

Jesus Brought His Personality With Him

Even though Jesus left much behind to come and live among us, he did bring something with him. We do not lose sight of the fact that although he chose to leave the three Omnies and his glory behind he still had a divine nature while he was here. Some teachers believe in two kinds of characteristics concerning God; those which he can leave behind if he wills to and those which he can not because they are part of his personality as opposed to being part of his powers. Jesus in his divine nature had to bring those things that make up the personality of the divine nature. We can state these things as life, truth, holiness and goodness.

If we think of these things like we do the fruits of the Spirit and if we think of the powers like we do the gifts of the Spirit, perhaps it will help us to understand better. The fruits of the Spirit (Ga.5:22-23) have been called the personality of Jesus and the gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12) have been called the abilities of Jesus. If you ask a Christian to choose between the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit, he will choose the fruits. The fruits are better because Jesus said that we would be known by our fruits: love, joy, peace, faith, gentleness, goodness, patience, teachableness, and self-control. And fruits are something that grows in us and takes our cooperation to produce them even though we must depend on the Holy Spirit to provide the seed and the nourishment and the light to grow them. We also have to be “pruned” by the Father and that is a painful process, letting all the weaker branches be removed. The fruits of the Spirit are actually just as supernatural as the gifts. If you try to fake the fruits, they will be exposed sooner or later as false fruits. It is wonderful that we do not have to choose between the fruits and the gifts as they are both available to believers today.

Jesus brought his godly characteristics with him - life, truth, holiness and goodness - from which all the fruits of the Spirit are taken. Jesus said that the Father had given the Son the ability to have life in himself. (Jn. 5:26) This means that the Son also was God. Only God has the power to have life in himself. All other beings who are called creatures draw their life from God both in earth and in heaven. This Jesus could not leave behind. Jesus said that he is the Truth. This is part of his being God. All others may have parts of the truth, but only God is the Truth. We can get holiness from God, but he is in himself Holiness. The same with goodness. Jesus said, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good.” (Mt. 19:17) He did not say this because he also had a human nature. He still has a human nature, only now it is glorified. He said this because some Jews were willing to call him good but were not willing to call him God. He wanted them to make up their minds. Jesus could say in all honesty, even though he left some things behind when he “emptied himself” to become a man, “he who has seen me has seen the Father.”