

## Chapter 9: The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit Reveals Spiritual Growth

The test of the Christian life is "the fruit of the Spirit." It is just as easy to recognize the fruit of the Spirit as it is the works of the flesh. *"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them."* (Matt. 7:16-20)



So faithful Christians are known by the fruit of the Spirit. The Christian life is a practical life; every principle of the teaching of Christ may be practiced in the life of his disciples. Jesus did not deal with theories or speculations; he revealed the Father's will in simple and practical living.

## KINDS OF FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

In Gal. 5: 22,23 there are nine different kinds of fruit mentioned. This fruit of the Holy Spirit in the lives of faithful Christians is put in contrast with the fifteen different "works of the flesh" "and such like."



It should further be noted that Paul did not speak of the "fruits" of the Spirit, but "the fruit of the Spirit." This implies that there is unity in all fruit of the Spirit; there is a harmonious blending of the nine different kinds of fruit mentioned.

It is not to be understood that the nine different kinds mentioned are the only fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is sometimes called the Christian graces. Peter mentions eight of the Christian graces. (2 Pet. 1:5-7)

Paul begins with love in enumerating his list and Peter ends with love. "Love" as a fruit of the Spirit includes love for God, Christ, his church, his people, his worship, and all that came from God.



"God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7) This love goes out to God (Matt. 22:37), to our neighbors (Matt. 22:39), to our brethren in Christ (John 13:34; 15:12), and to our enemies (Luke 6:27-35). This love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 5:5)

The next fruit of the Spirit mentioned is "joy." *"The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."* (Rom. 14:17)

*"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."* (John 15:11) *"Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."* (John 16:24) Christians are to rejoice in the Lord always. (Phil. 4:4)



The third fruit mentioned is "peace." This peace is that inner tranquility which Christians possess. *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you."* (John 14:27)

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Rom. 5:1)

"Longsuffering" (patience) is another fruit of the Spirit. "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love." (Eph 4:1-2)



"Kindness" is another fruit of the Spirit; Christians must be kind to one another and to all, "Kindness" here means being kindly disposed toward others; it means sweetness of disposition. Paul mentions this fruit in recounting his afflictions and persecutions: "by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love" is his language. (2 Cor. 6:6)

"Goodness" is next in order in this list; the fruit of the Spirit is good-ness. Kindness in action is goodness of heart. "Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Col. 3:13)



Another fruit is "faithfulness"; faithfulness is faith continued in the life; it is faith in God, in his Word, in his Son, and in his love for us as wrought by the Holy Spirit in our lives.



"Meekness" and "self-control" are the last two mentioned in this list. "Meekness" means mildness as opposed to anger and contention; it implies submissiveness to God. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5: 5.) "Self-control" implies, a control over all of the powers of one's being; these are brought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



## Chapter 9: The Fruit of the Spirit Reveals Growth

1. What is the test of the Christian life?

*the fruit of the Spirit*

2. It should be noted that Paul did not speak of the “\_\_\_\_\_” of the Spirit, but "the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit." This implies that there is \_\_\_\_\_ in all fruit of the Spirit; there is a harmonious blending of the \_\_\_\_\_ different kinds of fruit mentioned.

*It should further be noted that Paul did not speak of the "fruits" of the Spirit, but "the fruit of the Spirit." This implies that there is unity in all fruit of the Spirit; there is a harmonious blending of the nine different kinds of fruit mentioned.*

3. List 3 scriptures that show who we are to love.

*2 Tim 1:7, Matt 22:37, Matt 22:39, John 13:34, John 15:12,*

*Luke 6:27-35, Rom 5:5*

4. "The kingdom of God is not \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, but righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 14:17)

*"The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Rom. 14:17)*

5. What is the type of peace we can get from the Holy Spirit?

*Inner tranquility that the Christian possesses*

6. "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk \_\_\_\_\_ of the calling wherewith ye were \_\_\_\_\_, with all lowliness and meekness, with \_\_\_\_\_, forbearing one another in \_\_\_\_\_." (Eph 4:1-2)

*"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love." (Eph 4:1-2)*

7. How does goodness relate to kindness according to the lesson?

*Goodness of heart is kindness in action*

8. How does the lesson describe faithfulness?

*Faithfulness is faith continued in the life; it is faith in God, in his Word, in his Son, and in his love for us as wrought by the Holy Spirit in our lives.*

9. "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_: for they shall \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_." (Matt. 5: 5.)

*"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5: 5.)*

10. "Self-control" implies, a control over all of the powers of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; these are brought under the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
the \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Self-control" implies, a control over all of the powers of one's being;  
these are brought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit*