

# The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Much discussion about the differences between soul and spirit. Perhaps our best clue is from Hebrews 4:12. Such a discernment is only accomplished by God.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The life of man who is made in the image of God is a **spirit-soul**, while the life of animals is simply called a **soul**. Thus we see **spirit and soul used interchangeably** in the scriptures to denote the life of man. Mind, conscience, heart = spirit-soul. **We are created to have a relationship with God.**

## I. As Spiritual Beings, When We Walk by the Holy Spirit Of God, We Take On His Nature - Gal 5:22-23.

- ❖ **Love:** that kind of compassion which wants only the best for another person, regardless of his actions toward you.
- ❖ **Joy:** the kind of joy whose foundation is in God and not in the circumstances found in our daily lives.
- ❖ **Peace:** the serenity of knowing that God is in control, that one is in His hands, and He will work out everything for the highest good.
- ❖ **Patience:** long-suffering or forbearance with other people, even when they don't deserve it.
- ❖ **Kindness:** graciousness, being helpful and considerate, not expecting anything in return.
- ❖ **Goodness:** moral virtue which is willing to act for the good of other people.
- ❖ **Faithfulness:** reliability, trustworthiness.
- ❖ **Gentleness:** teachable, tamed, submissive, willing to bear others' burdens, controlled by the will of the Master.
- ❖ **Self-control:** the practice of controlling one's actions rather than being controlled by one's emotions or desires.

## II. Why Fruit? Why Not Works of the Flesh vs. WORKS of the Spirit?

(Edited from an article by Brent Kercheville)

Why doesn't Paul say what the works of the flesh are and what the work of the Spirit is? The plural change should not be the focus much as the change from "works" to "fruit." Fruit implies that you are not striving (working) for these things, rather these characteristics are the natural product of walking by the Spirit. If you set your mind on spiritual things there is a natural outcome that must occur. Fruit will come from walking by the Spirit.

You can't MAKE fruit grow. You can plant the tree, but you can't make the fruit grow. You can tend to the tree, but you can't make the fruit grow. You can fertilize the tree, but you can't make the fruit grow. All you can do is cultivate and prepare so that the fruit will grow. This is the idea Paul is getting at. The command is not to be more patient or be more kind or be more joyful. **The command is to walk by the Spirit.** When we walk by the Spirit this fruit will result. **Walking by the Spirit is the cultivating and preparing for the fruit to grow.** This is likely why the fruit of the Spirit is not called the "work of the Spirit."

### III. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit uses the WORD OF GOD as a sword.

**Ephesians 6:17 (NKJV)** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

**Hebrews 4:12-13 (NKJV)** <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

#### The Holy Spirit gives life through the WORD OF GOD.

**John 6:63 (NKJV)** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are Spirit, and they are life.

### IV. We Are Filled with the Holy Spirit when we Let the Word of Christ Dwell In Us

**Eph. 5:18-19 (NKJV)** . . . be filled with the Spirit, [19] speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

**Col. 3:16 (NKJV)** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Holy Spirit	Action	The Word
1 Cor. 6:19	Indwells	Col. 3:16
John 3:5-8; Gal. 4:29	Begets	Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:22-25
John 16:7-15	Convicts – Converts	Ps. 19:7; 1 Tim. 1:9; Heb 4:12
1 Cor. 6:11; 1 Pet. 1:22	Washes	John 15:3; Ep. 5:26
Eph. 2:16-18	Reconciles	2 Cor. 5:17-20
John 6:63	Gives Life	Ps. 119:50,93; Jn 6:68
Tit. 3:5-7	Saves	Js 1:21,22; Rom. 1:16
1 Cor. 6:11	Justifies	Rom. 5:1; 1:16,17; 10:17

Holy Spirit	Action	The Word
Rom. 15:16	Sanctifies	John 17:17; 2 Thess. 2:13,14
Acts 9:31	Comforts	Rom. 15:4; 1 Thess. 4:18
John 16:13; Rom. 8:14	Guides	Ps. 119:11,105; 2 Tim 3:16-4:4
Neh. 9:20; John 14:26	Instructs	John 6:44,45; 2 Tim. 3:16-4:4
Rom. 5:5	Pours Love	1 John 2:3-5; 3:11,23; 5:3
John 15:26; Rom. 8:16,17	Bears Witness	John 5:39
1 Cor. 12:3	Produces Faith	Rom. 10:17
John 16:7,13; Eph. 5:18,19	Gives Wisdom	Col. 1:5-23; 2 Tim. 3:14,15

## V. What Are “The Things Of The Spirit”?

**Romans 8:5-10 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup>For 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.** <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but **to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.** <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

**John 15:4-5 (ESV)** <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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.**

## VI. What Fruit Does The Spirit Produce In Us?

### LOVE

❖ AGAPE is not an emotion or a feeling, but a purposeful choice to seek the best interests and highest good of others, without condition.

- We are to love God, neighbor, brethren, and even enemies. Mt 22:36-39; 5:44-45
- **Love is cultivated within the spirit; it is not at the mercy of external circumstances.**
- **Christians are able to love to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s Spirit.**

**Romans 5:5 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### JOY

❖ “gladness, delight, rejoicing – it is the opposite of weeping and sorrow”

- Why is joy possible in the most difficult of times?

**1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

**Hebrews 10:34 (ESV)** <sup>34</sup>For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

- **Joy is cultivated within the spirit; it is not at the mercy of external circumstances.**
- **Christians are able to have joy to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s Spirit.**

### PEACE

❖ “the absence of hostility or enmity; tranquility, calmness, freedom from disturbance or worry; reconciliation”

- with God (Rom 5:1), with our brethren (1 Ths 5:13), in the world through Christ (Jn 16:33), that passes all understanding (Phil 4:7)
- **Peace is cultivated within the spirit; it is not at the mercy of external circumstances.**
- **Christians are able to have peace to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s Spirit.**

### LONGSUFFERING

❖ “long to wrath, long tempered, patient” “Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in

the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish, it is the opposite of anger.” (Vine)

- God is longsuffering. *1 Pet 3:20; 2 Pet 3:9*
- **Christians are able to suffer long to the fullest when their spirits are focused on God’s longsuffering.**

## KINDNESS

- ❖ “the sympathetic kindness or sweetness of temper which puts others at ease, and shrinks from giving pain” (Plummer).
- “Longsuffering endures wrong; kindness overcomes it.”
- God is kind to all. *Lk 6:35; Ti 3:4-7*
- **Christians are able to show kindness to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s kindness. Eph 4:31-32**

## GOODNESS

- ❖ Moral quality of uprightness of heart. Related to “kindness” but emphasizes the determination to do whatever is necessary to result in good for other people.
- Sometimes goodness is shown by kindness, but at other times by discipline.
- Goodness stems from a zeal for truth & righteousness, and includes rebuke & correction. **Rom 15:14 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup>I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge & able to instruct one another.
- **Christians are able to be good to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s goodness.**

## FAITHFULNESS

- ❖ Gr. PISTIS is often used to refer to belief or conviction, but also to describe the quality of fidelity or trustworthiness.
- ❖ “the character of one who can be relied on” (Thayer).
- God is faithful. *1 Cor. 10:13*
- Timothy was trustworthy. *Phil. 2:19-22*
- **Christians are able to be faithful to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s faithfulness.**

## GENTLENESS (MEEKNESS)

- ❖ The opposite of self-assertiveness and self-will. Meekness implies submission.
- Moses... *Num 12:3; Jesus... Mt 11:29*
- We must... Receive the word with... *Jas 1:21; Restore our brethren with... Gal 6:1; Answer for our faith with... 1 Pet 3:15*
- **Christians are able to be meek to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) Jesus’ meekness.**

## SELF-CONTROL

- ❖ “The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites” (Thayer).
- The flesh has strong desires. The Spirit supplies the reason and fuels our desire to overcome the lusts of the flesh.
- The athlete is a great example of the need for self-control. *1 Cor 9:24-27*
- **Christians able to exercise self-control to the fullest when their spirits are focused on (in sync with) God’s holiness.**