

Fruit of the Spirit

Another
STUDY IN BIBLICAL ACCURACY

by
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Fruit of the spirit, like fruit of a tree or grapevine or any other plant, is a *result*. It is the final visible proof, the end result of what first was manifested.

It certainly is possible to be a Christian, to have the holy spirit within, without exhibiting any fruit. The manifestation of the spirit is what produces the fruit. Fruit of the spirit is the result of the operation of the manifestations of the spirit. These nine manifestations explained in I Corinthians 12, are speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, faith, miracles and healing.

We are exhorted in Romans 8 and Galatians 5 to walk by the spirit rather than by the flesh.

Romans 8:1-6:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Galatians 5:16-18:

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

There are two ways to walk — by the flesh and by the spirit. If we walk by the flesh we will produce the results, spirit. If we walk by the *flesh* we will produce the results, the fruit thereof. If we walk by the spirit, exercising the manifestations of the spirit, we produce fruit of the spirit.

Notice these are not fruit of *good works* via the senses, but fruit of the *spirit*.

Galatians 5:22,23:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The law was made for those who are in the flesh. Those who walk by the spirit have no need for the law. Verse 23 indicates why.

The nine fruit listed in these verses have three basic functions: 1) doing, 2) encouraging and 3) guarding.

Love

Love is a "doing" fruit. *Love activates*. Believing appropriates the results. But believing is activated by love. Galatians 5:6b says, "...but faith [believing] which worketh by love." Love is what activates our actions, our believing, according to The Word. Love is the force which *activated* Christ to die for us. Love is the force which *activated* God (who is love) to give "...his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Ephesians 3:19,20:

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Philippians 1:9-11:

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Love activates, by causing or doing.

Joy

Joy is an "encouraging" fruit. It encourages the individual by enlightening him. It causes an individual to effervesce with an inner exuberance. It is not just happiness, but a deep-seated joy emanating from within.

Hebrews 12:2:

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Certainly He could not have endured the cross with happiness, but with that inner joy He looked forward to that which was to come.

In II Corinthians we read that the saints in Macedonia gave liberally as a result of that inner joy.

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

II Corinthians 8:2:

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Joy encourages, with effervescence.

Peace

Peace is a "guarding" fruit. It quiets the individual on the inside. It is not peace offered by the world, but a deep inner, quieting peace which unifies. I Corinthians 1:10: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Verse 3 had said, "...peace, from God our Father and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 4:3:

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Philippians 4:7:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep [guard] your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace guards by quieting.

Longsuffering

Longsuffering or patience is a "doing" fruit. It endures and forbears people as well as circumstances. Romans 2:4 and 9:22 declare that God endured with patience (longsuffering). Ephesians 4:2 declares that we too should be "...with longsuffering [patience], forbearing one another in love."

Galatians 6:9:

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Philippians 4:6:

Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Longsuffering (patience) forbears and endures by causing or doing.

Gentleness

Gentleness is an "encouraging" fruit. It wins others by encouraging them. Romans 2:4 declares, "...that the goodness [*chrestos* – gentleness] of God leadeth thee to repentance." The word *chrestos* in this verse means gentleness, not goodness. The opposite of gentleness is severity (Romans 11:22). Severity is often necessary, but only after much patience and gentleness. Read the entire verse from Romans.

Romans 2:4:

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness [gentleness] and forbearance and longsuffering [patience]; not knowing that the goodness [gentleness] of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Gentleness wins others by encouraging.

Goodness

Goodness is a "guarding" fruit. It ministers to others to guard them.

Romans 15:14:

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

With goodness you are able to minister The Word to others to make them perfect as II Timothy declares.

II Timothy 3:16, 17:

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Galatians 6:10:

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Goodness guards by ministering.

Faith

Faith, believing, is a "doing" fruit. Believing appropriates results. Hebrews 11:1 declares, "Now faith [believing] is the substance [title deed] of things hoped for, the evidence [proof] of things not seen."

Mark 11:23,24:

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart,

but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Ephesians 6:16:

Above all, taking the shield of faith [believing], wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Believing appropriates.

Meekness

Meekness is an "encouraging" fruit. It encourages results. James 1:21 says we should, "...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save [sozo, make whole] your souls." As we receive The Word with meekness, we encourage positive results, the wholeness of our souls.

Titus 3:2 says we should show "...meekness unto all men." Thereby we encourage positive results in their lives.

Galatians 6:1:

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Meekness encourages positive results.

Temperance

Temperance or self-control, is a "guarding" fruit. By exercising self-control we control and guard our results. If

one is preparing for a physical race or battle he must exercise self-control to bring his body and mind into condition for the event. I Corinthians 9:25 says, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate [self-controlled] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." He must exercise self-control in disciplined training to control and guard the results or outcome.

Self-control guards results.

Summary

1. Love activates by doing.
2. Joy encourages with effervescence.
3. Peace guards by quieting.
4. Longsuffering (patience) forbears and endures by doing.
5. Gentleness wins by encouraging.
6. Goodness guards by ministering.
7. Faith (believing) appropriates.
8. Meekness encourages positive results.
9. Temperance (self-control) guards results.

Remember that as fruit these nine are the results of the operation of the manifestations of the spirit. Without the manifestations you have no fruit. In the context of this article the fruit must be recognized as effects in the individual manifesting which benefit those to whom he is ministering.

Galatians 5:24,25:

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.