

Fruit Of The Spirit

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. Fruit results from the operation of the manifestations of the spirit. It is not the fruit of man's works. Men are known by their fruit. growth in disciplined Christian living.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 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. Galatians 5:22-25

Love is a "doing" fruit. Love activates. Believing appropriates the results. It is activated by love. Love is the force which activated Christ to die for us.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:6

Joy is an "encouraging" fruit. It encourages the individual by enlightening him. It causes an individual to effervesce with an inner exuberance. The fruit of the spirit does not include happiness. A man may have happiness from the material things around him; an abundance of things may make him happy. But joy is an inside job, a deep-seated joy emanating from within. It is a spiritual quality.

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. Hebrews 12:2

Peace is a "guarding" fruit. It quiets the individual on the inside. It is a deep inner quieting peace which unifies.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

Longsuffering or patience is a "doing" fruit. It endures and forbears people as well as circumstances.

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? Romans 2:4

Gentleness is an "encouraging" fruit. It wins other by encouraging them.

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness (gentleness) and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness (gentleness) of God leadeth thee to repentance? Romans 2:4

Goodness is a "guarding" fruit. It ministers to others to guard them. With goodness you are able to minister the Word to others to make them perfect. (II Tim 3:16,17)

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. Romans 15:14

Faith, believing, is a "doing" fruit. It appropriates results.

Now faith [believing] is the substance [title deed] of things hoped [prayed] for, the evidence [proof] of things not [yet] seen. Hebrews 11:1

Meekness is an "encouraging" fruit. It encourages results. As we receive the Word with meekness, we encourage positive results, the wholeness of our souls.

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save [make whole] your souls. James 1:21

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.
And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate [self-control] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 1 Corinthians 9:25

Fruit must be recognized as the effects in the individual manifesting - which benefit those to whom he is ministering.

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