

The Fruit of the Spirit

GAL 5:22 But the fruit [harvest, product] of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
GAL 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- Christians are not to be controlled by the flesh. (Gal. 5:13, 19-21).
- Christians are to be guided by the Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:16-18).
- The Greek “karpos” (fruit) is singular, not plural. See “fruit of light” (Eph. 5:9).

EPH 5:9 (for the fruit [harvest, product] of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

- 1) The nine qualities are the “fruit” (harvest) of the Holy Spirit. NEB has “harvest”
 - 2) All are essential - none are optional.
 - 3) One of the “works of the flesh” will lead to condemnation, but one must manifest the entire harvest of the Spirit to be saved.
- It is noteworthy that these 9 spiritual qualities are not miraculous like the “gifts” mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

<p>1CO 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 1CO 12:5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 1CO 12:6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 1CO 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1CO 12:8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 1CO 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 1CO 12:10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 1CO 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.</p>

- Miraculous gifts revealed one had the power of the Holy Spirit, but did not mean salvation. (Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Cor. 12:11; 1 Cor. 9:27). Judas (Matt. 10:1-2; Matt. 27:3-6; 26:24).

Fruit Of The Spirit

1. “Love” [agape] is to be for God and others.
- The Bible tells us that “God is love.” (1 Jn. 4:8).

- As His children, we are to “walk in love.” (Eph. 5:2).
 - a. We are to love God with our all. (Matt. 22:37). We show our love for God by keeping His commandments. (1 Jn. 2:3-5; 5:3).
 - b. We are to love others. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:39). See Lk. 10:25-37.
 - c. We are to have a special love for Christians. (Col. 3:14; 1 Cor. 13:13; 2 Pet. 1:7; 1 Jn. 3:16; 4:7,8).
 - d. We are to even love our enemies. We are to love them in the sense that we pray for them and do good to them. (Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 12:18-31).
- 2. “Joy” [chara] is a characteristic of those led by the Spirit and manifesting “the fruit of the Spirit.” (Gal. 5:16, 22).
 - a. God has always expected His children to be joyful. (Psa. 144:15).
 - b. The scriptures manifest that Christians are to be joyful. (Rom. 12:12; Phil. 3:1; 4:4; 1 Pet. 3:10-12).
 - c. There are many reasons for this joy - sins forgiven, Christian fellowship, being at peace with God, spiritual blessings, privilege of worship, heaven, etc.
 - d. Happiness is not dependent on outward circumstances, but it comes from being right with God and doing the things that please Him. (Phil. 4:10-13).
- 3. “Peace” [eirene] is part of the harvest of the Spirit.
 - a. The Christian has peace with God. (Rom 5:1).
 - b. He has peace with self because he is at peace with God. (Phil. 4:7).
 - c. Christians are to be peacemakers - not troublemakers. (Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:18; 14:19).
- 4. “Longsuffering” [makrothumia] means “patience, steadfastness, endurance, forbearance.”
 - a. Christians are to patiently endure wrong without personal retaliation. This does not mean they cannot call upon the law to protect themselves if the abuse becomes too severe.
 - b. Christians are to have forbearance - keep on forgiving, encouraging others, doing good, returning good for evil.
 - c. Christians are to stand firm in the faith even in difficult times and times of persecution.
- 5. “Kindness” [chrestotes] denotes “goodness, uprightness, kindness, generosity.”
 - a. Christians are exhorted to be kind. (Eph. 4:32; 1 Cor. 13:4; 2 Cor. 6:6).
 - b. This kindness is manifested in words and deeds. (1 Jn. 3:17, 18; Gal. 6:10; Matt. 10:42; 25:31-46).
- 6. “Goodness” [agathosune] denotes one who seeks to do what is right.

- a. Christians are to “walk in the light” even though they cannot be good in the absolute. (1 Jn. 1:7, 8, 10).
 - b. They are to pursue good. (3 Jn. 11).
 - c. This goodness is to be manifested to all - God, Christians, enemies, wife, children, etc.
7. “Faithfulness” [pistis] is a characteristic of those being led by the Spirit and producing His fruit.
- a. Christians are faithful and true to God. God is first.
 - b. Christians are faithful in all the relationships of life - marriage, friendships, parental responsibility, etc.
8. “Meekness” [prautes] can have the idea of “meekness, gentleness, humility.”
- a. The meek person is one who is submissive to God.
 - b. He is one who seeks and pursues doing what God wants. (Matt. 7:21-23).
 - c. He is one who is teachable, and anxious to hear what God says. (Jas. 1:18-21).
 - d. He is gentle with others.
 - e. Gentleness is not a sign of weakness.
 - f. Note the examples of Moses and Jesus.

NUM 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble [or meek], more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)
 MAT 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.

9. “Self-control” [egkrateia] denotes “self-restraint.”
- a. The KJV has “temperance,” but the original word has a broader meaning than temperance alone.
 - b. Self-control is manifested by avoiding “the works of the flesh.”
 - c. Christians must exercise self-control in all things - eating, use of tongue, thoughts, anger.
 - d. They must avoid harmful drugs, strong drink, fornication, greed, etc.

Comments

- 1. “There is no law [of God]” against these qualities.
- 2. The Greek for “such things” is “toiouton” can be masculine or neuter, but it is most likely the “graces” that are meant.
- 3. It is possible to render it “such men” or “such persons,” but this does not appear to be Paul’s meaning.

- a. The meaning is basically the same. There is no law of God against such conduct or men or persons who manifest “the fruit of the Spirit.”
- b. Christians can practice these qualities without restraint or condemnation from God.

GAL 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified [put to death] the flesh [base human nature] with its passions and desires.

1. The Christian “crucified the flesh” when he or she puts on Christ. (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:6).
2. The crucifixion of the flesh is not absolute. (1 Jn. 1:7, 9).
3. Christians seek to let the Holy Spirit control them, and not the flesh.
 - a. This is often a battle. (Rom.8:18-25).
 - b. The key to victory is drawing near to God. (Jas. 4:8; 1 Cor. 10:13).
4. The Christian no longer lives for himself, but for Christ. (2 Cor. 5:15).

Notes: “Flesh” (sarx) - See Gal. 5:13.

5. The Lordship of Jesus keeps one under the control of the Holy Spirit and keeps one from fulfilling the desires of the flesh.

GAL 5:25 If [since] we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk [live, be guided, controlled] by the [Holy] Spirit.

1. “walk” is from “perpateo” in Galatians 5:16. It denotes “conduct.”
2. Here it is “stoicheo” [stoy kheh o] meaning to “march in rank” (keep in step), walk (orderly), fig. “to conform to virtue and piety.”
3. The basic idea is still “live, be guided, controlled” “by the [Holy] Spirit.”

GAL 5:26 Let us not become boastful [conceited, vainglorious], challenging [provoking, irritating] one another, envying [being jealous of] one another.

- Gr. “kenodoxos” - “vainglorious, boastful, conceited.”

1. Other warnings. See Gal. 5:15; Phil. 2:3

GAL 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care lest you be consumed by one another.	PHI 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;
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2. If we boast, we are to boast in the Lord. (1 Cor. 1:31; Gal. 6:14; 2 Cor. 10:17).

1CO 1:31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord."	GAL 6:14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.	2CO 10:17 But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord.
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3. Conceit, provocation, and envy are destructive of Christian fellowship and unworthy of the Christian.
4. The only way to overcome these evils is to live and walk by the instructions of the Holy Spirit.

Closing Comments

1. Paul informs us how we can know one is guided by the Holy Spirit.
2. It is not by feelings, tongues, miracles, dreams, personal experiences, approval of men, etc.
3. It is by the “fruit” [harvest] of the Holy Spirit.
4. This passage does not stand alone.
 - a. There are other passages that discuss the life of those led by the Spirit. (2 Pet. 1:5-11; 1 Jn. 2:1-5; Col. 3:12-17; Eph. 5:15-20).
 - b. The Spirit has a significant part in the new birth. (Jn. 3:5; Tit. 3:5).

JOH 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.	TIT 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
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5. The Bible teaches:
 - a. God dwells in us. (1 Jn. 4:12)
 - b. Christ lives in us. (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20).
 - c. The Holy Spirit abides in us. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Rom. 8:9; Gal 4:6; 1 Jn. 3:24).
6. We will never perfect these qualities in the absolute, but we should seek to grow in these graces daily.

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