

## LESSON 16

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

#### Required Bible Reading:

Galatians chapter 5

Isaiah 61:3

All Scriptures that follow.

John chapter 15

Romans 5:5

In this lesson, we will study the fruit of the Spirit found in **Galatians 5:22-23**.  
*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

The fruit listed in these two verses, stands in contrast to the (*Works*) of the flesh listed previously. These works of the flesh could be called: products of, results of the flesh, or sinful nature, in control. The works of the flesh are the character of the devil. The fruits of the Spirit, however, are character traits, products or results of a born-again human spirit, recreated in the image of Jesus, that are in control.

Some may say, “Hold on a minute, this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.” The answer is: no, it isn’t. Let me ask you a question, naturally speaking. Where does fruit normally grow? Fruit is produced on the branches. According to **John 5:5**, Jesus said, “*I am the vine, ye are the branches...*” We are the branches that bear the fruit. The Holy Spirit doesn’t bear fruit. The fruit is produced in our lives, from the life and nature of God in us by the Holy Spirit that we received at the new birth.

Jesus said, “*I am the vine,*” so the life that produces the fruit comes from Him, but the Holy Spirit is not the one bearing it. We are the ones that are supposed to bear this fruit. This fruit should begin to grow and come to maturity in our lives and be born out for others to see and partake of, as we allow the life and nature of God in our hearts to govern and control our lives.

The Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead that comes to live inside us at the new birth. He brings with Him the life and nature of God (of Jesus), that is necessary to produce this fruit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit should enhance the fruit of the spirit being produced in your life, but it is not the beginning source of it, the new birth is. It would be impossible to have these things produced in us, prior to the Baptism of the Spirit.

Notice also, something I think is very interesting. The word is fruit not fruits, even though we are speaking of more than one thing. I believe this is because these nine things are, in essence, one thing and that is the character or nature of Jesus, Himself. We are to be showing Jesus to the world by our conduct and character. This fruit is not for us, it is for others. Naturally, the more you allow the fruit of the Spirit to be produced in your life, the more you will benefit and the better off you will be. But the real benefits are for others. We are supposed to be trees of righteousness, **Isaiah 61:3**. Trees produce fruit. That fruit is not for the tree, it is for somebody else.

When other people come in contact with you, they should be able to partake of, or at least see and benefit from, the fruit produced in your life. Other people should be able to get a big apple of love or joy just from being around you. When sinners come in contact with you, this fruit that you are producing, this character of God that you are displaying, will help point them to Jesus. They will be able to see Him, in you, because of the fruit of your spirit.

Another very important thing about the fruit of the Spirit, is that it is very much the opposite of the works of the flesh. These works of the flesh, or products of the sinful nature, are automatic results in the life of anyone ruled by the flesh or who is unsaved.

The fruit of the Spirit on the other hand, must be allowed to be produced in your life as you submit to God. This fruit must grow and mature so that your life can bear it out. It is not automatic. It is a choice, to allow the life and nature of God to so permeate your entire being, that others are able to see it in your conduct. For example: according to **Romans 5:5** ...the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts. This love is in every Christian from the moment of salvation, but it is a choice on your part to allow that love to govern your life and share it with others.

Listed below are the fruit of the Spirit with some explanation of each for your further study.

1. **Love** – a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain

**Romans 5:5**                      **1 Corinthians 13**  
**Ephesians 5:2**                **Colossians 3:14**

2. **Joy** – the feeling of gladness based on the love, grace, blessings, promises, and nearness of God that belong to those who believe in Christ

**Psalm 119:16**                **2 Corinthians 6:10; 12:9**  
**1 Peter 1:8**

3. **Peace** – the quietness of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his or her heavenly Father

**Romans 15:33**                **Philippians 4:7**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:23**      **Hebrews 13:20**

4. **Long-Suffering** – patience, endurance; being slow to anger or despair

**Ephesians 4:32**  
**Colossians 3:12**  
**1 Peter 2:3**

5. **Gentleness** – restraint coupled with strength and courage; it describes a person who can be angry when anger is needed and humbly submissive when submission is needed  
**Titus 2:25; 1 Peter 3:15;**

**For gentleness**

**In Jesus, compare Matthew 11:29 with Matthew 23 and Mark 3:5;**

**In Paul, compare 2 Corinthians 10:11 with 10:4-6 and Galatians 1:9;**

**In Moses, compare Numbers 12:3 with Exodus 32:19-20)**

6. **Goodness** – zeal for truth and righteousness and a hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of kindness (**Luke 7:37-50**) or rebuking and correcting evil (**Matthew 21:12-12**)

7. **Faith** – faithfulness, firm and unswerving loyalty to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, trustworthiness, and honesty

**Matthew 23:23**

**Romans 3:3**

**Titus 6:12**

**2 Timothy 2:2; 4:7**

**Titus 2:10**

8. **Meekness** – kindness, not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain

**Ephesians 4:2**

**2 Timothy 3:10**

**Hebrews 12:1**

9. **Temperance** – self-control, mastering one's desires and passions, including faithfulness to one's marriage vows; also purity

**1 Corinthians 7:9**

**Titus 1:8; 2:5**

You will never discover a law prohibiting you from living according to these principles. Paul stated that there was no law against such things. Laws exist for the purpose of restraint and in the fruit of the Spirit, there is nothing to restrain. There are no restrictions to this lifestyle. Christians can and must practice these virtues over and over again.

### **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Make a conscious effort to examine your life and your conduct and see to it that you allow the life of God to flow out of your spirit so that you produce this fruit for all to enjoy.

Print Name Here: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TEST-LESSON 16**

**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

1. List the fruit of the spirit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

2. List the works of the flesh. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. The works of the flesh could be called \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Naturally speaking, where is fruit normally produced? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are we according to **John 15**?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Give one definition for long-suffering. \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does it mean to care for and seek the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain?  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. How can the fruit of meekness benefit those you come in contact with on a daily basis, especially those who are born-again?  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F

10. The list in **Galatians 5** is a list of the fruit the Holy Spirit bears? \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F

11. The fruit of the Spirit is simply for you to benefit from and enjoy and serves no other purpose. \_\_\_\_\_T \_\_\_\_\_F