

## The Fruit of the Spirit – II

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

Gal. 5:22-23

In this chapter we have learned that men are either to be controlled by the flesh, or by the Holy Spirit. Those who are controlled by the flesh {lower nature} will demonstrate that by exhibiting the ‘deeds of the flesh.’ Those who are yielding to the control of the Holy Spirit {new nature} will experience the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ as the Spirit produces it in their lives.

Comparison:

	<b><u>Deeds of the Flesh</u></b> (Gal. 5:19-21)	<b><u>Fruit of the Spirit</u></b> (Gal. 5:22-23)
<u>Sex</u>	Immorality, Impurity, Sensuality	Love
<u>Religion</u>	Idolatry, sorcery	Joy
<u>Relationship</u>	Enmities, Strife, Jealousy	Peace
<u>Attitudes</u>	Outbursts of anger	Patience
<u>&amp; Actions</u>	Disputes, Dissensions, Factions, Envy Drunkenness, carousing	Kindness Goodness Faithfulness Gentleness Self-control
	<b><i>-And things like these- Not inherit the kingdom of God</i></b>	Against such things there is no law. God’s Character Qualities

Observations:

1. **Contrast: Flesh Vs. Spirit**

<sup>19</sup>***The deeds of the flesh are evident...***

<sup>22</sup>***But*** the fruit of the Spirit is...

2. **‘Deeds’ of the flesh are plural while the fruit of the Spirit is singular.**

***Deeds are ... / Fruit is...***

There are many expressions of evil but only one fruit with nine flavors.  
**Ergo** – works, deeds – The works of man come from his flesh/lower nature.

The natural man does not submit itself to God's laws and cannot please God.

It wants to live by the law so it can be religious and become self-righteous which involves prideful self-glorification.

It is important to note that trying to obey rules or laws will only activate the works of the flesh. The flesh or natural man can only produce the deeds of the flesh, which are all rooted in self: self-promoting, self-righteousness, self-gratification, and self-serving deeds. The emphasis in Galatians is that the Law can no more tame the flesh than adding gasoline to a fire can quench its flame.

### **3. When we yield to the Spirit's control we experience the Spirit's fruit.**

The Spirit bears the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, which is Christ's life living through our lives. Paul wrote, "For me to live is Christ..."

#### **The greatest confirmation of salvation is the fruit of the Spirit.**

"The fruit of the Spirit is the outward indicator of salvation. A believer's sonship to God and citizenship in His kingdom are manifested by the fruit the Spirit produces in his life."<sup>1</sup>

Jesus said,

"You will know [men] by their fruits... Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit"

(Matt. 7:16-18).

When the Holy Spirit lives in us He produces fruit and appropriates all that Christ accomplished on the cross on our behalf. In other words, the fruit of the Spirit cancels out the deeds of the flesh by applying Christ's finished work to our lives. Halleluiah!

"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit"  
(Gal. 5:24-25).

#### Fruit Defined

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<sup>1</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Galatians*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1987), p. 164.

Lightfoot notes three categories:

1. Christian habits of the mind – God ward
2. Christian as he relates to others - social virtues
3. Christian as he is to be in himself - inward virtues

It's very hard to categorize them because they are "multiple characteristics of but one fruit and are therefore inextricably related to one another. They are not produced nor can they be manifested in isolation from each other."<sup>2</sup>

## I. A closer look at the qualities of the fruit of the Spirit:

1. **Love** – agape refers to love that reflects personal choice  
It isn't pleasant emotions or good feelings but willing, self-giving service.

Love is the greatest of virtues (1 Cor. 13:13)

God is love (1 John 4:8)

Divine love is unmerited (Rom. 5:8)

Great – (Eph. 2:4)

Transforming – Rom. 5:5)

Unchangeable – (Rom. 8:35-39)

Love is the mark of the Christian because it is Christ-like (Rom. 5:8), fulfills the whole Law of God (Gal. 5:14), shows that we have eternal life (1 John 3:14, 4:7), and is commanded by God (Eph. 5:2).

**Boice writes,**

"It is this love that sent Christ to die for sinful men and that perseveres with men in spite of their willfulness and love of sin. Now because the Spirit of Christ (who is characterized by love) is living with the Christian, the believer is to show love both to other Christians and to the world. By this men are to know that Christians are indeed Christ's disciples" (John 13:35).<sup>3</sup>

2. **Joy** – chara – corresponds to happiness

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<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, p. 164.

<sup>3</sup> James Montgomery Boice and A. Skevington Wood, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Galatians/Ephesians*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House 1995), p. 92.

Used 70 times in the NT – a feeling of happiness that is based on Spiritual realities. Happiness, as a rule, depends on circumstances and joy does not. Typical and popular Christian greeting.

It is a sense of having everything that is important true in my life, so that no matter what else happens it is only trivial by comparison.

Joy is a part of God's own nature and Spirit that He manifests in His children.<sup>4</sup>

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice” (Phil. 4:4).

“The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah. 8:10).

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

Joy can be present in times of great difficulty. Even in grief there is a glimpse of hope that you will come through, that you will see your loved one again, that God is able to work all things together for good for those who love Him, who are the called according to His purpose.

Jesus was enduring the cross powered by joy.

“...fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:2).

Jesus saw what He would accomplish by going to the cross – provide salvation for us who were lost – and it gave Him joy to keep going.

If joy speaks of the exhilaration of heart that comes from being right with God, then peace refers to the tranquility of mind that comes from that saving relationship.

### 3. **Peace** – eirene (Heb. Shalom)

The verb form of eirene – speaks of binding together – “Having it all together.”

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<sup>4</sup> MacArthur, p. 166.

Peace is knowing that God is in charge and as a result we can be at rest.

Jesus could use the words, “Let not your heart be troubled...” (Jn. 14), because He was the Prince of Peace.

At salvation believers have peace with God. (Rom. 5:1)

Through prayer believers can experience the peace of God. (Phil. 4:6-7)

Through obedience believers gain the presence of the God of peace. (Phil. 4:9)

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give you you” (John14:27).

#### 4. **Patience** – Makrothumia – “Long tempered”

It is a tolerance and longsuffering that endure injuries inflicted by others, the calm willingness to accept situations that are irritating or painful.”

Patience as a fruit is that helps us endure the weaknesses of others as we serve people. Christian teachers and leaders are to minister “with great patience” (2 Tim. 4:2). We are to “put on a heart of patience” (Col. 3:12).

In the description of love in 1 Cor. 13 ‘patience’ is listed as the first verbal description of love.

Not giving God a deadline to remove a difficult situation.

Patience is the fruit of the Spirit that allows us to wait for the Spirit to move in someone’s life, and then wait for the Lord to direct us on what to do or say. In a sense it’s like cautiously driving with our brakes on - slightly.

#### 5. **Kindness** – chrestotes – tender concern for others.

It has nothing to do with weakness or lack of conviction, but treats others gently.

Paul wrote the Thessalonians that even though he was an apostle, he “proved to be gentle among them, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children” (1 Thess. 2:6-7).

6. **Goodness** – Agathos – moral or spiritual excellence that is known by its sweetness and active kindness.

David wrote of God's goodness,

“Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (Ps. 23:6).

“I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Ps. 27:13).

We are exhorted to display goodness,

“While we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10).

7. **Faithfulness** – pistis – loyalty and trustworthiness

Jeremiah declared,

“The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lam. 3:22).

Jesus was the example of faithfulness when he emptied Himself in the incarnation – God became man – in obedience to the father and because of His great love for us.

He is called in Revelation “Faithful and True” (Rev 19:11)

8. **Gentleness** – prautes – meekness

R. C. Trench in *Synonyms of the New Testament*, writes,

“Prautes does not consist in a person's outward behavior only; nor yet in his relations to his fellow-men; as little in his mere natural disposition. Rather it is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting”<sup>5</sup>

9. **Self-control** – Enkrateia – restraining passions and appetites.

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<sup>5</sup> R. C. Trench, *Synonyms of the New Testament*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953).

God is perfect in holiness and possess perfect control.

Changeless

Eternal.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8)

**Christ was our example:**

“But in His incarnation Christ was the epitome of self-control. He was never tempted or tricked into doing or saying anything that was not consistent with His Father’s will and His own divine nature. And like Jesus, believers should ‘exercise self-control in all things.’”<sup>6</sup>

When we reckon (affirm what God has said) our old nature to have been crucified with Christ we experience self-control.

“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus  
have crucified the flesh  
with its passions and desires” (Gal. 5:24).

The Spirit is our fruit-source.

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25).

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<sup>6</sup> MacArthur, pp. 169-170.