

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-26

Intro: In his letter to the Galatians, Paul calls on believers to “walk by the Spirit, so they will not carry out the desires of the flesh” (5:16, 18, 25). The key to the Spirit-filled life is daily submission to the Holy Spirit’s control. This will result in the fruit of the Spirit being produced in our lives, which is: **“love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (5:22-24).**

I. The Fruit of the Spirit: *Nine Characteristics* 5:22-23

1. **Love**—*God is love*, and has demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners He sent Christ into the world to die for us (I John 4:7-10; John 3:16; Rom 5:8). Believers who are Spirit controlled manifest this kind of *self-sacrificing love*.
2. **Joy**—is an inner rejoicing promised to those who abide in Christ (John 15:11).
3. **Peace**—refers to the peace of God which rules over our hearts (John 14:27); it is not affected by adverse circumstances, and it defies human understanding (Phil 4:6-7).
4. **Patience**—refers to being long-tempered, to the fact that it takes us a long time to get mad (Exod 34:6). This kind of person is not easily provoked.
5. **Kindness**—this word refers to thoughtful consideration, kind and courteous treatment of others. *Kindness is love in action*. “Love suffers long and is kind” (1 Cor 13:4).
6. **Goodness**—Goodness is the attitude that produces kindness. The root idea behind this word conveys the idea of being ruled by and aiming at what is right, that which is of moral worth and value. Goodness is a virtue of God, produced in us by the Holy Spirit.
7. **Faithfulness**—is the quality which renders a person trustworthy or reliable. People who are filled with God’s Spirit are dependable. They can be counted on (Luke 16:10-12).
8. **Gentleness**—characterizes a person who is submissive to God’s Word (Eph 4:2; Jam 1:21), and who is considerate of others when discipline is needed (Col 3:12-13).
9. **Self-control**—denotes Spirit-controlled mastery of ones flesh, and no doubt primarily relates to curbing the fleshly impulses, “deeds,” just described in verses 19-21.

II. The Walk by the Spirit: *Three Results* 5:24-26

1. Believers have crucified the flesh (v. 24; **cf. 2:20; Rom 6:2, 3, 6**)
2. Believers live and walk by the Spirit’s power (v. 25; **cf. 5:16, 18**)
3. Believers no longer practice pride and envy (v. 26; **cf. 5:13-15**)