

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.
- Gentleness
 - This same Greek word is translated "kindness" in four other places.
 - God showed mankind love and kindness when there was nothing in us to love. When we were full of hate, God showed us kindness. **Titus 3:3-4**
 - God's grace and kindness will be exemplified through us in the ages to come. **Ephesians 2:7**
 - The fruit of gentleness simply means that we are able (through God's Spirit) to take that kindness that God has shown to us in Christ and extend it to others, even though they may not deserve it. **Colossians 3:12**
 - Gentleness stands in direct contrast to hatred and hostility.
- Goodness
 - If believers are filled with goodness, it simply means that good works are consistently evident in their life.
 - They give of themselves to others, not to try to **earn** God's acceptance, but because they **have** God's acceptance in Christ. **Ephesians 2:10**
 - After a person is saved, God desires for that believer to become a channel of His grace and blessing to others. **2 Corinthians 9:8; Ephesians 4:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**
 - As the believer is filled with the fruit of goodness, he finds himself being fruitful in every good work. **Colossians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:15**
- Faith
 - Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:7**, "*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*"
 - The Christian life is to be lived by faith in Jesus Christ. **Colossians 2:5**
 - When our faith is in the wisdom of man, we are walking after the flesh. **1 Corinthians 2:5**
 - As the believer yields himself to the Holy Spirit, he finds his faith growing. He truly learns to trust Christ and His Word in every situation of life. **2 Thessalonians 1:3**
- Meekness
 - Meekness is not weakness. Jesus was meek (**Matthew 11:29**) and He was the strongest leader this world has ever known.
 - Moses was a great leader, but was also said to be meek. **Numbers 12:3**
 - Meekness carries the idea of being gentle and humble in our dealings with others. We are not self-willed, arrogant, or obnoxious. **2 Timothy 2:24-25**
 - People who are abrasive and have a contentious spirit need to walk in the Spirit and bear the fruit of meekness.

- Temperance
 - Temperance carries the idea of "restraint."
 - Instead of indulging in fleshly passions and appetites, you restrain and refrain.
 - Temperance is when your fleshly appetite is controlled.
 - Trying harder will not bring temperance. It is a fruit of the Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit brings temperance as we yield to His control.

Ephesians 5:18

8. There is no law required or necessary when a believer is walking in the Spirit and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Paul said, "...*against such there is no law.*" vs. 14, 18
9. When we walk in the Spirit and righteousness, the law is fulfilled in and through us.

Romans 8:4

Verse 24

1. This verse states a positional fact! Our flesh is crucified with Christ.
Galatians 2:20; Romans 6:6
2. Not only this, God's Spirit has entered into us, bringing resurrection life. We now live in the Spirit. **Romans 8:9-11**
3. This means that the affections and the lusts of the flesh have no authority or power over the believer. **Colossians 2:11**

Verse 25

1. Paul says, "*If we live in the Spirit* (this is a positional fact), *let us also walk in the Spirit.*" (this is practical daily life).
2. There is no reason why the believer cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22-23.
3. If we are living life under the works of the flesh, it is because of deliberate choices that we have made.

Verse 26

1. The fruit of the Spirit is not simply for our personal use and edification.
2. The fruit of the Spirit should show forth in our dealings with each other.
3. When we find ourselves desirous of vain glory (self-conceited), provoking (irritating) one another and envying one another, we can know that we are not walking in the Spirit.
4. But when we work in our flesh and produce "results," we want praise and glory and recognition for it.
5. When we are bearing the fruit of the Spirit, our focus is not on ourselves, but on the edification and good of others. This will lead right in to chapter six.