



**OVERVIEW OF
THE FRUIT OF THE
SPIRIT**

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OPENING THOUGHT

**WE CANNOT BECOME WHAT WE NEED TO BE
BY REMAINING WHAT WE ARE!**

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Introduction

- **Outlined in Scripture at Galatians 5:22-23**
- **Considered to be the nine qualities or graces of the Christian Character**
- **As believers, we are to display ALL the FRUIT – not just one or two aspects.**

The Fruit Defined

Greek Word for FRUIT: Karpos.

Meaning: everything done in true partnership with Jesus Christ

- It's the divine nature of Christ & His personal characteristics that will start to move into the core of our personality until we look like Him.
- Remember, He is the vine and we are the branches; branches draw life from the vine not vice versa.

The Greek word “**karpos**” translated “**fruit**” refers to the natural product of a living thing. Paul used “fruit” to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside every believer.

The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, *not by the Christian*. The Greek word is singular, showing that “fruit” is a **unified whole**, not independent characteristics.

As we grow, all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.

The Fruit Defined II

The fruit of the spirit is:

- Character qualities God possess and that the Holy Spirit imparts to us as we live in trusting obedience to Christ.
- The nature of Christ being formed in us by the sanctification of His spirit.
- The greatest evidence that God is alive and working in our lives. It is also the evidence of His holiness & transforming us into His image. (II Corinthians 3:16-18)

The Fruit Explained

- The fruit should be our focus and goal – not gifts.
- The fruit reveal more about God's character than gifts (Romans 11:29).
- The fruit reveal the recipients character/motive (Matthew 7:16)
- The fruit is obtained through abiding in Him (John 15:1-4)

THE FRUIT DISSECTED

An introspective view of each fruit of the spirit.

Fruit of the Spirit – LOVE

- The steady direction of our will toward the last good of another.
- The mark of a Christian or being like Christ (I Corinthians 13:4-7)
- Love is not just a feeling, but it is a decision on how you're going to treat that person. It deliberately expresses itself in loving ways.

Four Greek words that translate into love:

- EROS – physical love; carnal love; romantic love.
- Philos – love of closed friendship; connected thru emotions and commonality.
- Storge – love of family relationship
- Agape – divine love; love which only seeks the highest good of others; non-partial and sacrificial

Fruit of the Spirit – PEACE

Hebrew (OT): SHALOM

- Harmony between individuals; the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation thru Christ (Romans 12:16; I Peter 3:8)

Greek (NT): EIRENE

- A state of calm & quiet; freedom from disturbing thoughts or emotions; confidence in God (Isaiah 32:17)

Fact on peace: Must be understood it is not the elimination of trouble or circumstances. Instead, it is an assurance & trust in God despite what one is facing. (Isaiah 54:10)

Steps to ensure peace:

1. Pray – Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 5:3
2. Read/Study – Romans 10:17; Psalm 119:11
3. Submit to God – Colossians 3:15; James 4:17
4. Focus on God – Philippians 4:8; Isaiah 26:3
5. Live Righteously – Psalm 37:37; Psalm 119:165

Fruit of the Spirit – JOY

Greek (NT): Chara

- Chara means joy, gladness or delight

Joy is also defined as:

- A deep sense of well-being that is not dependent upon favorable circumstances, but rooted in a fundamental acceptance of, and confidence in, the will of God.
- A by-product of pursuing God and the good of others.

Sources of Joy:

1. Joy comes from having confidence or faith in God. (Philippians 1:25)
2. Joy is a result of obedience to God's word (Acts 8:5-8). Conversely, disobedience destroys joy & releases negativity (Heb. 10:26-27).
3. Joy also comes from Christian fellowship. (Philemon 1:7) and Christian service (Acts 20:35)

Fruit of the Spirit – LONGSUFFERING

Greek (NT): makrothumia

- Long-tempered; patient; developing controlled emotions

Longsuffering also means:

- The ability to endure unpleasant people or circumstance
- To remain steadfast under provocation; to withstand in the face of problems & issues
- Comes from the power of God when we depend on Him.

Longsuffering is necessary if:

1. We want God to show longsuffering towards us (Matt. 18:32-35)
2. We want to maintain the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:1-3)

Developing Longsuffering:

1. Love suffers long (I Cor. 13:4); by growing in love, we will grow in patience.
2. Prayer will strengthen those who desire to be like God (Psalm 145:8)
3. Cultivate an attitude of endurance (II Tim 2:3)
4. Arm your mind (I Peter 4:1)

Fruit of the Spirit – GENTLENESS

Greek (NT): prautes – exercising God's strength under His control.

- Gentleness is often confused with meekness because the words are translated from the same Greek term above. Gentleness is proactive; meekness is reactive. Meekness lacks the blend noted above.
- Mark of a sweet spirit or benevolent kindness
- A characteristic that makes a person easy to get along with.
- Careful to not become unfeeling of the rights of others. It is an active trait of how we should treat others
- A disposition that is even-tempered, tranquil, balanced in spirit, unpretentious and that has passions under control

Treating others gently:

1. Actively seek to make others feel at ease.
2. Show respect for the personal dignity of others
3. Avoid blunt speech and abrupt manner
4. Do not be threatened by opposition; gently instruct, asking God to dissolve it.
5. Do not belittle, degrade or gossip about your brethren.

Gentleness is considering others:

James 3:17 – But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle (i.e. considerate) and easy to be entreated, full of mercy & good fruits, without partiality, & without hypocrisy.

Fruit of the Spirit – GOODNESS

Greek (NT): Kaloyisni – kindness; goodness; benevolence;

- Goodness is the moral character & deeds which are beneficial to others. A person that exemplifies this fruit is honest in his/her motives as well as conduct.
- Kindness vs goodness – kindness is the desire for happiness for others; goodness is planned activity to advance that happiness. It is generosity in action.
- Goodness is universal meaning everyone has the capability & opportunity to do good (Gal. 6:10).
- Goodness is not expected to be occasional, but a way of living (Luke 6:33-35)

The Bible says that it is the goodness of God that will lead sinners to repentance and salvation. - Romans 2:4

- This particular quality is a very powerful fruit to have operating in your personality because of the drawing power it has in it.
- *It has no manipulative qualities in it.*

Fruit of the Spirit – FAITH

Greek (NT): pistotita

The original translation is fidelity of faithfulness. This fruit shows itself in “trustworthy stewardship” for God and in reliability that qualifies to teach others. It is part of the character of one who can be trusted.

Faithful means “loyal; full of faith or test; firmly & resolutely sticking with something or someone without wavering”.

God’s faithfulness towards us:

- Unfailing – Psalm 89:33
- Infinite – Psalm 36:5
- Beyond compare – Psalm 89:8

God is faithful/loyal to:

1. His promises – I Kings 8:20-21
2. To the covenant & His People – Deuteronomy 7:9
3. Forgiving sin – I John 1:9
4. In providing counsel – Isaiah 25:1

God expects us to be faithful:

Matthew 25:21-23

Ask yourself this:

If everyone were as faithful as I am, what kind of church would this be for God.

Fruit of the Spirit – MEEKNESS

Greek (NT): Praotita – meaning tamed; bridled (*same word translated for a well behaved horse*)

Meekness is an attitude or quality of heart whereby a person willingly accept & submits without resistance to the will and desire of God.

Developed through having an humble opinion of oneself and the inner strength to control one's emotions, tongue and behavior. It is a freedom from rebellion and pride.

Biblical examples: Moses (Numbers 12:3) and Jesus (Matthew 11:29)

Meekness in the LIFE of a Christian according to the word:

1. Be blessed & content – Psalm 22:26
2. Will praise & honor the Lord – Psalm 22:6
3. Receive guidance – Psalm 25:9
4. Will have peace – Psalm 37:11
5. Shall be exalted – Psalm 147:6
6. Will be preserved – Psalm 149:4
7. Walks in joy – Isaiah 29:19
8. Will inherit the earth – Matthew 5:5
9. Makes no reputation for themselves – Matt. 21:5
10. Possess self-control & wisdom – James 3:13

Fruit of the Spirit – TEMPERANCE

Greek (NT): Kratos

- One holding himself in.
- Governing of one's desires in thoughts, emotions and speech.
- The ability to avoid excesses & stay within reasonable bounds

Greek (NT): Egkrateia

- Having command or mastery over
- Maintaining possession over one's own behavior
- Moderation or control

Temperance is modification in gratification of desires, appetites; it is inner strength under the direction of sound judgement. In Christ, we have the strength to control self.

- Emphasis in self-control should be on growth
- The battle for self-control is in our minds.
- Our passions, thoughts, desires must be the subject of earnest prayer for God's grace to work in our wills

Developing temperance:

- Learn to say no
- Learn to set boundaries
- Learn new habits to replace the old ones

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- Each Fruit was planted in you in seed form at the time of salvation; now cause them to grow. Your growth is your responsibility!
- *Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.*
([Romans 7:5-6](#) NLT)
- On your own, it would be impossible. But when you operate in the Spirit, you have a supernatural ability to overcome
- *Prayerfully, the Holy Spirit, via this teaching, has revealed where you fall short. Partner with Him to experience growth so that this lesson does not go in vain.*