

Galatians Chapter 5

Verse 22-23

1. We demonstrate God's kingdom (God's rule) over our heart when we bear the fruit of the Spirit.
 - The flesh produces works (the works of the flesh).
 - The Holy Spirit within the believer bears fruit (the fruit of the Spirit).
2. These nine graces are not something that the believer can work up and manufacture on his own. They are a natural expression of God's Spirit filling a yielded believer.
 - **Illustration:** the branch of an orange tree does not work and toil to produce fruit. It simply abides in the tree and draws life and nourishment from the tree. As it soaks in the sunshine and rain, the fruit is a natural expression of its connection, attachment, and abiding in the tree.
 - As we abide in Christ, soaking in the sunshine of His presence in prayer and allowing the water of His Word to soak into our hearts, this fruit comes forth naturally, without straining and toil.
3. When you are walking in the Spirit (verse 16) and are yielded to the Spirit (verse 18), this is the fruit that the believer enjoys. These nine graces are evidence that God's kingdom is ruling your heart.
4. Notice that this list is called the "*fruit of the Spirit*," not "fruits."
 - It's not the idea that the Holy Spirit may bear the fruit of love in one person, but the fruit of peace in another.
 - Rather than viewing these as nine separate fruits, we need to view them as a whole. They are all tied together and they can all be manifested at the same time, as we yield to the Holy Spirit and allow Christ to live through us.
5. These are not to be confused with the gifts of the Spirit. **Romans 12:5-8**
 - A Christian must not have the attitude, "I just don't have the gift of gentleness - my gift is faith. That's why I'm so mean and hard to get along with."
 - This entire list of fruit **can** and **should** be manifested in a Christian's life as he/she walks in the Spirit and is led of the Spirit.
 - These are not **gifts**, but rather **fruit** that comes forth from a Spirit-filled, Spirit-controlled believer.
6. These are not Christian habits or disciplines.
 - There is a lot of talk today in Christian circles about spiritual disciplines. This is man-made philosophy and is man's attempt to produce in his flesh what only the Holy Spirit can bear through the yielded believer.
 - You cannot discipline yourself to love or be patient or at peace. The Colossians (like the Galatians) were into spiritual disciplines, and Paul rebuked them.
Colossians 2:20-23
 - A habit is something you can establish apart from God's Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is something that cannot come from self-effort and discipline, but only from God's Spirit.

- Establishing godly habits and disciplines in our own fleshly willpower is simply self-improvement, but is not true spiritual growth.
7. There are nine graces that constitute the fruit of the Spirit:
- Love
 - This is listed first because all the other fruit flows forth from the fruit of love. **Colossians 3:14; Galatians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 13:13**
 - We are able to love because God has lavishly bestowed His love upon us. **Romans 5:5** ("Shed abroad" means "to pour forth, gush.") **Ephesians 2:4, 3:17-19, 4:2, 5:2; John 13:34; 1 John 4:10-11**
 - God has given us a spirit of love. **2 Timothy 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:9**
 - It's the idea of, "Now that I **know** love, I can **give** love."
 - When a person says, "I can't love," he/she is in essence saying, "I don't know God, I've never experienced God's love, and I do not possess God's Spirit."
 - Just as fruit grows, we can grow and mature in the fruit of love. **1 Thessalonians 3:12, 4:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3**
 - As we grow in love, it lead to unselfishness (**2 Corinthians 8:8**) and a desire to serve others. **Galatians 5:13**
 - Joy
 - When your heart is full of love for God and love for others, it leads to a deep, abiding joy (hatred, bitterness, and animosity grieve the Spirit and steal your joy).
 - This is not speaking of a surface happiness because something good happened to you today. This is a joy that comes from the Holy Spirit within. **Romans 14:17, 15:13**
 - This fruit of joy has nothing whatsoever to do with outward circumstances. **2 Corinthians 7:4, 8:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:6-8**
 - Peace
 - The opposite of a heart at peace would be a heart that is troubled and agitated. **John 14:27**
 - Jesus told His disciples that He was offering peace in a world full of tribulation (pressure). **John 16:33**
 - When the world is like a hurricane all around you, the Christian's heart can be like the eye of the storm. This is called the peace of God. **Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 3:15**
 - People pay thousands of dollars to doctors and psychologists, hoping they can somehow bring peace to their troubled heart.
 - True divine peace only comes through the believer yielding himself to God's Spirit within. **Romans 8:6** The Lord is the giver of peace. **2 Thessalonians 3:16**
 - Longsuffering
 - Webster's defines it as "patiently enduring lasting offense or hardship."
 - It is used two different ways in the New Testament.
 - Sometimes it carries the idea of patiently enduring through trials. **2 Corinthians 6:4-6; James 5:10**

- Other times it has to do with patiently enduring people. **Ephesians 4:2;**
Colossians 3:12-13 In both of these passages, it is linked with forbearance (to control yourself when others provoke you.)
- It isn't the idea that we grit our teeth and put up with them. Through the Holy Spirit we do it in love.
- Longsuffering would be the opposite of being soon angry. **Titus 1:7**
Longsuffering comes out of the fruit of peace that preceded it in verse 22.
- When people have the peace of God, they are able to be longsuffering towards others, forbearing, and forgiving them.