophets and surely she intended to do the same to Elijah. (1 Kings 18: 4; 1 Kings 19: 2).

In fact, in order to save his life, Elijah’s fear towards Izabel made him depart Samaria, the place chosen by God. Thus, he had fallen into apostasy/ the Lord had abandoned him and the Lord had to call Elisha in his place. Due to fear, this great Hebrew prophet took some decisions without consulting God, which made his ministry stop prematurely.

### **- Peace with our fellow human beings**

If we have made peace with God, we have to make peace with our neighbour, too. We can’t say that we have made peace with God if we hate our brother.

***“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you***

***will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'* (Romans 12: 18-21)**

In this passage, it is said that in what regards us, we have to be peaceful with everybody. Nevertheless, there are persons who might refuse to make peace with others, but this attitude must not characterise us.

The Lord gives us an order:

***"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."* (Hebrews 12:14)**

This commandment is clear and precise: seek peace with all people. It is not said with your friends, but with ALL, meaning even with evil, mean, unbearable persons.

Apostle John says: ***"If anyone says: 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."* (1 John 4: 20)**

The Lord has left us 2 commandments:

***"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these'."* (Mark 12: 30-31)**

Many people say they love God, but their heart is full of hate against their neighbour. Some can't forgive the people who wrong them. Nevertheless peace is the fruit of the Holy Spirit which is child of God must have. The Lord told Peter that he had to forgive 70 by 7 times a day. (Matthew 18:22)

***"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse..."* (Romans 12:14)**

***"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you; leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. "* (Matthew 5: 23-24)**

Peace is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and is both a gift from God of very great value and also something we ought to work for. People of this world seek it unceasingly. This gift, the peace is opposite to worldly joy and to this world's gentleness which are ephemeral (don't last.) Therefore, it is totally inaccessible to those men and women who are not in God. Without God there is no way we can gain peace.

***"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. "* (John 14: 27)**

# CHAPTER VI: THE OTHER FRUITS

## 1 - LOVE

This is the fruit by excellency because God is LOVE (1 John 4: 8). The prophecies, the spiritual gifts are not proofs of a true conversion, not of the presence of the Holy Spirit in someone's life, because demons, satanists, fortune tellers, witches and wizards, foretellers using stars/astronomy have also 'spiritual gifts'; but what they lack in is love.

Love is Someone and this Someone is the Father of our Lord Yehoshooa Christ, The All-Mighty God. God's nature is visible in each person's life if that person has received the Lord Yehoshooa. This nature or divine nature is characterised by the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are listed in Galatians 5: 22.

The Tunnack talks about love in a precise way, using plenty of words, but this is impossible to express exactly in French. (or English.-n.tr.)

The Tunnack consists of: 1.the Torah or the Law also called the Pentateuch/the 5 first books of Moses in the Old Testament, 2. The Nevi'im or the little prophets from Hosea up to Malachi and 3.the Ketouvim, the rest of the Hebrew writings such as Daniel or Ezra. See Our Modern Falsified Bibles by Bruno Souris- n.tr.)

This word 'love', so often spoken, is undoubtedly most powerfully used is with no doubt in the prayer «Shema Israel»:

***“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength..” (Deuteronomy 6: 4-5).***

In this passage, it appears that the «AHaB» comes from the word «'AB» = Father. John, the apostle of love, teaches us that «God is Love. » (1 John 4:8) The Lord Yehoshooa Christ came into this world to reveal to us exactly the 'Father's heart'.

Tunnack has already said it long time ago: «God is a Father for Israel. » Thus, love is connected to the Father. (John 3: 16)

Once the Father's love received, it is easier to love our neighbour as ourselves.

***“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19: 18)***

***“One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him: ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’***

***The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.’***

***‘Well said, teacher,’ the man replied. ‘You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.’***

***When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him: ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.” (Mark 12: 28-34).***

***“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not covet,’ and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.” (Romans 13: 8-10).***

The Greeks have used lots of words to say 'love' and this according to the power and the kind of love in question. In French (as in English.-n.tr.) there is only one word for love («amour in French»); and that is the reason why we translate all words using a unique word. It is interesting to find out which are the words used by the Greeks when they used to talk about love and also to see their differences.

Eros: is about the love of passion which our senses can provoke/stimulate. This word gave in French 'erotic'. (also in English and other languages.-n.tr.)



To the Greeks, Eros is the god of passion, of love and of creating power. The word «eroticism» comes from Eros. This term means physical attraction felt by a man towards a woman or similarly, a woman for a man. It had been used by the Greeks to name 'love at first sight' or 'the seduction.'

Storge: On one hand, it is about the familial love or in other words the natural tenderness of someone for his/her own earthly family members and on the other hand, it is about friendship in the true meaning of the word, or in other words a tenderness/affection born between 2 persons which consider themselves as belonging to the same family although there is no relative relationship to unite them. A good example of storge is that between David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18: 1).

Philos: or Philadelphia, the brotherly friendship. It is the affection that each of us has towards someone we find nice, a person we meet often and to whom we show kindness. It could be a workmate, a school colleague etc.

Agape: is the Love in its noblest and most solid meaning, which gave the human custom of writing it with a capital letter 'L'.

It is the completely divine Love, active and disinterested.

It is sincere and indestructible. This love is spread in the Christians' hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). It can assemble all those 3 loves mentioned before, thus giving its nobility and solidity to each of one of them. Through pure will, it can surpass the sphere of the other kinds of love and thus be witnessed towards people less acquainted with us and even unknown to us. Progressively, it can destroy the hatred felt towards someone.

In the New Testament, this word is used when talking about God's Love towards the human race, about Christians' Love for God and also about the Love Christians must manifest both towards each other and also towards all those who don't know God.

In the Holy Scriptures, sometimes, this love has been translated by 'mercy' ('charity in the French Bible. -n.tr.)

***“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13: 1-3)***

How is it possible for someone who gave all he had to the poor and even accepted to die for others not to have this kind of love? The answer is simple: according to *1 John 4: 8*: “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

LOVE is only GOD HIMSELF.

According 1 Corinthians 13: Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It is patient, love is kind. It always protects, covers all, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. It will never cease.

Many Christians hate other Christians. If we belong truly to the Kingdom of God it is important to show the love of God.

While God's kingdom is characterized by love, the one of darkness is full of hate, mistrust, suspicions, envy, jealousy...

*“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves.” (Romans 12: 9-10).*

Love is always tested in the midst of fire, and if we truly belong to the Lord, we won't have trouble forgiving and loving our enemies.

While people were stoning him, Saint Steven asked for forgiveness to the Lord for his murderers. (Acts 7: 60)

« ... God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. » (Romans 5: 5)

### • The Church of Ephesus has lost her first love

«*Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.* » (Matthew 24:12)

While, like the church of Ephesus, plenty of present Christians have lost their **first love, the love for prayer and for truth**, lost caused by the things of this world; other Christians have lost it due to false servants, or in other words because people have deceived them, have abused them, have disappointed them, have stolen from them or have tricked them in all sorts of ways.

God warns us of the dangers and perils that surround all those who love this world.

*“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”* (1 John 2: 15-17)

The verb ‘to love’ used in this passage by John in is «agapao» and represents the love we ought to show, to bring to the Lord. **When the world takes God’s place it doesn’t mean anything else but idolatry.** Let’s not let useless, ephemeral and superficial things, of this world make us miss the Lord’s grace and mercy. These things, though beautiful, are but trash.

«Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love... » (Revelation 2: 4)

**The first love here is the love of the Truth and for the Truth.**

The Lord has warned us when he said in Matthew 24:12 *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”* It is this love «agape», the love poured out in the hearts of those persons who have offered their lives to Christ. (Romans 5: 5)

When a Christian loses his/her first love he/she exposes himself/herself to apostasy (to deceit, to the loss of faith and hope in God.-n.tr.)

*“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”* (2 Thessalonians 2: 9-12)

The Bible talks about apostasy which characterises the end times and also about the unrighteousness of those days when sin will rise in all nations (2 Timothy 3). But those lacking in love inside them will be filled with hate.

### • Hate

The opposite of love is hate.

*“This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.”* (1 John 3: 11-15).

The roots of hate are jealousy, envy, lust, dislike etc.

Even before killing his brother Abel, Cain was envious. He was filled with lust and envy. He would have wanted to bring the same offering as his brother. This kind of hate had as consequences his murder and his apostasy.

The consequences of hate are: gossips, critics, calumny, murder, fights, divisions, rebellion, troubles, etc.

## 2. PACIENCE

We live in an age where everything goes very fast. People have less and less time to make things well. We belong to the Mac Drive generation, to that of microwaves, of supersonic planes, of clothes ready to wear, of trains of high speed etc. For most of people patience is a fruit that belongs to the past.

This fruit is however the one who helps us keep trust in the Lord during hard times.

*“Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”* (James 5: 10-11)

This fruit stops us to grumble at God while in pain. It has to come right during suffering.

*«Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. »* (James 1: 12)

When we receive a promise from God which delays to come, we must wait for it patiently.

*“Then the Lord replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.”* (Habakkuk 2: 2-3)

It is about the complete trust in God, trust that He keeps or better said fulfils His promises.

*“Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* (James 1: 4)

While we suffer, during pain, we must manifest this fruit in order to resist any negative thought sent by the enemy.

*“It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”* (Jeremiah’s Lamentations 3: 26)

There are many persons lacking this fruit and who after having taken bad decisions pay dearly now – for instance marriages made in haste, entering the ministry before the time set by God; and now they suffer because of it. When you receive the Lord’s calling you are put directly into a spiritual egg which symbolizes the intimacy with God in a hidden place (Matthew 6: 6). Everything takes place in secrecy and nobody knows you are in an egg and about to be transformed.

This gestation period lasted for 30 years for the Lord Yehoshooa Christ and 40 years for Moses, for others 10 etc. If you leave this gestation period in haste, sooner than necessary, you will be like an abortion and you will destroy your calling. Thus, be patient and wait upon God’s time..

Know that your impatience will not change nor bend the Will of the Lord. God will give you the things asked about His time. For instance, a little child of 3 years could wish hard and strong to have a moustache, but he will never get it aged 3, but at the right time his moustache will grow by itself, naturally.

Let’s not do like Moses, who wanted to respond his calling before his gestation time, which caused/brought him his brothers’ rejection.

« One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong: ‘Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?’ The man said: ‘Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?’

Then Moses was afraid and thought: ‘What I did must have become known.’ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well. » (Exodus 2: 11-15)

Those 10 virgins from Matthew 25 fell asleep in the end as they were lacking in patience.

*« Because the bridegroom was late the 5 virgins felt asleep. »* (Matthew 25:5).

*“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself: ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* (Matthew 24: 45-51)

*“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are*

*looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. “(2 Peter 3: 11-15)*

Having this fruit we will be able to avoid many of the enemy's traps, waiting the return in glory of our Lord and Saviour: Yehoshooa Christ.

The opposite of patience is impatience or haste.

#### • **The ploughmen's patience**

The Holy Scriptures ask us to have the patience which the Hebrew ploughmen had after finishing the seedling the land.

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.” (James 5: 7-8)*

The Hebrew ploughmen were waiting patiently for the rains of the 2 seasons called the early and the late seasons. So, these rains were waited with patience because they were indispensable for seedling and finally for harvesting the crops.

The Hebrews were a nation of farmers who used to depend totally upon these 2 seasons of rain. (Jeremiah 5: 24).

The late rain, the 1<sup>st</sup> season (from late October, so autumn) said «morech» in Hebrew means 'torrential' rain. It used to open the agricultural year, by softening the soil hardened by the summer drought and thus, used to prepare the cultivable lands for receiving the seed.

This rain fell also in chap. 2 of Acts.

After a period of 400 years of spiritual drought (meaning since God's glory left the Temple of Jerusalem – Ezekiel chap. 11 – until the ministry of John the Baptist), the rain of the 1<sup>st</sup> season has been sent upon those 120 disciples of Jesus (Acts chap 2). The disciples had to wait for this rain with patience (Luke 24:49-53).

The late rain of the last season is said «maigowsh» in Hebrew and means «the rain of spring». This rain used to bring with it strong rainfalls and used to be appreciated by the ploughmen because of the fact that these rainfall fell just at the right time before the harvest, after the long drought during the summer months.

After entire years of spiritual drought, we still wait today patiently the last fall of the Holy Spirit which is about to prepare the Church for the return of the Lord, of our Bridegroom. Without this rain, the fruits of the Holy Spirit can't ripe.

## **3 - GOODNESS**

Goodness is a quality which consists of looking after others.

*“Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. “ (Colossians 3: 12)*

The Greek root of the word goodness is «agatos», whose translation is 'servable nature', helping character, good, agreeable, pleasant, joyful, excellent, commendable, correct, fair and honourable character/nature.

Wickedness is the opposite of goodness.

1 Samuel 25 talks about the episode involving Nabal, a very harsh and mean man of Carmel who refused to help David and even despised this last one. Although escaped from David's revenge due to his wife Abigail's intervention, Nabal died of bad heart caused by his wickedness.

But, on the other hand, Abigail, who showed goodness to king David, ended up marrying this one.

*“I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. “ (Romans 15: 14)*

«Goodness» is translated in this passage with the term of 'good inclination' in French. A person with goodness inside him/her will have good inclinations and intentions in his/her heart. Goodness stops us from doing things with dirty reasons or hidden motivations.

A person with a good heart is like a little child.

*“At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked: ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: ‘I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’” (Matthew 18: 1-4).*

In a good heart there is no guilt, but there is righteousness, purity, modesty, compassion, mercy etc.

#### • **Joseph, a Man with a Heart Full of Goodness**

All those who have goodness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit refuse to calumniate and defame others. Even suffering a wrong doing, they refuse to justify themselves and rather choose to retreat with gentleness, to leave in peace, quietly.

*“This is how the birth of Yehoshooa Ma’shia /Jesus Christ came about: His mother Miriam/Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said: ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel’ --which means: ‘God with us.’ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Yehoshooa / Jesus.” (Matthew 1: 18-25)*

The word 'righteous' in this passage means 'right', 'reasonable', 'with no guilt', 'man of good intentions' etc. In the juridical meaning, this word means to carry out a judgement/ a trial against other persons.

Joseph felt betrayed by the girl he loved, but rather than denouncing her and thus condemning her to death according to the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 22: 23-24), he proposed Mary a discrete divorce in order to avoid her death, her stoning to death.

## 4 – FAITH

Faith is defined as “being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11: 1)

Firstly there is the unshakable trust in hoped things. This trust or assurance is an unshakable one. A person who has an insured car has no fear in driving on the road because he has an assurance against all accidents.

Then, faith is a demonstration or materialization of invisible things. Faith is also a statement, a formal promise regarding something as being true, with no doubts and certain. It is always a guarantee concerning something for our lives.

Having faith as fruit of the Holy Spirit we are able to please God because:

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. “ (Hebrews 11: 6)*

Faith is indispensable to salvation:

*“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.” (Romans 10: 8-10)*

Faith is a fruit abandoned by most Christians in the end time we live today.

*“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” (1Timothy 4: 1)*

• **Caleb, Man of Faith**

*"They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. They gave Moses this account: 'We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.' Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said: 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.' But the men who had gone up with him said: 'We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said: 'The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.'" (Numbers 13: 26-33)*

Faith is a capacity given to us by God. It makes us take risks. It gives us the guts to advance towards new dimensions unexplored before. Through faith we are able to cross obstacles. The pioneers are those persons who see things differently than other people.

The spies sent by Moses in the land of Canaan were discouraged and terrified by the giants who used to live there. Because of their lack of faith they had also discouraged their brothers and thus prevented them from taking possession over their inheritance. The report they gave was demoralising for this is what they said: "We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (Numbers 13: 33)

Caleb, faithful man, he refused to see himself a grasshopper! He took possession of his inheritance by faith, saying: *"We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it!"* (Numbers 13:30)

Having faith in what God has promised Abraham regarding conquering the country (Genesis 15), he understood that he was able to defeat all giants and possess the land of Canaan. You, too, through faith, you have to get close to all promises God made you.

Most people healed by the Lord had faith in Him: *"But Yehoshooa told her: 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be free from your suffering.'"* (Mark 5:34).

Prayer needs faith as foundation: *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."* (Mark 11:24)

*"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."* (James 1:6-8)

While everybody says it is difficult, even impossible, people of faith, on the contrary, must say that it is possible.

Only by faith, 'our mountains', our giants, our insurmountable problems can be –all- defeated in the Name of Lord Yehoshooa.

**There are 3 types of faith:**

- **Faith, the gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12)**
- **Faith, the synonym of the Gospel (Galatians 1: 23)**
- **Faith, the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5: 22; Hebrews 11).**

The Lord wishes that all His children rely upon Him totally: « ...the righteous will live through his faith » (Habakkuk 2: 4).

*"If you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."* (Colossians 1: 23)

## • The Enemies of Faith

### - Doubt:

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.” (James 1: 5-8)*

### - Fear

*“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples: ‘Let us go over to the other side.’ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him: ‘Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?’ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves: ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples: ‘Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ They were terrified and asked each other: ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him’.” (Mark 4: 35-41)*

### - Unbelief (Mistrust):

*“When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him: ‘Lord, have mercy on my son,’ he said. ‘He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.’ ‘O unbelieving and perverse generation,’ Jesus replied, ‘how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.’ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked: ‘Why couldn’t we drive it out?’ He replied: ‘Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you’.” (Matthew 17: 14-20)*

### -Worry:

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ‘And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” (Matthew 6: 25-31)*

*“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.” (Luke 8: 14)*

### - Rationality:

*“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10: 5)*

All these suffocate our faith and thus they end paralyzing us. Being rational means having thoughts which make you reflect too much rather than take action. He who relies on rationalism always seeks to find out the state and the opinions of the others before doing anything for fear of not disappointing somehow. Paul never tried to please men, but wanted to please the Lord. (Galatians 1: 10)

## 5 – SELF-CONTROL

This fruit will help you avoid many problems and troubles. Thanks to it you will be able to control yourself before speaking, answering someone, judging something or someone, etc.

*“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable,” (1 Thessalonians 4: 3-4)*

Self-control means in fact being able to master human senses.

## THE FIVE SENSES



**Tongue:** Though a small organ, the tongue is able of much evil, worse than any sword, James tells us in chapter 3 of his epistle.

He who masters himself/herself, will have a cunning tongue:

***“The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.” (Isaiah 50:4)***

He who talks a lot is impossible not to sin, God’s Word tells us. If we control our tongue, we will be spared of many troubles:

***“He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.” (Proverbs 21: 23)***

**Eyes:** Lust makes much damage in people’s hearts and also in churches/assemblies.

***“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” (Matthew 5: 28-29)***

Self-Control comes from the Greek: «egkrateia», who also has its root in the Greek derived term: «egkrates», which means «being strong in something», «to have self-control/to master something» and in a broad meaning «controlling appetite or lust»; but it also used to mean «moderation».

The meaning of this word ‘self-control’ is derived from ‘control’ and means ‘mastering oneself’ and especially ‘chastity’ which is connected to the self-control of sexual appetite. (Oxford Universal Dictionary)

***«Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.» (1 John 2: 15-17)***

In this passage, the verb «to love» is the Greek word «agapao», used usually to speak of godly, divine love. Unfortunately, many Christians have directed their adoration for God towards the things of this world, which is so regretful.

***“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” (1 Peter 2:11)***

The word «war», used in this verse, comes from the Greek vine «strateuomai», which makes us think of the word «strategy», and which precisely means «to organise a military expedition, to lead soldiers into war, into battle.»

Too many Christians fall today due to advertisement strategies which give birth to all kind of lusts and turn people into slaves in today’s society of consumption. How many of us are dependent on TVs, plasma screens, mobile phones, luxury cars, while Yehoshooa gave us such an example ... of simplicity?

This is the consequence of lust, according James 1: 13- 15 ***“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”***

The devil likes to use our eyes to create in us the lust for the things of this world, for women or men, etc. The lust of eyes is the cradle of evil, impure, dirty thoughts. The story of David is rich in teachings (from 2 Samuel 11). In the year the kings were at war, David stayed in Jerusalem and lusted for the wife, of Uri, his



servant. Then he slept with her and caused the killing of her husband because of the baby he had with her, child which the Lord killed at birth.

In James 1: 13-15, the apostle makes a comparison between the devil's attacks and the development of a woman's pregnancy.

Indeed, we see the followings:

- In the beginning there is lust, which represents the close heart/intimal relationship.

A person who lusts is first sinning in secrecy/in hiding into his/her own heart.

***"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Matthew 5:28)***

Lust is the burning desire for a forbidden thing. According to the Holy Scriptures, to desire a man or a woman in your heart is the same thing as committing sexual sin in the spirit. Because it is a hidden sin, that person could have a pious appearance for years and years.

***"He who winks with his eye is plotting perversity; he who purses his lips is bent on evil." (Proverbs 16: 30)***

- Then, the conception which corresponds to the pregnancy period.

A pregnancy last about 9 months, but is not visible in the first weeks. In fact, after fecundation, the woman doesn't know immediately that she is pregnant. In the same way, when we conceive a sin we don't straight away realise that our interior man is puffed with yeast. Many Christians are filled with all kind of evil things, things which make them feel heavy and bloated, unfruitful as their prayer life and time for meditating the Word are affected.

- Finally, birth means the sin is taking shape.

David, a man after God's heart found himself in this situation: firstly he lusted Bat-Sheeba, slept with her, then she gave birth and the baby born out of an adulterous relationship died. (2 Samuel 11 and 12). The consequences of David's deed were huge. Later, his son Amnon raped his own sister Tamar, and another son of his Absalom later rebelled against him and slept with 30 of his/David's concubines.

Later David had to give up power in haste following Absalom's rebellion who ended up dying.

Sin is never left unpunished. ***"When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong." (Ecclesiastes 8:11)***

You must discipline your eyes because they can lead you to hell.

***"You have heard that it was said: 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (Matthew 5:27-29)***

Having an earthly view about other persons, we could judge and condemn them:

***"When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought: 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel: 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'." (1 Samuel 16: 6-7)***

People usually have such a view and thus judge others according to their physical posture and appearances (skin colour, height, clothes, etc.).

**Ears: "... He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. (Isaiah 50:4-5)**

The ears are the doors of faith because the faith comes from hearing and what we hear comes from God's Word. (Romans 10:17) We are the result of what we have heard and are hearing. That is the reason why you must be very careful at what you hear and then pay attention at listening.

The wise man listens before judging or replying.

***"He who answers before listening- that is his folly and his shame." (Proverbs 18:13)***

In people's conflicts, he who masters himself/herself will listen to both sides.

***"The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him." (Proverbs 18:17)***

Listening always to ugly words, critics and gossips about others, you will end up judging them before being listening to them. (John 7:51) Your opinion and judgement about these persons will be altered by unhealthy and mean words already said about them.

If we have 2 ears and only one mouth is exactly because we must listen twice before speaking.

**Taste:** Taste can arise in us memories of affective nature: by evoking a smell or simply by smelling a perfume or a certain food. The food industry stimulates people's smell to raise sales. For many years now the bread and pastry companies use this kind of techniques. Smell amplifies taste and the use of this sense (the smelling) can attract even a reserved clientele.

Plenty of studies have shown that smell is the strongest sense of the 5 human senses. Truly, the smell has the capacity to start important emotional reactions in clients and thus its result is the impulsive shopping. It has been proved that sales in the food field have tripled all at once when the aroma of cooked bread has been released in an American supermarket.

In Antiquity, it was believed that cinnamon is the perfume of seduction. Mixed with myrtle and aloe, it was used to perfume the young girls' beds in order to seduce men.

Myrtle is today used to make medicine (due to its stimulant and antispasmodic properties), and mostly in the perfume industry who keeps on increasing this substance's fame whole over the world and especially in the East where it is believed it helps sensuality.

The person with the spirit of Izabel releases a spiritual smell such as the myrtle smell, a perfume so seductive that in the moment we meet her/him, it could cause an irresistible attraction, arousing powerful sexual desires and unclean thoughts.

If you feel irresistibly attracted to a person and your body reacts despite your will of resisting, know that you deal with a seduction spirit. Haven't you ever asked yourself why many design labelled perfumes have names with sexual connotations?

**Touch:** Paul was asking Timothy not to touch people in haste and not to take part into people's sins.

***“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”***

**(1 Timothy 5: 22)**

Without having firstly the Lord's agreement, many young servants impose their hands in haste on people and then suffer the attacks of demons or others receive unclean spirits inside them.

Also by touch, we can be healed. The woman with a blood loss hardly touched the Lord and the evil left her, or in other words she had been healed. (Mark 5: 24-34). If you touch a person, know that you can arise in him/her unclean desires. Many Christians are much too tactile with their brothers and sisters. Flesh likes caresses and hugs, but you must be vigilant on your way of behaving with others. We live in an area when most people are tactile. Many brothers and sisters touch each other; caress themselves while they are not even married. Christians must control their thoughts and keep holy because we know the human flesh has desires opposite to the Spirit.

***“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.” Galatians 5: 16-17***

The desires of the human flesh are the works of the flesh described in Galatians 5: 19-21.

**So, the deeds of the flesh are known and they are:**

- adultery, fornication, orgies : sexual relationships before marriage;
- impurity: unclean thoughts, masturbation;
- lewdness/debauchery: lack of morality;
- worshipping the idols/idolatry: when we can't live without someone or something. Anything or any person we can't live without becomes an idol. Idolatry includes also the practise of false religion or occultism (yoga, transcendental meditation, astrology, invocation of dead.... - Isaiah 8: 19);
- idolatry includes also magic: the word «magic» comes from the Greek term «pharmakeia» whose root is «pharmakeus» which translates in English as «fortune-tellers», «wizards and witches» or «magicians».

***“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favour: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. ‘To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again’. “(Revelation 21:8)***

- witchcraft is synonym with words: sortilege, sorcery, enchantments, fortune-telling;
- dissensions: hatred;
- fighting: gossip, anger;
- outbursts of wrath/ controversies: the desire to have something others have and which we lack in or to desire to be them; the criticism towards others because of the blessings they have received, because of the goods they have, of their successes, etc.;
- fits of rage/ animosities: war, conflicts of all kind;
- discord (revelries/factions): the lack of self-control (Proverbs 21: 23);
- separations: the spirit of rebellion;
- fighting between parts, between sects: the spirit of sect, racism, xenophobia, tribalism, etc.;
- envies, hypocrisy, jealousy: the desire to have the same things like others, the inability to live apart from something ( for instance how to you react faced with a cigarette?), the desire to have the same spiritual gifts or ministries as others, or to have their wives or husbands ;
- drunkenness: Is alcohol dominating you? This means debauchery (Ephesians 5:18);
- the food excess (eating disorders): Are you eating too much? The so-called crisis of 'bulimia' is characterised by the irresistible will for a person to eat without being hungry. For instance, during fasting, if you see food somewhere you stop fasting at once.
- and other things similar to these above ones.

In the end we are told: **“I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”** (Galatians 5: 21b)

Against all these acts of human flesh we must keep a constant fight. The Lord desires that we, Christians, may walk in the Holy Spirit so that we can thus end well the fight for mastering our 'self-control'.

The lack of self-control brings frustration and despair.

*“We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.*

*As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.*

*Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.*

*For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”* (Romans 7:14-25)

This lack of self-control also causes many troubles and worries. Its opposites are: anger, impulsivity, speaking without listening at first, haste.

People lacking in this fruit make promises without keeping them. They answer before listening to others. They find it hard to control their emotions or feelings. Therefore, they are very sentimental and earthly beings.

*“Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few. As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words. When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow. It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfil it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger: ‘My vow was a mistake.’ Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? Much dreaming and many words are meaningless.”* (Ecclesiastes 5: 1-7)

Rage in itself is not a sin, but the deeds done in anger can lead us to sin.

*“In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”* (Ephesians 4: 26-27)

A child of God must be able to control his/her anger and fury. He/she must be a temperate, moderate person:

*“A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated.”* (Proverbs 14: 17)

***“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” (James 1: 19-20)***

***“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.***

***Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.***

***On the contrary: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.***

***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. “(Romans 12: 17-21)***

## **6 – COMPASSION OR KINDNESS**

To be good willing means to be indulgent, polite, gentle towards others.

The word ‘compassion’ in the New Testament comes from the ancient Greek «chrestotes», which is the root of another Greek ancient term – of the Name «Christ», name given to our Lord and Saviour Yehoshooa Ma’shia / Jesus Christ.

«Chrestotes» is derived from «chrestos» word that means «usage», or in other words «the morale excellency of a character or a behaviour»; and from here we have «gentleness», «compassion», «amiability/politeness». Thus the meaning of the word «chrestos» is: pioussness, piety, and gentleness – gentleness used in the Lord’s work. This meaning corresponds to an intrinsic kindness of a character.

Compassion is a fruit which allows us to manifest God’s mercy. It is a disposition of our soul, a spirit inclined towards understanding, indulgency towards the other human beings. It is a quality of a will seeking goodness and happiness of others.

***“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. “ (Philippians 2: 3-4)***

In John chap. 8, while the Pharisees wanted to stone that lady, on the contrary our Lord Yehoshooa Ma’shia/ Jesus Christ showed compassion towards the woman who was caught in flagrant crime of adultery. The one who holds this fruit will constantly seek to help others and will do this with lots of gentleness, consideration and compassion.

Compassion/doing good is a favourable disposition towards good in our relationships with other persons – despite their origin, race or socio-cultural level.

In Hebrew, compassion comes from the word «chesed». Implicitly, this word means «piety» when kindness is directed towards God. From here this word compassion/kindness means also: favour, good deed, doing well, charity, mercy, piety.

## **7 –SANTIFICATION, ANOTHER FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

***«When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. “(Romans 6: 20-22)***

***“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. “(1 Thessalonians 4: 3-7)***

***“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.” (1 Peter 1:14-17)***

According TO THE Holy Scriptures, there are 3 types of Sanctification:

## 1. - Justification

Being justified is also considered as being 'right'.

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5: 1)*

*"And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." (Hebrews 10: 10-14)*

God considers us holy because of the sacrifice of His Son.

We get the justification through grace.

*"But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3: 4-7)*

## 2. - The Personal Sanctification:

*"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.' Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. "(1 Peter 1: 15-17)*

*"Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. " (Hebrews 12: 14)*

The Lord has called the Ephesus Church to be holy:

*"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favour: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. 'To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the 2<sup>nd</sup> death.'" (Revelation 2: 2-11)*

Using daily God's Word and prayer, each Christian must depose a certain effort to be able to stay holy. (2 Peter 1: 3-7)

## 3. - The Complete Redemption:

*"So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being" ; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of*

***sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15: 42-57)***

Then we will be next to the Lord, we will gain an incorruptible state, or a total un-putrefaction of body, soul and spirit.

Sanctification involves separation from evil and from bad companies (2 Corinthians 6:14-18) and thus, it could be gained only by paying the price, that of numerous sufferings and sacrifices. (Romans 12: 1-3)

***“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.’ ‘Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty’.” (2 Corinthians 6: 14-18)***

***“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.” (Romans 12: 1-3)***

Firstly, without this fruit of Christ, which is holiness (Hebrews 12: 14), none is be able to see God in his/her daily life and secondly, it is impossible to be ready to depart during the Lord's Rapture.

***“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14)***

All the fruits of the Holy Spirit are the fingerprint of the Lord, the only one who can legitimate our Christianity. According 1 Corinthians 13:13, there are 3 pillars in a Christian life and they are: love, faith and hope, but love is the greatest. Because only through love all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit are able to develop inside us. God is LOVE and without Him there is no fruit. (John 15; 1 John 4:8)

## CHAPTER VII: HOW TO BRING FRUITS?

Many Christians realise they lack the fruits of the Holy Spirit and ask themselves how to bring fruits to please the Lord.

To bring fruit, a Christian needs to be grafted by God Himself and he must abide in Christ, he must be cleansed, must die and finally needs to be watered by Him.

### • THE GRAFTING

*“If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root.” (Romans 11: 17)*

Grafting is the operation consisting in implanting a stem or a piece of a plant inside the tissues of another plant. Thus, by growing together, the stem - which is taken from a different plant or the same plant - will succeed in becoming one body with this 1<sup>st</sup> or host plant. Through his grafting, the Christian, too must become one body with Yehoshooa Ma'shia/Jesus Christ and thus participant to the divine nature.  
(2 Peter 1: 3-4)

*“After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!” (Romans 11:24)*

Before being grafted into the Body of Christ, God cuts us from the wild olive tree (the world). There has to be a separation or a cut from the worldly things, meaning a separation with sin.

The grafting doesn't mean the intellectual joining of a local church or of a denomination. It is the divine act by which God integrates us into the Body of Christ.

This is the new-birth, the birth made by the Hand of the Lord.

### • ABIDING IN CHRIST

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” (John 15: 4)*

*“Do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.” (Romans 11: 18)*

The story with Miriam (Maria) and Martha is one full of teachings and a beautiful example to follow for all those who desire to abide in Christ in order to bring fruits.

### Miriam and Martha

*“As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked: ‘Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered: ‘You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’” (Luke 10: 38-42)*

Martha, whose name means «matron» didn't want to let the Master of Heaven and Earth reign into her house. She believed she was able to touch the Lord's heart through her serving, or by exercising her ministry.

She was more preoccupied with her service than worshipping Him.

In addition, she was anxious and worried because of many things.

She is the archetype of those Christians who believe they can win God's heart because of their ministry, of those who think they are touching Him like this, of those who believe they could please the Lord by winning many souls. Others build big buildings to shelter thousands of people or travel back and forth the entire world, organise seminaries, conferences, etc.

Martha had no time to give to the Lord.

Nevertheless, the Lord desires we offer Him time: *“making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”* (Ephesians 5: 16)

Time becomes more and more precious during these latter days and it will keep on accelerating.

Let's take the example of Mr John, a Christian living near Sydney or New York; he is married and is a father of 2 children. In a day of 24 hours, this man needs: 8 hours of sleep, 8 hours for work, 2 hours lost on the road, 2 hours to cook and eat, 1 hour for the internet (Skype, MSN, etc.), 1 hour for TV news, 1 hour to call friends and family and another hour to go to pick his kids from school and to help them with their homework.

Without realising, John is caught in activism, as each evening he goes to church for all sorts of programs: Monday –repetition for the church chorus, Tuesday- for the Bible study, Wednesday- for the prayer, Thursday- for the men's meeting, Friday- for the youth group, Saturday- for the meeting with church leaders. Of course John doesn't work during the weekend, but he needs to be busy with the youth and often stays at church all Sunday to help brothers and sisters.

You see, these 24 hours are being used at maximum and our brave brother John doesn't even have time to speak with our Heavenly Father either in prayer or in meditation of the Word, in order to be able to receive the spiritual sap necessary to bring fruits.

He has no time anymore for his family- wife and children- which will end up feeling abandoned and frustrated by this situation.

John, such as Martha, hasn't understood that he must set time for the Master of Masters, the King of Kings. He believed he can impress the Lord through what he does, through his service, his ministry. Many persons such as Martha and John want to touch God's heart by serving (programs, seminaries, missions, trips etc.) These persons are not giving enough time to the Lord anymore.

Miriam means «rebellion» (Numbers 12).

Miriam chose the good part, meaning the company of Yeshoua. She was sitting at the Lord's feet to listen to His Word.

*“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’ ”* (Isaiah 52: 7)

She was already in total adoration while Martha was seeking to please the Lord with her serving. Miriam knew that only the Lord's presence could free her from rebellion.

#### • THE CLEANSING

*“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”* (John 15: 2)

The cleansing is a work of purification which consists of cutting some useless parts of a tree or an object. Let's understand a thing: this clean-up never stops, its purpose being our passing from one glory to another. Each time God wants to lift us up, He will entrust us a new responsibility and will clean us up in order to qualify ourselves and to make us ready of our serving/ministry. (The French word 'emonder', translated here by cleaning also means taking the world/ the sinful out of someone-n.tr.)

#### - The Cleansing of Esther

Before Esther was allowed to appear before the king Xerxes, she suffered a beauty treatment for 12 months. 6 months she had to wash herself in myrtle oil and then other 6 months she washed in aromas and perfumes used by women.

*“Before a girl's turn came to go in to king Xerxes, she had to complete 12 months of beauty treatments prescribed for the women, six months with oil of myrrh and 6 with perfumes and cosmetics.”* (Esther 2: 12)

In this passage the word «beauty treatments» («toilette» in French– n.tr.) literally means «SCRAPPING OFF». The root of this word means «to polish», «to clean». Before being admitted in the king's presence, Esther had been scrapped off, cleansed, polished and sanctified by the use of different cosmetic oils (the olive- the testimony). She had been cleansed for an entire year without the world's knowledge, in secrecy, in hidden places.

I remember a period of time when I used to complain a lot about the rebellion of certain persons whom I mentored. Then, the Lord gave me in a vision the passage of John 15: 1-2 and I have understood that He allowed this thing to happen precisely to teach me.



Don't be discouraged when close-ones leave you, but have your eyes fixed upon the Lord and remain confident because you are living a period of intense clean-up.

*“Moab has been at rest from youth, like wine left on its dregs, not poured from one jar to another- she has not gone into exile. So she tastes as she did, and her aroma is unchanged.”* (Jeremiah 48: 11)

During cleansing, the Lord transfers you from a body into another or better said from a character into another. The purpose of this work is to empty us of all yeast that's inside; the yeast represents the image of sin hidden profoundly into our heart.

God cannot fill a jar which is already full and remember no mix-up is possible with God. The transfer into a new jar is a process very difficult, very painful to live through, because we lose everything we won beforehand, even the honours given by men. In reality, God purifies us, cleanse us so that the ugly smell of sin emerges out – only in this way we could be able to spread the Christ's fragrance.

You will be never filled with God unless you empty yourselves of you.

***“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?”*** (2 Corinthians 2: 14-16)

***“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.”*** (Romans 12: 1)

The Holocaust was maybe the oldest and the typical Hebrew sacrifice. In this passage regarding the true ministry, the one God takes pleasure in, the word «sacrifice» comes from the Greek «thusia» (thoo-see'-ah) and means «victim», «to choke» This passage talks about holocaust, which, for a child of God is the expression of the total gift: his/her life.

Remember that we are the salt of the earth according to Matthew 5:13 Salt must be dissolved for its taste to be felt. It protects the food from putrefaction by slowing the proliferations of microbes. The Jews used it also to fertilise their lands. In addition, all the offerings of Levites had to be accompanied by salt. (Leviticus 2:13) Notice that without its being dissolved, salt has no taste. .

## • DEATH

In God's kingdom, life starts with death.

***“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”*** (John 12: 24)

If you have died to yourselves, this thing allows God to sue you for His glory.

A dead doesn't resist, is not irritated, doesn't oppose to anyone; he doesn't answer back to insults, he never justifies himself.

***“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”*** (Romans 6: 11-12)

There is no germination without death (flowering). Germination is the re-start of development and of metabolism which allows the absorption of water (dripping) and also of respiration of enzymatic activity, etc.; and this from the germ of a plant that contains the seeds until it becomes a mature plant.

As long as the seed is inside the fruit, this process of germination is inhibited and often it starts during a specific time (a seasonal cycle or longer). The chemical substances are released by the plant and accumulated inside the fruit where the seed has the vegetal hormones which inhibit the germination. Germination can be stopped by substances released by the roots of the mother-plant or other plants (and especially trees). When these roots die/rot, the seed can then germinate.

The person who is dead towards sin and flesh will have a transformed heart and will manifest inside him/her the character of Christ.

## • WATER: THE RIVER OF WATER

*“Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand....” (Isaiah 55: 10)*

The water of the Word is indispensable to the growth of the fruits of the Spirit. It plays many roles according to this passage: waters, fecundates, germinates, produces seed and gives bread.

*“Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.” (Hosea 6: 3)*

The water needed to water the seeds which are the Christians is the Word of God, also called the spring rain.

The Hebrew people was a nation of farmers which depended completely on the 2 rain seasons.

*“They do not say to themselves: ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’” (Jeremiah 5: 24)*

At first, it was the first season, the early season (towards the end of October, so autumn in Europe) «morech» in Hebrew which means «torrential». This rain opened the agricultural year by softening the tough soil cracked by the summer drought and thus used to prepare the cultivable areas for seedling.

Then, the last season rain or «maigowsh» in Hebrew (which means spring rain) consisted of huge storm clouds greatly appreciated due to the fact that they were coming right after the harvest and after a long summer drought.

The rain of the last season or the spring rain was the last rain. It fell in the months of May and April and its purpose was the ripening of the Israel's fruits.

*“Be not afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice. Surely the Lord has done great things. Be not afraid, O wild animals, for the open pastures are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.” (Joel 2: 21-24)*

*“Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone.” (Zechariah 10: 1)*

*“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.” (James 5: 7-8)*

The rain of the last season talks also about God's Spirit and about the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 36: 25 ; John 7: 37-39). It concerns:

- To Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5: 6): The Holy Spirit was sent to walk with us, to lead us in all truth. (John 16: 13). To walk through the Spirit or according to the Spirit means to see as if God does, to hear as He does, to speak as He does, to act as He does or do things as Him, etc.

- To have the Life of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 25): the Life of the Spirit or living according to the Spirit's teachings means to be attached to the things of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5-13).

- To live the Pentecost: at its origins, this was a farming celebration.

(Pentecost of us Christians is the day we have met the Lord, when He has written into our hearts, when He gave us His Word in the same way He gave the Torah/Law for the Jews when He gave them the 10 commandments, the same Law preached by Jesus in the 2 commandments: to love God and the other people.-n.tr.)

«Shavouot» means “the celebration of weeks”. This feast was kept for 7 weeks after the Hebrew Easter. Easter represents ‘the seed’ and the Pentecost represents ‘the 1<sup>st</sup> harvest’.

Symbolically, Easter used to celebrates the freedom gained by the Jews from Egypt, from the Pharaoh's yoke through Moses and the later Pentecost was the celebration of receiving the Torah/Law on the Mount Sinai.

(The Pharaoh is the symbol of the devil, while Moses was the image of Christ our Saviour.-n.tr.)

During the time of Easter, people plant seeds. For Pentecost, we harvest the fruit of our effort.

The Church was born at Pentecost, such as the prophet Joel has announced:

***“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2: 28-29)***

***“Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.” (Exodus 23: 16)***

The celebration of the Hebrew Easter, as this text says it, was that of Feast of Harvest. That day they used to celebrate the Harvesting. It was a time to celebrate the 1<sup>st</sup> fruits of labour for man.

The church was born the day the Jews used to celebrate the ripening of fruits. This is the reason why Christians need to be wet by the rain (by the Holy Spirit-n.tr.) in order to bring fruits.

## CHAPTER VIII: THE RIPENESS OF FRUITS

The maturity of a fruit is translated into several processes: the accumulation of sugars and acids, the appearance of fragrances, the smoothing of the fruit skin and the change in colour. Though we don't know all the details; we know this phenomenon is conducted by a molecule called the ethylene, which is the hormone of reaching maturity.

The ethylene is not only an uncoloured gas, but also a vegetal hormone which most plants, but also fruits produce in variable quantities. This quantity causes the so-called ripening which in its turn allows the fruit to produce ethylene. By putting a well ripen orange which radiates a lot of ethylene) in the same basket with a green one, the maturity of this last one will be accelerated. Thus, people grow/ripen quicker if living amongst people with well-ripen fruits of the Holy Spirit, or in other words with intimacy with the Lord.

### • The Maturity Signs

The Signs of maturity for a fruit are:

- the augmentation of *sugar*: according to its taste, the fruit becomes good to eat. The sugar is the symbol that makes us think of jam, of honey.

- the appearance of *fragrance and perfume*: the Lord keeps on working in our hearts so that the fruits of the Holy Spirit might ripe and thus pour in perfume inside us.

***“How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon. You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices.” (Song of Songs 4:10-14)***

- the smoothing of *skin*: the hardness of a heart is usually broken after a long breakage. Our character is thus changed. ***“And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5: 15)***

- the change in *colour* : even the exterior look is transformed.

***“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.” (1 Peter 3: 1-6)***

In other words, *a person with a changed heart will have an appearance which will push people to seek God.*

To understand well why time is needed for the fruits of the Holy Spirit to be ripen, let's have a look what happens to a pregnant woman.

***“At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and***

***Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!’” (Luke 1: 39-42)***

Mary/Miriam was pregnant with Yehoshooa Ma'shia/Jesus Christ, and Elisabeth called this unborn baby ‘a fruit’. So, the foetus is a fruit, a fruit which needs time to reach maturity. Our Lord Yeshoua has waited for 30 years before beginning His mission.

During the intimal relationships between a man and a woman, although almost 400 million spermatozoids are freed only one reached the ovule. After reaching his objective, which is the ovule, the spermatozoid suffers both an interior and an exterior change, in great secrecy. This cell contains in itself all the necessary organs for the survival of the future child, although at this stage they are still invisible. Therefore, the ovule, the egg represents

the place of the 1<sup>st</sup> change in the life of the fruit/the child which will know more until he/she will reach maturity/adulthood. The maturity of a new-born baby lasts for 9 months and it happens inside his/her mum's womb.

At conversion we receive immediately the fruits of the Holy Spirit, but the Lord puts you in a spiritual ovule, an ovule which represents Christ and the secret places, according to Matthew 6 :6. Everything takes place in secrecy; nobody knows you are in an egg about to be changed, transformed so that your fruits might ripe.

***“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (Matthew 6: 6)***

The fruits of plants don't reach maturity in a single day, but several weeks. For some trees, we need to wait even many years because they need time to bear fruits. The maturity of our fruits corresponds with our measure and our height of the fullness in Christ, ***the posture the Church has to have before the rapture.***

***“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole***

***measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.” (Ephesians 4: 11-17)***

### • Three Levels of Ripen Fruits

***“Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ‘Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying 30, 60 or even 100 times.” (Mark 4:1-8)***

According to this parable, there are 3 levels in growing the fruits of the Holy Spirit:



#### - ***The 1<sup>st</sup> Level (of 30%) is that of Lamed***

In the Holy Scriptures, the numbers have numeric values. The number 30 is the numeric value of Lamed, the 12<sup>th</sup> letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It is the last letter of Torah, which finishes with the word «Israel».

It is the only letter which is bigger in size than the other letters, as its superior part climbs above the top line unlike the rest of letters. The symbolism seen here is expressed by the fact that study and discipline can improve us /help us reach a superior level. The growth level also speaks about discipline, instruction, correction needed by us to evolve. The proto-Canaan letter used is represented by a whip, a rod used by a shepherd or a staff, an instrument used to train and discipline.

The Hebrew word 'lamed' means «study», «teaching», «apprentice». The Hebrew running writing symbol emphasises very well the rod of a whip which was used often in the Hebrew schools.

***“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22: 6)***

The 1<sup>st</sup> level is that of instructing the child in faith, instruction which later will allow him/her to grow in faith. In the New Testament, the Greek word used for «punishment» also means «correction, smacking, lesson, correction.» (Hebrews 12) A person who refuses correction will never be able to bring fruits of the Holy Spirit.



#### - ***The 2<sup>nd</sup> Level (of 60%) is that of Samech***

Sixty percents (60 %) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of growth for the fruits. It corresponds to Samech, the 15<sup>th</sup> letter of the Jewish alphabet. This letter symbolises the pillar, the column, the foundation, the sustainment and the support. After instruction, after teaching, there is the 2<sup>nd</sup> level. Through teaching, God makes us pillars or supports for the truth.

**“James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews.” (Galatians 2: 9)**

The Church is the column/pillar and the foundation of truth. (1 Timothy 3:15)

We are transformed into pillars exactly to support the weak people in faith. Our generation lacks a great deal in fathers in faith (the pillars of the old times).



**- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and last Level (of 100%) is that of Koph**

The letter Koph, the 19<sup>th</sup> letter of the Hebrew alphabet means ‘the ear of a needle’. It represents the destruction of illusions through the knowledge of true light; its action is similar to a weapon with sharp edge, a weapon which gives the man the power to separate what is real from what is illusory. Koph is the symbol of spontaneity, love for life, community.

The letter Koph is made of Kaph and waw, whose numeric values 20 and 6 add up to 26, which is the value of the tetragram YHWH.

Knowing the true light corresponds to knowing the Name of Yehoshua. The finality of everything is the person of Christ of Nazareth, our God. Halleluiah!

The level one hundred (100%) represents the maximum/ the whole; it reveals to man the Name of God: YHWH.

**“I am YHWH; that is My Name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.” (Isaiah 42: 8)**

The tetragram YHWH (He who exists through Himself) is a godly name often found in the Holy Scriptures, from Genesis to Malachi (used more than 6,500 times). It is important to know the fact that in the Holy Scriptures the 1<sup>st</sup> mention of the Name YHWH appears exactly when it recounts the creation of man. (Before verse 26 chap. 1 in Genesis, the term used for God was Elohim and brother Shora has a teaching about this-n.tr.)

YHWH is the godly Name used in connection with redemption. Other names made out of YHWH reveal how the Lord has responded to the needs of men:

YHWH-Jiry «YHWH who cares for» (Genesis 22: 13-14).

YHWH-Rarpha «YHWH who heals» (Exodus 15: 26).

YHWH-Nissy «YHWH my banner» (Exodus 17: 15).

YHWH-Shalom «YHWH my peace» (Judges 6 :24).

YHWH-Tsidkenoo «YHWH my righteousness» (Jeremiah 23: 6).

YHWH-Shamma «YHWH is here» (Ezekiel 48: 35).

In most versions of the French Bible (and English, too-n.tr.), the tetragram YHWH doesn’t exist and it has been translated by ‘The Holy One’ or ‘The Eternal One’ by P. R. Olivetan in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Before the Christian era, the Jews have ceased to pronounce it, believing that it is an indescribably holy name. The Hebrew scholars from the 5<sup>th</sup> up to the 10<sup>th</sup> century (so called ‘massor’) have accomplished the work of punctuation and the placement of vowels in the purpose of maintaining the most accurate reading. Next to the consonants of YHWH the tetragram, they have added the vowels of a different divine name: «Adonay», translated by ‘The Lord’. Thus they suggested to the reader the name Adonay was to be said and not Yahweh each time they were about to encounter the tetragram. But later, some believed wrongly that they had to read these consonants YHWH along with the vowels from Adonay and therefore ended up believing Jehovah was the true godly name although this name has never before pronounced this way.

The exact meaning of YHWH is controversial. Usually it is connected to the root HWH, which became HYH, the root of God’s Name, Name revealed to Moses in **Exodus 3: 14: « I am Who I Am. »**

100% is the last level of growth; it reveals to us the Name of God and this Name is a poured fragrance:

**“Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you!” (Song of Songs 1: 3)**

When fruits release fragrance, we pick them as ripen and ready to be consumed. Same thing happens with our prayers climbing towards the Lord: they are accompanied by a perfume, by incense. (Revelation 8: 3)

The level 100 is that of fruit maturity. It corresponds with knowing the Name of the Lord.

## • The Perfume of Flowers

The word «perfume» comes from 2 Latin terms: first the prefix «per», meaning «through» and then the verb «fumare», meaning «to smoke».

According to its etymology, this word means «which is released through smoke». But we also know that there is no smoke without fire.

Fire is the symbol for the Holy Presence of the Lord (Exodus 3: 2; Deuteronomy 4: 24) and also His wrath regarding sin (Isaiah 66: 15).

*“Gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead and anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean. But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing. And whatever cannot withstand fire must be put through that water.”* (Numbers 31: 22-23)

So, the Lord Christ makes His workers pass through this purifying fire in order to make them pure and able to release His Christly fragrance. When someone is in God’s fire he must keep calm and keep on trusting Him. This fire represents trials, troubles, problems, critics... All impurities must disappear totally to allow the Holy Spirit to work freely in you. Note that the value of a perfume, of your incense will depend on the intensity of the purifying fire.

*“When he opened the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given 7 trumpets. Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”* (Revelation 8: 1-5)

Another reason why the Lord asks us to bring fruits is for adoration. Fruits release fragrances which smell extremely nice.

Under Moses’ Law, a perfume altar was built in front of the Holy of Holiest. Each morning and each evening, the priests used to burn a certain perfume, a nicely smelling perfume/incense (myrrh/saffron); but no other foreign perfume was accepted.

*“Make an altar of acacia wood for burning incense. It is to be square, a cubit long and a cubit wide and 2 cubits high -its horns of one piece with it. Overlay the top and all the sides and the horns with pure gold, and make a gold moulding around it. Make 2 gold rings for the altar below the moulding-2 on opposite sides-to hold the poles used to carry it. Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Put the altar in front of the curtain that is before the ark of the Testimony before the atonement cover that is over the Testimony-where I will meet with you. ‘Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the Lord for the generations to come. Do not offer on this altar any other incense or any burnt offering or grain offering, and do not pour a drink offering on it. Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the Lord.’*

*Then the Lord said to Moses: ‘When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the Lord a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them. Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the Lord. All who cross over, those 20 years old or more, are to give an offering to the Lord. The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the Lord to atone for your lives. Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the Tent of Meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the Lord, making atonement for your lives.’*

*Then the Lord said to Moses: ‘Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it. Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by presenting an offering made to the Lord by fire, they shall wash their hands and feet so that they will not die. This is to be a lasting ordinance for Aaron and his descendants for the generations to come.’*

*Then the Lord said to Moses: ‘Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much*

*(that is, 250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon, 250 shekels of fragrant cane, 24500 shekels of cassia-all according to the sanctuary shekel-and a hin of olive oil. Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil. Then use it to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony, the table and all its articles, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand. You shall consecrate them so they will be most holy, and whatever touches them will be holy. 'Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. Say to the Israelites: <This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. Do not pour it on men's bodies and do not make any oil with the same formula. It is sacred, and you are to consider it sacred. Whoever makes perfume like it and whoever puts it on anyone other than a priest must be cut off from his people>.'*  
*Then the Lord said to Moses: 'Take fragrant spices-gum resin, onycha and galbanum-and pure frankincense, all in equal amounts, and make a fragrant blend of incense, the work of a perfumer. It is to be salted and pure and sacred. Grind some of it to powder and place it in front of the Testimony in the Tent of Meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. Do not make any incense with this formula for yourselves; consider it holy to the Lord. Whoever makes any like it to enjoy its fragrance must be cut off from his people.'* (Exodus 30: 1-38)

## • Mary and the Nard Perfume

The usage of nard is very ancient: firstly it is part of the Ayurveda Indian tradition and secondly in the Ancient Egypt, in the Middle East and in the Antique Rome it has been considered to be a lux perfume.

The nard is one of the most ancient oriental perfumes known today. It appears as oil and is a liquid of amber colour. The oil of nard is extracted from the rhizome of *Nardostachys Jatamansi*. This plant grows in the Indian mountains and helps, between many other things, to regenerate the hair. Beside its use in the industry of perfumery it is also used to make incense. According to many ancient texts, the nard has a high monetary and spiritual value. It used to be used in numerous religious ceremonies due to its sedative and narcotic effects.

Mary, Lazarus' sister, grateful to the Lord for her brother's resurrection, she has poured upon Yehoshooa's body a nard perfume of great price, fragrance which filled the whole house:

*"6 days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who was later to betray him, objected. "(John 12: 1-4)*

A pint or a litter of a 'nard perfume' represents the heart of a Christian filled with fruits. This pure perfume of great price is the image of our hearts which must release the fragrance of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, we will not be able to release this perfume unless we are broken at first. For the nard to be released, at first, Mary had to break the perfume bottle at Yehoshooa's feet.

The Lord wants us to offer our lives to Him (Romans 12:1-3) so that this fragrance, these fruits of the Holy might be released everywhere.

*"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of then knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?" (2 Corinthians 2: 14-16)*

*"While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. (Mark 14: 3)*

The breakage of the bottle is a beautiful image of adoration. The bottle or the pot represents our lives and we must break it before the Lord so that the perfume may be released and dispersed all over the others.

In the New Alliance, the saints' prayers are compared to the perfume and the incense that used to be released up to heaven to God during the old Covenant or the Law (which we know it was the shade of the one to come.-n.tr.)  
*See above 2 Corinthians 2: 14-16.*



The saints 'prayers climb up to heaven as a perfume of pleasant smell: *“Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”* (Revelation 8: 3-5)

## • The Shulamite's Perfume

The book Song of Songs tells us the story of Solomon, (which is the image of Christ) and the Shulamite, the symbol of Church.

King Solomon makes his bride eulogia due to her perfume which was so nice.

*“How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon. You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices.”* (The Song of Songs 4: 10-14)

**The Shulamite, the image of Church** was releasing an extremely pleasant perfume, in other words accepted by the Lord.

**The Church which is about to be raptured will have:**

- **Glue in her love for Me (or fully in love with Christ).**
- **Pleasant fragrances**, meaning jam and agreeable smell.
- **Honey** dripping from lips, meaning a **gentle heart**.
- **Her clothes dipped in perfume** (Revelation 19: 7-8).
- She was a **close garden, a close stream, and a sealed fountain**, which are all the **image of virginity or sanctification**. (Hebrews 12: 14 and Song of Songs 4: 12)
- **The fruits** of Shulamite had to be **excellent**- ours, too.
- The nard, the saffron and the myrrh **perfume**.
- **The incense: a life of prayer and of consecration, of constant worship.**

**All these qualities are possible only in Christ, our Lord and Saviour.**

In order to release this perfume, you must be shaken by the wind, the image of the Holy Spirit and also the image of the devil's attacks.

This wind blows over the heart which brings fruits releasing thus wonderful fragrances and all kind of aromas.

The wind represents the Holy Spirit which shakes the tree/the boat which is us. (Ezekiel 37; John 3; Acts 2) The wind which blew over the dead bones Ezekiel 37 allowed the gathering and the connection between them. The wind which blew over the 120 disciples gave them the possibility to express efficiently their gifts, their ministries and fruits given by the Lord Yehoshooa.

The wind also represents the fire of the Holy Spirit which must burn the incense, which is me or you. It is important to know that the perfume has its origin in the Antiquity and that the etymology of the Latin word «per-fumum» means «by smoke» - process proving the holy origins conferred to perfume. Its evaporation and invisibility speak of our prayers which go up to our Heavenly Father.

There is no fire without smoke.

So, the condition for a Christian to release Christ's perfume is to cross the fire of trials.

*“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4: 12-13)*

Without fire (trial), Christians will never be able to spread out the perfume of Christ.

The word «oven» in this passage means combustion, fire where metals are melted and thinned out; calamities or trials suffered by the character of a Christian person. The Greek root of the word 'oven' is 'clean'. This word speaks of the purifying fire in which we are baptised by the Lord (Matthew 3:11). The fire is the image of suffering connected to the received personal calling. Suffering is the mean, the instrument used by God to make

us obedient and to increase our faith. Remember the 3 friends of Daniel: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed- Nego, who had to cross the fire of trials despite their faithfulness. (Daniel 3).

*“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.”* (1 Peter 1: 6-7)

### • The Wind has blown upon the Shulamite

*“Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”* (Song of Songs 4: 16)

The Shulamite asked the wind to blow over her garden, or in other words over the heart so that the perfume might be thus felt.

In the Roman mythology, Aquilon is the god of the septentrional winds, which are cold and harsh. The wind «Aquilon» is the image of trials which must blow over the hearts of God’s children so that the perfume inside them might stream out, might be released. Aquilon, the god of wind had to blow over (or attack) the Shulamite, so that she can release Christ’s fragrance.

The wind, the image of the devil’s, demons’ or people’s attacks is the way God uses to show His glory. The Lord allows the evil spirits to attack us so thus His works are revealed. He let a demon slap Paul so that he can stay humble. (2 Corinthians 12: 7-10)

### • The Wind and the House Built upon the Rock

*“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”* (Matthew 7: 24-25)

In this passage, while the house represents the Christian and the wind is the image of the enemy’s attacks, the rock is Christ Himself. The attacks are allowed for people to suffer so that they thus encounter the Rock.

The wind encountered the Rock’s resistance which is Christ Himself – the foundation of all things, our base.

### • The Apostles and the Wind

The Lord wanted the apostles to generate the perfume of faith all around them. Thus, he used a storm and the waves of a sea.

*“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples: ‘Let us go over to the other side.’ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him: ‘Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?’ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves: ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples: ‘Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ They were terrified and asked each other: ‘Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!’”* (Mark 4: 35-41)

The wind is a way very efficient use by the Lord to show us what’s inside of our hearts. God also used wind to spread the Shulamite’s perfume everywhere. The wind revealed the Rock where the house had been built upon. He also allowed the revelation of the state of those people who were accompanying Paul. The Lord used that wind to unveil the hearts of apostles.

God allows trials, offences, critics, rejections or attacks you face so that the depths of your heart (what you are made of) are unveiled completely.

### • The Wind and Paul

*“When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from*

*Thessalonica, was with us. The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the winds were against us. When we had sailed across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing for Italy and put us on board. We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the wind did not allow us to hold our course, we sailed to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea. Much time had been lost, and sailing had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast. So Paul warned them: 'Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also.' But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the ship. Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should sail on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest. When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. **Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "Eurackilon" swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure.** When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: 'Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said: <Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.> So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.' (Acts 27: 1-26)*

Eurackilon comes from «Euros», a Greek deity attributed to the East Wind which blew over the boat Paul was Eurackilon or «Euros», the god of wind in the Greek mythology hit the ship that was taking Paul to Rome. Due to this trial, Paul – a prisoner of Christ – was able to confess powerfully the Gospel to more than 250 people. Halleluiah!

## • Job and the Wind

The devil used the wind to destroy the house of Job's children and also kill these ones.

***"While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said: 'Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you'!" (Job 1: 18-19)***

The devil is also called 'the ruler of the kingdom of the air' (Ephesians 2:1-2). He often uses the natural elements to attack us.

For our ancestors, the wind was a very mysterious phenomenon and they believed it had to be of a divine origin. According to the Greek culture, gods were personifications of the 4 main winds. So, the wind gods were very well characterised and had specific appearances, which today are very easy identifiable from the representations of that era:

- Boreas, the Nordic wind, which is a harsh old man with hair puffed up by the wind.
- Zephyr, the Western wind, which has the appearance of a very gentle young man dressed up in a flower coloured pelerine.
- Euros, the Eastern wind, which is a fearful old man.
- Notos, the Southern wind, which is represented by a man pouring out water from a jar.

## • The Godly Nature

Having the fruits of the Holy Spirit inside us (fruits that in reality represent the nature of Christ), we are able to release a perfume all around us, a pleasant fragrance both before God and men.

*“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” (2 Peter 1: 3-4)*

Once grafted into Christ’s Body (Romans 11:17; 24), we take part to the life of a fruitful tree. If the tree is an olive tree, then we produce olives, if it is a fig, we have figs, if it is a vine, we give grapes, and so on.

*“By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? “ (Matthew 7: 16)*

*“If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.” (Romans 11: 17-18)*

According Romans 11: 17-18, the divine nature is the root (Christ) and the sap (the Holy Spirit) of the olive tree. Therefore, understand that THE FRUIT of the Holy Spirit is the divine nature.

Those producing inside them the fruits of the Holy Spirit live heaven on earth and thus confess and impart the wish of heaven to unbelievers. Due to the fruits of the Spirit we are spiritual men able to judge all things. (1 Corinthians 2:15-17)

## • Different Stages in the Growth of the Holy Spirit’s Fruits

In nature, before producing fruits, the fruitful trees pass through several stages. The same principle applies to the spiritual realm:

*“He also said: ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain- first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come’” (Mark 4: 26-29)*

According to this passage there are:

- **The Seed**, meaning the Christian. In the parable of the wheat and the tares, Christians are called ‘seed’, in Greek ‘sperma’ which gives ‘sperm’ in English. (Matthew 13: 24-30)

- **The Soil**: *“This is what the Lord says: ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where is the house you will build for Me? Where will My resting place be?’” (Isaiah 66: 1)*

The soil is the cover for His feet, the place where seed is developed. We are put and made in Christ.

- **The Seedling, meaning death:**

*“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12: 24)*

- **The Germination and Growth, in other words the New Birth or the Resurrection**

- **The Green Shoot or the Grass, meaning the beginning of life.**

*“Then God said: ‘Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.’ And it was so.” (Genesis 1: 11)*

*“The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1: 12)*

*“Then God said: ‘I give you every seed bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.” (Genesis 1: 29)*

*“And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground everything that has the breath of life in it-I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.” (Genesis 1: 30)*

- **The Stalk: the not quite ripen fruit.**

- **The Grain: the ripen fruit, at the height/stature of fullness of Christ**

(Ephesians 4: 11-16; Colossians 1: 28)

- **The Harvest: means resurrection and the Church’s Rapture.**

*“I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one 'like a son of man' with a sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud: 'Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.*

*Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle: 'Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe.' The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.” (Revelation 14: 14-20)*

The Lord will not come after those who speak in tongues, nor after those who cast demons out and nor after those who go out in the world in missions and win many souls. No, He will come for those who bring ripen fruits and only this type of people will take part to the Bridegroom's wedding after the Rapture.

*“Not everyone who says to me: 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day: 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you'. “(Matthew 7: 21-23)*

The parable of the fig tree confirms to us that the Lord's Return will happen when the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which the Church bear, will have been ripen.

*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” (Matthew 24: 32-33)*

The enemy doesn't want at all for you to bring fruits, and that is the reason why he plants his own seeds/plants in churches and assemblies, to bring division and trouble in people's hearts. These plants are the image of sin, of demons and false Christians who enter Christian assemblies  
.(Matthew 13: 24-30; Galatians 2: 1-5; Judges 1: 4)

## CHAPTER IX: WHAT PREVENTS FRUITS FROM GROWING?

### THE THRONBUSHES AND THE THISTLES



The prickly is a generic term for numerous species of plants with thorns and sharp needles. These plants are the image of sin, of demons and of false Christians used by the devil in the fight against God's children.

***“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.” (Luke 8:7)***

***“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.” (Luke 8: 14)***

Thorns and thistles are false Christians who live amongst the children of God. These Christians cause unrest and bring lots of troubles with the single purpose of suffocating/ drowning the Lord's children or in other words their main role is to prevent Christ's followers from bringing fruits that reached maturity or ripen state.

The prickly is a redoubtable conqueror which uses all its strong points, especially its vertical and horizontal roots for its own growth. The roots system of the prickly allows it to progress in all kind of tasks and finally ensures it with an extraordinary resistance.

The prickly likes to appear and colonise - most likely big plantations, grass farms, fields, hay stocks and mass-fruit crops such as vines and orchards, etc.

***“Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelech king. When Jotham was told about this, he climbed up on the top of Mount Gerizim and shouted to them: ‘Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree: <Be our king.> But the olive tree answered, : <Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and men are honored, to hold sway over the trees?> Next, the trees said to the fig tree: ‘Come and be our king.’ But the fig tree replied: <Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?> Then the trees said to the vine: <Come and be our king.> But the vine answered,; <Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and men, to hold sway over the trees?> Finally all the trees said to the thornbush: <Come and be our king.> The thornbush said to the trees: <If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!>’ “(Judges 9: 6-15)***

“What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?” (Isaiah 5: 4)

The Lord's vine has produced bad fruits instead of good ones.

These bad fruits are the thorns and the thistles. They represent the deeds/the works of the flesh, of human nature. (Galatians 5: 16-21)

***“Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.” (Hebrews 6: 7-8)***

***“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to Me: ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly: ‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!’”*** (Matthew 7: 15-23)

Have you noticed that the authentic prophets are not recognised according to their given prophecy, but by their fruits? In this passage, the Lord said that we can't harvest grapes (or life) from thorns; or figs (gentleness) from thistles. Those people who have thorns and thistles (sin) could also do miracles, speak out prophecies, chase demons out...thus believing they do the will of God. In the end of times, these false Christians will come forward and will show to the Lord all their spiritual gifts such as miracles and prophecies... and will thus wait to be saved. But they will hear the Lord say to them: « depart from me you who commit sin. »

I suggest you read the parable of the wheat and the tar from Matthew 13: 24-30 and Matthew 13: 36-43. Among the wheat, the tar has been planted too, but only when the wheat grew and gave crops, was the tar able to be noticed.

This means that both plants have grown together. They are very similar and only while harvest they can be differentiated. Because we can recognise the tree by its crops. (Matthew 7:20). The tar or in Greek «zizanon» gave in French the word «zizanie», and in English: dispute, fight. It causes dissension and separation amongst Christians. These persons are like foxes that destroy vines. ***“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.”*** (Song of Songs 2: 15)

We shouldn't look at people's gifts, but at their FRUITS.

The spiritual gifts and the power to do miracles can't save. The fruits' deficiency could disqualify you regarding your ministry and the promises you had received ...but they can't make you lose your salvation (get you into apostasy-n.tr.) unless you abide in sanctification. Here there are the testimonies ***of some great people of God who often have been disqualified exactly because of the lack of fruits of the Spirit*** - deficiency noticed the moment they were meant to bring fruits.

- **Noah:** this man was righteous, unblemished, walking with God during his time, according to Genesis 6: 9. He was a preacher of righteousness, of justice, a man filled with charisma according 2 Peter 2:5. Despite all this Noah fell under temptation and lost his self-control because of wine. The Holy Scriptures compare drunkenness with debauchery. ***“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”*** (Ephesians 5: 18)

Noah's story is a beautiful illustration of debauchery connected to drunkenness. Noah is the 1<sup>st</sup> drunkard in the Biblical history.

***“Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said: ‘Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers.’ He also said: ‘Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave.’ ”*** (Genesis 9: 20-27)

The consequences of his debauchery were great and have deeply disfavoured his family.

Ham, Noah's son, saw his father's nakedness and didn't bother to cover it. On the contrary, he made fun of him and thus, he acted as if he had slept with him or with his mother. ***“If a man sleeps with his father's wife, he has dishonoured his father. Both the man and the woman must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.”*** (Leviticus 20: 11)

Canaan, Noah's grandson, was cursed by Noah and Noah's curse had terrible consequences upon Canaan and all his entire posterity. It regards homosexuality, idolatry, incest, prostitution, fortune telling, rebellion, human sacrifices, etc. The Bible talks about all this especially in the book of Leviticus, chapter 18.

- **Moses:** He was a man who performed miracles, talked to God face to face; despite all these he wasn't able to enter Canaan because he lacked in two fruits of the Holy Spirit: self-control and faith.

*"The Lord said to Moses: 'Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.' So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them: 'Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?' Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron: 'Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them'." (Numbers 20: 7-12)*

Notice that Moses received the commandment to talk to the Rock; instead of doing this, of listening to God he did the opposite due to his anger and lack of faith. He hit twice the rock. And although water came out of it, the Lord disqualified him. This recount is rich in teachings. God is able to use anyone to bless His people.

Christians too – without the fruits of the Holy Spirit- can perform miracles, can chase demons in the Name of Jesus/Yehoshooa, can publish CDs with all kind of songs, but in the end they will hear the Lord tell them:

*"Many will say to me on that day: 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly: 'I NEVER KNEW YOU. AWAY FROM ME YOU EVILDOERS.' " (Matthew 7: 21-23)*

- **Elijah:** He was a great man who could close the sky for 3 months and a half, resurrect dead, and gain huge victories against Baal's prophets. On Mount of Carmel Elijah alone faced all the nation of Israel plus 450 of Baal's prophets and also 400 of Astraea's prophets.

But, at the 1st threat from Izabel, he ran away because this woman simply terrified him to death, and in the end he was replaced by Elisha.

Elijah slipped into depression and asked even for death. He had a problem with joy, with peace and with patience, which are all fruits of the Holy Spirit.

- **Samson:** His sexual immorality and disobedience towards God due to his lack of character have destroyed in the end his ministry and have compromised the future of the nation of Israel, people whom he was meant to lead. (Judges 16)

In Latin «tars» is said «ebriacus», which gave in French the word «ebriete», which means drunkenness.

One of the tars' purposes is to make God's children drunk. In the Holy Scriptures, drunkenness is synonym with immorality, with spiritual and physical debauchery, etc.

Samson, having received a powerful calling from his mother's womb didn't live into God's fear. The weakness of this man consisted in the fact that he walked according to the flesh, always seeking new relationships.

At first, he was married to a woman of a tribe enemy to Israel, and afterwards he went after a prostitute, although this thing was completely forbidden to him.

In the end, Samson fell in love with Delilah, woman who sought through all means to find out the secret of his power, and this until the day Samson gave up to her insistent requests. After making him sleep, she shaved those 7 braids of his hair where his power resided from.

Because of his lack of discernment Samson paid dearly: he lost all the blessings come from God. Samson lacked in self-control, which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. He didn't know how to control his sexual appetite or in other words the 5 senses.

Let's remember that these men of God haven't lost their redemption, as the Bible talks for instance about Samson, who has received it with the price of his life or about Elijah who was taken up to heaven by a chariot of fire. They all had weaknesses as any other man. Their mistakes help us understand how weak we can be.

*"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." (Matthew 26: 41)*

There have been other people of God who didn't necessarily have the power of doing miracles, but who all had the fruits of the Holy Spirit. These men have left beautiful testimonies behind them.



- **Enoch:** This man didn't chase any demon and didn't do any miracle. But he had faith, the fruit of the Holy Spirit and walked with God for 300 years before being raptured into heaven.

*“By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”*  
(Hebrews 11: 5)

- **Joseph:** This God's servant or slave didn't have the gift to perform miracles, neither did he heal sick, but he had in him the fruits of the Holy Spirit. He became the governor of Egypt, the number two in an important country of his era. He received the royal garment which no person was able either to take off or to steal from him.

At first, he had to lose the cloth received by his human father in order to receive, at the right time, the cloth given by the divine Father. The wisdom received during his training as a godly man, during his breakage in the desert allowed him to save the lives of Egyptians and those of his family during the great famine.

Notice that in the end he was able to forgive his brothers of all evil they have done against him because he understood that all things had worked together for his well-being as he loved God. (Romans 8: 28)

Indeed, the results of his forming testify in this regard.

Joseph was lifted at the rank of governor of Egypt, and then he married the daughter of the Pharaoh's priest and saved Egypt and also his family from famine. His children: Manasseh and Ephraim, Metis and Africans were counted amongst the tribes of Israel, as two tribes.

Thirteen long years were needed by God to prepare his servant. During that time, Joseph was confronted with very painful situations, but never had he accused God and never had he honoured the devil.

- **Daniel:** He was a man full of wisdom, of understanding, and also of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Daniel didn't receive the gift of power of performing miracles, nor the speaking in heavenly tongues. He only refused the emperor's foods and wine by serving God until the end of his life. (Daniel 1)

I don't contest here the fact that God doesn't want us to become powerful, but the fruits of the Holy Spirit are much more important than miracles or wonders. (1 Corinthians 13)

We are known by men and recognised by God because of the fruits we bring.

« *Therefore, you will know them by their fruits.* » (Matthew 7: 20)

We gain value due to the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

### • **While the gifts (“charisma”) attract us, the fruits are the ones who strengthen our soul.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit (“charisma”), meaning miracles, prophecy, healing, teaching and anointing attract people in our churches (1 Corinthians 14:23-25), but the fruits of the Holy Spirit are those who connect them truly to God.

These gifts are like a lit projector whose light attracts flies; but only the fruits of the Holy Spirit allow these persons (who firstly came to the Lord attracted by miracles) to abide in the Lord. Many priests and pastors are charismatic (focus on the gifts received – n.tr.), thus attracting easily people in their churches and assemblies, but then they make these people fall. They have gifts but lack in the fruits of the Spirit, which are: love, humility, fear of God, gentleness, wisdom who comes from above, patience.

There are some people, both women and men, who despite the fact that they are beautiful, they lack wisdom, love, gentleness so that they find it hard to marry.

While on Earth, the Lord Yehoshooa attracted many people through miracles, and some of them didn't want to leave Him because they had seen in Him an example, a model to follow, a Father full of love, of compassion, of mercy, etc.

The news about Solomon reached the far Ethiopia-queen's Sheba's origin country of origin. Once arrived in Jerusalem, her great amazement grew while realising Solomon's heart was much wiser than what she had heard said about him.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit help people get connected to God and trust the Lord more and more.

Being charismatic without bearing fruits is like a bomb about to explode, a bomb which could destroy at any moment those weak and fragile.

Many Christians are sterile and don't have the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

## **THE SPIRITUAL STERILITY**

The spiritual sterility is the inability to conceive naturally or to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit naturally. Many people call themselves apostles but don't possess the fruits of the apostolate.

Paul told Christians in Corinth:

***“Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the***

***Lord? Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defence to those who sit in judgment on me. “ (1 Corinthians 9: 1-3)***

The first word given by God to the first couple was a word of blessing:

***“God blessed them and said to them: ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the Earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground’. ” (Genesis 1: 28)***

In the Holy Scripture, sterility was a sign of curse. But the Lord has promised fertility to the Jews:

***“None will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.” (Exodus 23: 26)***

The main reasons for our churches and assemblies 'sterility is the lack of Seed- God's Word- and also the walk into sin.

According to medicine, the causes which cause sterility for a man have been confirmed by an analysis made during the ejaculation of sperm (The Word of God). This microscopic analysis measured the number of spermatozoids and their mobility. These causes are:

- a weak production of spermatozoids, their absence and death;
- a malformation of spermatozoids both at chromosome, head and tail(flagella) levels.

God gives the planter the seed to enable him/her to bring fruits.

***“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9: 10)***

- The testicles are not able to produce correctly spermatozoids due to toxins (sin).

Similarly, because of sin, many Christians have become sterile and unproductive. But all those who have put their trust in Christ, have bore and will bear fruits.

Christians living according to the flesh are incapable of bearing fruits that glory the Lord. They could have all the fruits of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but nevertheless remain sterile.

***“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “ (Matthew 3: 10)***

***“Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it: ‘May you never bear fruit again!’ Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. ‘How did the fig tree wither so quickly?’ they asked. Jesus replied: ‘I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain: <Go, throw yourself into the sea,>and it will be done.’» (Matthew 21: 18-21)***

***“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.” (John 15: 2)***

***“If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.” (John 15: 6)***

*‘Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ‘Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **Some fell on rocky places**, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because **they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns**, which grew up and choked the plants, so that **they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying 30, 60 or even 100 times.**’ Then Jesus said: **‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear.’** When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them: **‘The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’** Then Jesus said to them: **‘Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop-30, 60 or even 100 times what was sown.’** (Mark 4: 1-20)*

In this parable, the Lord speaks to us about 4 types of hearts – the land where the Word is to be planted. ,

- Near the road:

**“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”** (Matthew 13: 19)

The problem of this heart is the lack of understanding the Word. The birds of the sky, images of the devil come to steal this Word. The enemy will seek through all means to steal the Word received by you, thus preventing you from bringing fruits.

- On rocky places: these are the problems you encounter.

This heart lacks the root, the foundation, the depth. (Luke 6:46-49).

**“The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it**

**with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.”** (Matthew 13: 20-21)

The Lord has told us that we will face troubles in this world. (John 16:33) To be able to bear fruits, we need to firstly have Christ as foundation in order to be able to resist all winds of the enemy.

- The thrones: they are anxieties, worries, seduction and invasion by the treasures of this world, also lust, greed etc.

**“Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.”**(Mark 4: 18-19)

Despite of this, the Lord asks us not to worry regarding tomorrow. (Matthew 6: 25-34)

The love for money is the root of all evils. (1 Timothy 6: 10)

**“But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grieves. But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”** (1 Timothy 6: 8-11)

Christians as the Lord’s house are attacked by the devil’s winds and torrents about to destroy us. (Luke 6: 47-48) The winds and the torrents represent the numerous temptations of treasures and worries of this life.

- The Good Land:

**“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”** (Matthew 13: 23)

To be able to bear fruits, we must both receive the Word (the seed) and understand it. The person who is represented by the good land has fruits and knows a true growth, as it is written that a grain will produce 30, another 60 and finally, the last one will produce 100. We are called to bear more fruits tomorrow than today. Those with no fruits due to different causes revealed in this passage could become like the last ones if and only if they let the Lord work into their hearts.

## • The Manure, the Answer against Sterility

***“Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard,: ‘For 3 years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied: ‘Leave it alone for one more year. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”***  
(Luke 13: 6-9)

The fertiliser is an organic matter obtained from the animals’ excrements and urine, being often mixed with hay. After a certain period of transformation, it is used as fertiliser in agriculture. If well used, manure has a great contribution for maintaining the fertility and enriching the soil.

This parable shows us that many persons so called Christians don’t bear any fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fig tree was in the Gardener’s vine (God) but it was sterile, fruitless. Today millions of Christians know the Word but bear no fruit.

***“The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.”*** (2 Timothy 2: 6)

In this passage, the word «ploughman» is said «georpos» in Greek and it means farmer, agricultural worker, the viner, the one who works the land, the vine.

In **John 15:1**, Yehoshooa presents His Father as being the Viner.

This passage teaches us that the ploughman (God) has to work before harvesting crops. This work is a hard labour, of breakage, of cleansing, which brings death to sin and flesh.

Notice that the Viner digs around the vine and puts manure at its roots. Because in fact, if a tree doesn’t bring fruit, we don’t bother with its branches, but we deal with its roots. Thus, manure is put to heal the sick roots.

***“If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.”*** (Romans 11: 16)

If the root (heart) is sick, then the fruits are sick also. (Mark 7: 21-23)

The root symbolizes Christ, our foundation and also the man’s heart. It is an “organ” found underground (subterranean) with its main role to absorb water and mineral salts, which are indispensable substances principal, and to fix the plant into the soil. The purpose of the root is to store reserves too.

In the Bible, the roots have several roles:

- to hold the tree and its branches:

***“Do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you.”*** Romans 11: 18)

For a unfruitful, sterile Christian to bear and keep his/her fruit, he/she must firstly and above all abide in or hang on tight to Christ, who is the Root.

- to feed the tree and its branches:

Israel is like an olive tree that God has cut braches of; and in the place of those cut branches He has grafted us, we who are not Jews, but a branch of a wild olive tree; that is the reason why we are able to take advantage of the sap climbing from the root of the olive tree up to its branches. ***“If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root...”*** (Romans 11: 17)

The sap is the liquid absorbed by roots and which spreads into all the tissues of the plant during the active period of growth. During its entire journey, the sap changes its characteristics many times. At first, being formed of nutritive juices and saline dissolvent substances come out of the soil and while dying the tree’s sap is mixed up with these liquids which help the plant grow.

The greatest transformation that occurs takes place into the leaves in contact with the air and due to the process of respiration. The sap thus gains the necessary qualities needed to feed and develop the tissues. It becomes thicker and more complex and contains new substances which are going to be used for different purposes.

Spiritually speaking the sap is the life of the Holy Spirit, given by the Lord to all those who trust Him.

***“Jesus answered: ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” (John 4: 13-14)***

***“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice: ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. “(John 7: 37-39)***

***“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” (Jeremiah 2: 13)***

## • The Heart of Man

The Lord’s garden is our heart:

***“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Proverbs 4: 23)***

The fruits are at the heart or soul’s level which is the place for emotions. Out of the heart the streams of life or the Holy Spirit’s fruits come out, meaning the LIFE of Christ in us.

***“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17: 9)***

Out of the man’s heart the evil thoughts come.

***“He went on: ‘What comes out of a man is what makes him ‘unclean.’ For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’ ” (Mark 7: 20-23)***

The man’s heart is a stream of death and a cause of all sorts of conflicts, because the flesh manifests into the man’s heart. (Romans 7: 15-23)

The heart is assimilated to the soul or to the old man. The old man must die for the fruits of the Holy Spirit to be able to produce in us this savoury taste of God’s life for all the lost souls in this fallen world.

The old man is also the Adamic corrupt flesh with its born inclination to do evil - inclination which is latent in any person.

The old man is the natural or animal man whom Paul talks about in **1 Corinthians 2: 14:** ***“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him.”***

Jesus/Yehoshoos has crucified the fleshly man (or the old man) on the cross, according to **Romans 6: 6:** ***“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”***

It is through the work of the Cross that we have victory against sin (the main obstacle in our calling). Because the old man loves sin more than God.

The old man also represents the deeds of the flesh denounced by Paul in **Galatians 5: 19-21:** ***“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions.”***

Finally, the old man is the image of our will: ***“I do what I want because it is my life in the end!”*** this is the way people who don’t know God talk. You surely know that your will is an instrument endowed with great power. The devil likes to use it in particular in order to fight God. The will (the free choice) given to us by God could become an extremely dangerous weapon used against our own being and those around us. Each time a person chooses to do evil, he/she harms his/her own soul (Proverbs 8: 36) and then, also hurts the others.

God will often ask us to do deeds against our habit of seeing things:

***“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord . ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”***

***(Isaiah 55: 8-9)***

The distance between the Will of God and our will is often an impassable obstacle. Maybe your will is to marry a white man, but God could give you a black spouse because this is His perfect Will for your life.

God's perfect Will has always plans of peace of, happiness and of hope for us. (Jeremiah 29:11). Unfortunately I know many people who refused God's Will in their life and who now suffer because of it. But, how many people have the same heart inclinations like Christ had?  
***“My food,” said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.’” (John 4: 34)***

Because of racism and hate against the inhabitants of Nineveh (works of the flesh) the prophet Jonah refused God's will to go and preach salvation to nation.  
**HIS RACISM PREVENTED HIM FROM BEARING FRUITS.**  
 He decided to run far from the Lord and had very serious problems which almost have costed his life and the life of all those who were with him on board of that ship. (Jonah 1: 3-15)

Think of it, you can be a source of troubles and problems for those around you if you refuse to accept God's Will.

Remember our Lord's Jesus' words: “ ***‘A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.’*** Jesus then left them and went away. ***“(Matthew 16: 4)***

People judge the other human beings by appearances, but God looks at the heart of man, the place of the Holy Spirit's fruits and also of the works of the flesh. ***(Mark 7: 21-23)***

***“When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought: ‘Surely the Lord 's anointed stands here before the Lord .’ But the Lord said to Samuel: ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’” (1 Samuel 16: 6-7)***

Such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam who had to guard and cultivate the Garden of Eden, us Christians are called TO KEEP THE HEART which is the Lord's garden and THE SOURCE OF LIFE.

***“The Lord says: “These people come near to Me with their mouth and honour Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship of Me is made up only of rules taught by men. “ (Isaiah 29: 13)***

The Lord Jesus waits in front of each heart and knocks. Whenever someone hears and opens the door, He comes in and eats with him/her:

***“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3: 20)***

You see, the Lord comes into our hearts to eat the Holy Spirit's fruits together with us.

## CHAPTER X: JESUS CHRIST'S GARDEN

Like the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam, Jesus/Yehoshooa (the last Adam) he too has a garden full of crops of all sorts. The 1<sup>st</sup> Adam had been banished from the garden due to his disobedience.

*«And the Lord God said: 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.' So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. » (Genesis 3: 22-24)*

The road towards this garden which has the tree of life was guarded by protective cherubims with flamefull swords.

Because of the last Adam, in other words because of Jesus Christ, our Lord, the road towards the Garden of Eden is once again open:

*“Jesus answered: 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'” (John 14: 6)*

The road towards the tree of life which Genesis 3 says is guarded by cherubims is JESUS.

*“ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. “ (Hebrews 10: 19-22)*

The access to the Father's heart, to the divine garden, to Eden is open to us due to Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice. Halleluiah!!!

Jesus' garden has the fruits of Holy Spirit, fruits talked about in the Bible and especially in Galatians 5:22. These fruits are brought by Christ's Bride, by the all authentic Christians.

The book Song of Songs, very rich in prophetic images talks to us about the relationship that exists between Christ and the Church.

Solomon and the Shulamite are the main characters of this book: Solomon, the image of Jesus Christ or the image of God's unspeakable wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:6-9), and the Shulamite – the image of Church, of the Ekklesia or Christ's Bride. *“How delightful is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume than any spice! Your lips drop sweetness as the honeycomb, my bride; milk and honey are under your tongue. The fragrance of your garments is like that of Lebanon. You are a garden locked up, my sister, my bride; you are a spring enclosed, a sealed fountain. Your plants are an orchard of pomegranates with choice fruits, with henna and nard, nard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with every kind of incense tree, with myrrh and aloes and all the finest spices. You are a garden fountain, a well of flowing water streaming down from Lebanon.” (The Song of Songs 4:10-15)*

In this passage, the Shulamite had all sorts of fruits which bring glory to her Groom. Her numerous crops were giving her the charm, were making her pleasant.

In the book Song of Songs in **chapter 4 verse 16**, the Shulamite invites her Groom to enter her garden. She admitted that all her fruits didn't come from her, but were her Groom's.

*“ ...Awake, north wind, and come, south wind! Blow on my garden, that its fragrance may spread abroad. Let my lover come into his garden and taste its choice fruits.”*

And in chapter 5 verse 1, the Groom accepts her invitation. *“ I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with my spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my wine and my milk. Eat, O friends, and drink; drink your fill, O lovers.”*

Have you noticed what kind of fruits the Shulamite had?

- Myrrh, the incenses: the perfume,
- Honey: jam or the fig,
- Wine: the fruit of the vine, joy, life,
- Milk, pomegranates, the most excellent fruits, lilies, nard, calamus, the saffron, cinnamon, fruitful trees which give the incense, aloe.

Notice that the Shulamite invited the Lord to come and eat these fruits. But, what about you, what sorts of fruits will you serve the Lord when He returns?

Such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam, the Shulamite has guarded, has looked after and harvested the garden of her Groom. Christians are called to harvest and guard the Lord's garden and then, in adoration, in worship, they must invite Him to come and eat their fruits.

The Shulamite's garden was watered by the river of life in the same way the Garden of Eden was. The garden which Christians have is watered by the Holy Spirit.

***“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice: ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. “(John 7: 37-39)***

***“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.” (Psalm 46: 4)***

This river flows directly from God's throne: ***“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” (Revelation 22: 1-2)***

#### • The Seasons and the calendar of crops

In the Biblical Hebrew language there are 2 words for 'season': «eth» and «mo'ed». Mo'ed means «meeting», «assembly/gathering», «celebration», «date/period», «announcing», etc.

During the time of the Mosaic Law Moses, the crops had to be brought into the Temple on a certain date, on a day well specified. For us Christians, the daily encounter with the Lord is an opportunity to bring Him the fruits of our lips:

***“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.” (Hebrews 13: 15)***

On earth there are generally speaking 4 seasons:

#### -Summer

***“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” (Matthew 24: 32-33)***

This seasons starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June and ends on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September (in the Northern Hemisphere).

The fruits grow in summer when its' warm and sunny. The period of harvesting starts in summer when different varieties and sorts of fruits reach maturity.

#### - Autumn

This season starts of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September and ends on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. Trees need to breathe and feed in order to be able to live.

«Their respiration» differs a bit from that of humans: during night-time they breathe such as we do: meaning they absorb the oxygen and eliminate the carbonic gas. But, in the day, during the photosynthesis process (see note from next paragraph) their respiration reverses, being the opposite of human respiration as trees absorb the carbonic gas and eliminate the oxygen.

In general, the fruitful trees and also wild trees produce much more oxygen then they consume. The carbonic gas mixed with the water recovered from the roots is then transformed in nutriment for trees. This is called photosynthesis. This chemical transformation is able due to the sun's energy (Christ –our sun) and due to the chlorophyll- a green pigment existent in leaves.



Chlorophyll is important for trees. It is the one which gives the green colour to leaves in spring. In autumn, because of it, the leaves of trees change colour too because there is less chlorophyll inside them. We notice 2 pigments appearing, usually hidden by the green colour: the red and the yellow. V

Starting with the end of September, days get smaller. Leaves receive less and less light, being unable to live. In addition, the spot where the leaf's tail (petiole) unites with the branch there is a lid emerging, which prevents the food access to the leaf. Thus, lacking in light and food supply, leaves can't produce chlorophyll anymore and once their resources are finished, they die...and fall of the trees.

Similarly, he who has Christ never loses his leaves- even in the autumn! Autumn, in the Bible is similar to apostasy, with mixing-up, because this season is a mix between warm and cold or between summer and winter. Those who have departed from truth, meaning who are lost, are such as trees in autumn: they have lost the light of the sun which is Christ. ***“Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals--these are the very things that destroy them. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm--shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted--twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.” (Jude 1: 10-13)***

The Lord has threatened the Church of Laodicea to spit her out of His mouth because of her mixture, because she was warmish:

***“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:14-16)***

#### **-Winter**

This season starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December and ends on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March (for the Northern hemisphere).

In winter, when it is cold and freezing there is less sun. The leaves of trees fall down – this kind of tree with leaves are also called “feuillus”. They sleep and stop growing. It is said that they are in a state of inactivity/hibernation.

Trees lose their leaves full of water rightly not to freeze, thus better protecting themselves of coldness. The resources gathered through the photosynthesis during the warm season/summer will allow the soil to survive during winter.

Once the winter arrived, when the temperature begins to drop, the channels leading the sap start to close and at the end of each leaf there is a lid forming, a small layer of separation (the image of sin –see Isaiah 59) .

Because of not feeding leaves, the chlorophyll loses its role and breaks down, thus leaving room for the carotene process which colours the leaves yellowish-orange.

***“A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.” (Proverbs 20: 4)***

Prophetically, winter represents the sleep, the spiritual death.

Those watered by the water of the Holy Spirit bring fruits in all season.

#### **- Spring**

This season starts on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March and ends on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. In spring, when the warm weather comes we notice the growth of bulbs of fruits, of leaves and of stems and then of blooms of flowers. Thus, the tree grows taller. In spring, it starts to extract its nutrients and minerals from soil using its roots.

For certain trees, this contribution of substances causes a pressure applied upon the vessels inside roots and generated upwards, which is also described as the origin of a phenomenon called ‘the drying of the sap.’ This phenomenon causes the ‘cries’ of the vine during its trimming.

The tree of life brings all kinds of fruits during the year no matter what season we are in because this tree is watered by the river (The Holy Spirit) which flows directly under God's throne.

***“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He 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.” Psalm 1: 1-3***

The fruitful tree (the Christian man) planted near the river (Psalm 46 and Revelation 22: 1-2) which represents the Holy Spirit bear fruits all seasons.

Here is the graph of a tree planted near the source of water of the Holy Spirit:

- Its roots extract the water out of the soil.
  - The water climbs into the tree.
  - Then the water enters the branches and finally the leaves.
  - Due to the sun's light (Christ is our Light, John 8: 11), leaves produce the sap (the Holy Spirit's life, John 7).
  - The sap comes down. It is used to form leaves, the new wood.
  - What is left of this sap is kept in the roots because it helps with the growth of the next year's leaves.
- He who walks with God brings fruits each second.

## • THREE PURPOSES FOR THE HOLY SPIRITS' FRUITS

Opposite to the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the Church to build Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Peter 2:5), the fruits of the Holy Spirit are given for this purpose:

### - TO ADORE GOD:

***"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in His love."* (John 15: 8-10)**

As we have already seen, the Lord consumes our fruits in adoration. The Lord wants our heart but the fruits grow rightly in the man's heart. You can adore God without having the spiritual gifts, meaning prophecy, speaking in tongues, vision, gift to heal, etc.

### - TO BEAR THE OTHERS:

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are given to us to be able to stand one another. It is true that despite the fact that Christians are saved because of their new birth, they still have problems with their characters.

***"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. »"* (Romans 14: 1)**

According Romans 15: 1-12, this weakness is characterised by the diversity of opinions regarding: work days, food etc. Christians need love, the kind of love described in 1 Corinthians 13 to be able to stand each other mutually. Having the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are love, peace, joy, patience, faith and loyalty, goodness, compassion, gentleness, self-control, Christians can experience the true brotherly fellowship.

Although they have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Christians of Corinth were divided and were walking according to their flesh; thus, many sects emerged amongst them. They used to gather together but became worse than before.

***"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says: 'I follow Paul'; another: 'I follow Apollos'; another: 'I follow Cephas'; still another: 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?"* (1 Corinthians 1: 10-13)**

### - TO WITNESS GOD IN THIS WORLD:

If the Lord has made us it is exactly so that the people of this world can see in us the fruits of the Holy Spirit and be saved.

***"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing."* ( 2 Corinthians 2: 14-15)**

We are like walking gardens of Eden in a sick world. God made us with a purpose: so that the unbelievers seeing us could be able to see God through the fruits of the Holy Spirit in us:

***"Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. "* ( 1 Peter 2: 12)**

In this passage, the word «behaviour» has been translated with the noun «life» and also with the verb «to live» in other passages (1 Peter 3: 2).

***"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith."* (Hebrews 13: 7)**

Apart from preaching God's Word during our entire life rich/full in the fruits of the Holy Spirit, our life should also touch unbelievers.

***“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.” (1 Peter 3: 1-4)***

Peter teaches us that unbelievers though they don't want to hear the Gospel can be won by our behaviour, by the way we Christians live.

This passage talks about what kind of qualities a woman who serves God should have.

The behaviour in this passage is the result of a life transformed by the Lord. Through a person's behaviour, we are able to recognise what kind of tree he or she comes from.

The woman who serves the Lord has an exemplary behaviour. She brings fruits worthy of repentance, of conversion.

- She is cast: meaning she has the ability to control her sexual desires; to have a pure heart and to master her tongue, ears and eyes.
- She respects others: she doesn't yell at her spouse, doesn't cut his word. She knows to control her reactions and thoughts, too. She has therefore self-control.
- She is pure: The woman who serves God is incorruptible, inalterable because she loves sanctification.
- She is gentle: Opposite to Izabel, the woman who serves God is full of gentleness and modesty. She is also generous and hospitable.
- She is submitted to her husband: She respects her spouse. The term 'obedience' comes from the Greek word 'hupotasso' which means to have a voluntary attitude of giving, of cooperation, of assuming responsibilities, of carrying a burden willingly. (The Bible states this advice for women when it says: 'wives be submitted to your spouses' and not at all to men, like some believe...It is not said 'Men submit to your wives.'-n.tr.)

This woman is a prayer woman who loves God's Word and meditates daily upon it. She has Sarah as a model to follow, Sarah –the spouse of our father in faith Abraham. Like Sarah, she is teaching the Word to her children. The woman the Bible talks about here is the Bride, meaning us. We also find out here about her qualities and the fruits she has and which we, too, need to have.

## **CONCLUSION**

Many Christians have spiritual gifts, but lack in the fruits of the Spirit. Outside church meetings, they are and act like the non-converted persons and that is the reason why the Name of the Lord is blasphemed.

***“Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who brag about the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law? As it is written: ‘God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you’.” (Romans 2: 17-24)***

It is important to know that the Church's Rapture, Christ's Bride corresponds with the harvest of the ripen fruits. Those who bear the Holy Spirit's fruits will depart with the Lord at the Rapture and will take part to the Bridegroom's wedding.

The Lord will not come for pastors, for priests, for apostles, for evangelists, for teachers or for those who perform miracles, but He will come for all those whose fruits are ripen.

Those with the gifts of the Holy Spirit (miracles, prophecies, words of knowledge, healings etc.) but not the fruits of the Spirit are like satan, because the devil is also powerful, but lacks in having any fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, the uncontrolled and frenetic quest for God's power still blinds many persons today.

Many of those who prophecy and perform miracles will be disqualified at the Lord's return.

*“Not everyone who says to me: 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day: 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you'.” (Matthew 7: 21-23)*

So, take courage, be filled with zeal and repent!

The Lord hasn't come yet...There is still time to examine yourselves and let the One who is Life change you , let Him out inside you the excellent fruit. He will offer you life for eternity because He is THE ETERNAL LIFE. MARANATHA!

**Same author in English:**

The Influenced or influenced Church  
 The Biblical Prophecy-The War between the Two Posterities  
 The Gospel Kept Captive  
 Pastor or Entrepreneur?  
 Between the Hands of the Master

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