



Fruit of the Spirit

1. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

2. How do we bear the fruit of the Spirit?

More series Fruit of the Spirit

LET US BEAR THE FRUIT THAT IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR IDENTITY
IN JESUS

Read

- **Galatians 5:16-25**

Intro

We are looking at the fruit of the Spirit.

We are going to look at

- What is the fruit of the Spirit?
- How do we bear the fruit of the Spirit?

1. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

We see the list of the fruits in our passage

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Not an exhaustive list – a representative list.

What are these things?

These are what the church should look like. These are the attributes of Christ reproduced in the life of every believer. They are the characteristics of Jesus. The visible evidence of the characteristics of the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus is like. This is what the Holy Spirit is like.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit have the same characteristics

It is worth noting that the characteristics of Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the same. The bible describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Christ. They are distinct persons but the character of Jesus is the character of the Holy Spirit. So, when we say we want more of the Holy Spirit we are saying that we want more of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit comes to bring more attention towards Jesus. We as Christians all say we want more of Jesus by why as Christians are we uncertain that we need more of the Holy Spirit?

Fruit grows out of your nature and identity

Apples come from apple trees – oranges from orange trees. But I cannot get oranges from an apple tree. We bear the fruit of our nature. Fruit of the Spirit grows out who we are in Jesus.



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Two natures explained

Paul describes two natures within us: the flesh and the spirit. We have used these terms quite a lot in this series – we saw this in our sermon on being filled with the Spirit. But they can be confusing.

We can use two props to explain this:

- First pot is filled with a dead weed
- Second pot is filled with a super green plant

First pot of dead weed – describes your fleshy nature and this is all you had before you knew Jesus. We see in our passage what are the fruits of this fleshy nature:

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and 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.

We could read this list and say hey as a Christian I still do get angry, or envious does this mean I am not a real Christian? No this is talking about people where these things define them and are part of their identity – they practice them and know no other way. They are consistently bearing these as fruits outside of Christ.

Romans 8:5 explains that

⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

If your mind is hostile to God, if you do not have the Spirit of God within you – this is someone who does not know Christ. The flesh is who you were it is not who you are now. You are not of the flesh but of the Spirit.

When you become a Christian, you come into the family of God – God gives you His Spirit your whole identity changes from this dead bush to this new creation. You live according to the Spirit – you are alive in Christ – you no longer bear the fruit of the flesh but the fruit of the Spirit.

Set you mind on the Spirit

Romans 8:6 ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

This is to be submitted to God and live a life worthy of God.



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Why then do I still produce some of the fruits of the flesh?

If we look at the two plants the dead weed and the luscious green new spirit – then why do we still produce some of the fruits of the flesh – I still get angry, envious and am the reverse of the fruits of the Spirit?

I want to bear the fruit of the Spirit why is there such a daily struggle? Paul deals with this in

Galatians 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

If you are a Christian your inherent desire is to please God – but your old nature is always trying to claw and drag us back to think like you used to think so you have this war within you. Has anybody experienced this because you keep failing in the battle?

If you ever feel that war – it is a normal thing. John Piper says that the sign of an authentic Christian is not that you no longer have fleshy desires – but that you are at war with these desires.

So, the problem is not that you have this struggle it is more a problem if you are not bothered with this – are you wrestling and desiring to reflect Jesus? There is good news for us that say we do.

Galatians 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Jesus has won victory in your life – you are free to live this fruitful life. You can live in the freedom Jesus has won for you. If the flesh has been crucified, why do we still sin? The bible presents the two truths beside one another – you are free but you still have this clawing flesh.

Imagine your life like a city before you become a Christian your life is ruled by the flesh – when you become a Christian the Holy Spirit sweeps in and takes over rule and reign in the city but within this city you still have these pockets of rebellion. This is our daily battle to subdue this.

2. How do we bear the fruit of the Spirit?

Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh

He is not saying try really hard. He is not saying being really disciplined and bring yourself under the Law. The whole argument in Galatians is that you started in the Spirit and then reverted to the Law.

We can say I am meant to be more kind and fruitful and you attempt it in your own sense of will power. You can only do it by the Spirit. This is not a command it is a promise.



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It is grown out of the fruit of the Spirit when we are led and when we walk keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. Walking being led by keeping in step.

Partner with God in our spiritual growth

We have used this picture before of a dance to describe keeping in step—where the Holy Spirit is the lead partner. We are so engaged with the Holy Spirit we are in step with the rhythm and heart of God.

To be led by the Spirit is not to just look up and see where He is going – it is like you are in a car being towed by Him. Or being on a steam train where all the power is up the front and you are in one of the carriages.

What does this look like? abiding

John 15: ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

We need to be those who are deeply connected to the power source of the Holy Spirit -we need to be a people that are deeply abiding in Jesus. A branch cannot bear fruit if it is not connected to the main tree. We need to be deeply connected and abiding in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:5 show us this means set our minds on the Spirit – in Colossians it says set your mind and heart on things above. It means make a choice to set your mind on God – daily in every way under His waterfall of his love and peace.

There is no quick fix its abiding and being led by Him.

It is important that we do not do this out of our effort but do this in His power.