



## “FRUITY OF THE SPIRIT”

Written by Joe Rieger

---

### CAST

Mr. Racket (first name Christian):	President of Biblical Breakfasts Inc.
Jen Revere:	Hotshot marketing executive with a million and one gimmicks to sell breakfast cereal to Christians
Manny Facture:	Vice-President of Operations and not the "biggest fan" of Jen Revere (adult puppet)
Marianne:	School girl on plant tour (child puppet)
Andy:	School boy on plant tour (child puppet)
Liza:	School girl on plant tour (child puppet)

---

### SETTING:

An executive's office with a desk, chair, phone and laptop. The president is at his desk, speaking on the phone with his feet up. He's proudly looking at a cereal box with "Holy O's" written on it

RACKET:

I tell ya, we can't keep this stuff on the shelves. They're selling faster than Jabez could say, "Bless me indeed!" And check this out.

*(Opens box top - we hear a choir of angels singing, "Ahhhhhhh.")*

It's a little musical micro-chip that we've embedded in the paperboard. We get'em from China for less than a penny each ...

*(Raises his voice excitedly as he continues)*

AND HERE'S THE KICKER. BECAUSE OF THIS LITTLE FEATURE, WE CAN CHARGE AN EXTRA \$1.50 A BOX OVER THE PRICE OF CHEERIOS ... WHOLESALÉ! I tell you, what a blessing it is to have Jen Revere heading up my product development group. God is so good, amen?

*(Mr. Racket is interrupted)*

JEN:

Oh Mr. Racket ... knock-knock  
*(said in a musical tone as she bursts into his office)*

RACKET:

Hey Harry I gotta go, here's my star marketing person now. Take care.

*(Hangs up, kisses the Holy-O's box, removes his feet from the desk and stands to greet Jen Revere)*

Jen Revere ...

JEN:

Mar-ke-teer ...

RACKET:

Ex-traor-din-aire

*(both giggle and we're led to believe this is a longstanding inside joke ... with Jen playing it up)*

JEN:

Mr. Racket have I got - yet another - great idea for you!

RACKET:

I'm all ears ... talk to me. And please, call me Christian.

JEN:

Okay Christian. I've got a cereal concept that could be our next home run.

RACKET:  
A four bagger?

JEN:  
Christian, we're talkin' grand slam! This will be bigger than Holy-O's and yes, even bigger than our WWJD cereal.

RACKET:  
No way!

JEN:  
Way.

RACKET:  
Why that's our biggest seller ... a money making machine.

JEN:  
Did I hear somebody say, "Ca-ching?"

RACKET:  
Ca-ching, ca-ching. Who would have ever thought that an alphabet cereal with only three letters could be so popular with the kids?

JEN:  
Um, let me guess ... ME!  
*(Both laugh hysterically)*

RACKET:  
That's because you're Jen Revere ...

JEN:  
Mar-ke-teer ...

RACKET:  
Ex-traor-din-aire  
*(More inane laughter)*

JEN:  
Check this out. My research indicates that the fruit of the Spirit will be all the rage in 2006. All the big churches will be doing a series on Galatians 5, there'll be Bible studies, books by the heavy hitters, the whole nine yards.

RACKET:  
Go on, go on ... I like the sound of this.

JEN:

Why not launch a new Holy Spirit cereal that'll hit the shelves just as these church programs are kicking off? After all, we're servants of Christ doing it all for the glory of God, right?

RACKET:

You said it sister. All for the glory of God.

*(Said insincerely)*

Now tell me more about this cereal.

*(Rubs his hands together)*

JEN:

You've heard of Fruity Pebbles right?

*(Racket nods his head)*

Well what about a cereal called "Fruity of the Spirit?"

*(Pauses while it sinks into Racket's mammon-motivated mind ... she continues)*

It'll be similar to Lucky Charms, but instead of Leprechaun and shamrock shaped marshmallows, we'll have marshmallow hearts for "Love", smiley faces for "Joy" and of course, little peace signs for "Peace."

RACKET:

IIIIII - LIKE IT! It's brilliant!

*(Thinks of something)*

Hmmmm, but how are we gonna do some of the other fruit, you know like "Patience?"

JEN:

I'm thinkin' we'll do something like a hospital bed with a patient on it.

RACKET:

That could work, but let me call operations just in case. I'm sure manufacturing a simple marshmallow shape won't be a problem, but let me bounce it off Manny ... you know how he gets about these things.

*(Dials Manny on speaker phone - we hear two rings)*

MANNY:

*(Voice only - V.O)*  
Manny ... Manny Facture here.

RACKET:

Hey Manny, Christian Racket here. Step into my office for a minute. Jen Revere has another blockbuster cereal idea and I'd like your input.

MANNY: (V.O.)

Jen Revere? Oh great, I just can't wait to hear this one. Let me guess, a new cereal called "Land of Milk & Honeycombs."

RACKET:

*(His eyes light up at the prospect)*  
Hey, that just might have some potential.

MANNY: (V.O.)

Christian, I was only kidding. It's a joke, get it?

JEN:

Yeah we get it Manny, you're a regular riot ... now leave the product development to me and you just worry about making what we tell you to make. Okay?

RACKET:

*(Sensing a battle about to begin, he holds up his hand to stop Jen from any further comments and cuts off Manny's pending comeback)*  
Manny, I need your help, just get over here ... will ya?

MANNY: (V.O.)

Sure boss, but I've got company ... I'm in the middle of a factory tour with some school kids. In fact, I'm right around the corner and heading your way.

RACKET:

Good, good. Hey, bring the kids along, we'll get their feedback on this cereal idea too. And Manny ... you did have them sign the non-disclosure forms, didn't you?

MANNY:

Yes boss, we're covered.

RACKET:

Good, now get over here!

*(Hangs up the phone and turns to Jen and speaks)*

Okay, he'll be here any second, please try to control yourself. You know how sensitive these operations guys can be.

*Enter Manny Fracture with three school aged children (all four characters are puppets. The boy is carrying a cereal bowl)*

MANNY:

Here we are, now let's hear this great idea of yours.

JEN:

I'll cut to the chase. It's a new cereal called "Fruity of the Spirit" and it contains little marshmallow shapes ... you know, hearts for "Love," smiley faces for "Joy," peace signs for "Peace" and ...

*(She's cut off by the school girl Marianne)*

MARIANNE:

Sounds like a ripoff of Lucky Charms to me.

MANNY:

To me too.

*(scratches his head and ponders)*

What about the next fruit, you know "Patience"? How are you gonna pull that one off?

RACKET:

Jen was thinking of a marshmallow in the shape of a hospital bed with a little patient on it. You can make those ... piece of cake, right?

MANNY:

You gotta be kiddin' me. I mean a heart -no problem, a smiley face - okay, we can do that, a peace sign - getting pretty difficult, but do-able. BUT A HOSPITAL BED WITH A PATIENT ON IT? IS SHE INSANE? It's way too much detail for our equipment. I can just see our scrap rates now.

RACKET:

Looks like somebody's got a negative attitude. Do I have to make you watch those Joel Osteen videos again? Maybe his little five part series on positive thinking will change your tune.

MANNY :

No not that! Christian listen to me. I can watch those videos until the cows come home ... you can even have Uncle Remus follow me around for a month singing "Zippity-Doo-Da," but it won't change a thing! We can't do this without a major overhaul on Line 3.

JEN:

I knew this would be too much for Mr. "No Can Do." We'll outsource the marshmallows ...

*(turns to Racket and pitches her idea)*

I gotta guy up in Battle Creek who could do this in his sleep.

*(It's starting to get real ugly. The children become uncomfortable as they look at each other in disbelief)*

LIZA:

Um, maybe we should leave now.

JEN:

Nothing doing kids, stick around. Girls let me teach you a little lesson on standing your ground in a male-dominated industry. I didn't get where I am today by taking, "No" for an answer. I started out as a temp and worked my way up to VP of Marketing.

RACKET:

That's because she's Jen Revere.

JEN:

Mar-ke-teer ...

RACKET:

Ex-traor-din-aire

MANNY :

Oh Pl-eeease!

*(Leans toward the boy next to him - Andy - who is nervously eating his cereal.)*

Hey kid, do me a favor. GAG ME WITH YOUR SPOON!

*(Andy backs away from Manny and moves towards his friends. The three school children begin to huddle in a tight group)*

JEN:

Listen Manny, you're just jealous because MY ideas have brought in record sales and record profits and your over-inflated male ego can't handle it.

MANNY :

Oh, ideas like Holy O's and WWJD Cereal.

JEN:

To name a few ... yes.

MANNY :

WWJD Cereal, how utterly brilliant. It's Alphabet Cereal that's missing 23 letters. Shear rocket science. And Holy O's ... who do you think has to get that angelic audio chip to stay in the box top? ME! And let me tell you, I lie awake nights worrying that some of those micro-chips will fall into the cereal and get accidentally eaten by children.

*(Jen loses control and starts toward*

*Manny ...)*

JEN:

Are you accusing me of jeopardizing the safety of children? Why I oughta ...

*(She's ready to pounce on Manny, but Racket jumps in between the two executive staff members and holds up both hands like a traffic cop)*

MARIANNE:

*(Let's out a loud whistle to get everyone's attention)*

I can't believe what I'm seeing. This is supposed to be a Christian organization ... I don't see any evidence of that here. All you seem to care about is making money, getting promoted and having your own way.

ANDY:

Jesus would call this place a den of thieves.

MARIANNE:

And as far as the fruit of the Spirit goes .... go ahead, name'em Liza.

LIZA:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians chapter 5 verses 22 and 23.

MARIANNE:

I definitely don't see any of that fruit here either. But, I do see plenty of the bad stuff that the apostle Paul mentioned in verses 19 - 21 ... acts of the sinful nature: hatred, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition and the like.

*(The adults begin to show remorse for their bad example and hold their heads down)*

ANDY:

You guys just don't get it, do you? The fruit of the Spirit isn't some marketing gimmick or marshmallow good luck charm. *(pauses)*



The fruit of the Spirit is a gift that God gives to all Christians. These nine pieces of fruit that Liza mentioned are the virtues of Jesus.

LIZA:

What he means is that they're the good qualities that make Jesus, like Jesus.

ANDY:

And that fruit - those good qualities - it's been given to all people who've asked Jesus to be their Savior. This fruit is inside us ready to blossom.

MARIANNE:

Not only that, but when Jesus becomes your Savior, you also receive the Holy Spirit. God Himself lives inside you ... He's always there to help you.

LIZA:

And the Holy Spirit wants to help you become more and more like Jesus.

ANDY:

When we obey the Holy Spirit, we start to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

MARIANNE:

We start acting like Jesus ... we're filled with love, joy and peace ...

LIZA:

We're gentle, kind and patient ...

ANDY:

It's God in us, working through us, so we can touch people's lives...

MARIANNE:

... And lead them to Jesus. No breakfast cereal or any other gimmick can do that. We need to rely on God. Get it, got it, good. Okay, our work here is done. Let's go.

*(The three school children head for the exit)*

ANDY:

Thanks for the factory tour.  
*(The adults nod their heads and wave goodbye)*

LIZA:

We shoulda taken the Krispy Kreme tour instead.

*(She says this under her breath as they walk past Manny)*

*(The children exit)*

**THE END**