February 1, 2023

 **Blessing to all and hoping all is well with you and your love ones as we are on our second month of the year. Prior to selecting this month topic, it occurred to me that there might be someone as yourself that have a question on a topic I have not yet discussed. Please, if you would like a topic discuss, by all means let me know. I might have a paper on it or can do a bible research on the subject.**

**Your topic can be as simple as this month Bible Scripture Letter which is** **"What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?"**. In my early years as a Christian, I had heard this phrase mention a number of times and never knew what it meant. There were a number of sources I read but this article below made it clear to me and I hope it’s as well with you.

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**"What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?"
Bible Scripture Letter #34**

[**Galatians 5:22-23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%205.22-23)tells us, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”* The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the life of a Christian. The Bible makes it clear that everyone receives the Holy Spirit the moment he or she believes in Jesus Christ –

[**Romans 8:9**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%208.9)

* **9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

[**1 Corinthians 12:13**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%2012.13)

* 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

[**Ephesians 1:13-14**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%201.13-14)

* 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in [1](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Eph1.13-14#footnote4)Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
* 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

 One of the primary purposes of the Holy Spirit coming into a Christian's life is to *change that life*. It is the Holy Spirit's job to conform us to the image of Christ, making us more like Him.

 The fruit of the Holy Spirit is in direct contrast with the [acts of the sinful nature](https://www.gotquestions.org/works-of-the-flesh.html). **in**[**Galatians 5:19-21**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gal%205.19-21)**,** *“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and 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.”* This passage describes all people, to varying degrees, when they do not know Christ and therefore are not under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Our sinful flesh produces certain types of fruit that reflect our nature, and the Holy Spirit produces types of fruit that reflect His nature.

 The Christian life is a battle of the sinful flesh against the new nature given by Christ -

[**2 Corinthians 5:17**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Cor%205.17)

* 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature;  the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

 As fallen human beings, we are still trapped in a body that desires sinful things -

[**Romans 7:14-25**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%207.14-25)

* **14** For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.
* 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.
* 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.
* 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
* 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.
* 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.
* 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
* **21** I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.
* 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,
* 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.
* 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?
* 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

 As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit producing His fruit in us and we have the Holy Spirit's power available to conquer the acts of the sinful nature

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* 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

[**Philippians 4:13**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil%204.13)

* 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

A Christian will never be completely victorious in always demonstrating the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is one of the main purposes of the Christian life, though, to progressively allow the Holy Spirit to produce more and more of His fruit in our lives—and to allow the Holy Spirit to conquer the opposing sinful desires. The fruit of the Spirit is what God desires our lives to exhibit and, with the Holy Spirit's help, it is possible!

*Source:* https://www.gotquestions.org/fruit-of-the-Holy-Spirit.html