

RENEWAL MINISTRIES

of Colorado Springs

Spiritual Fruit, The Outward Evidence Of God's Working In Our Lives

George Stahnke 10/12/96

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

The fruit of the Spirit is the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ. They are the by-products of Christ's control--we can't obtain them by 'trying' to get them without his help. If we want the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, we must join our lives to his. We must know him, love him, remember him, and imitate him. As a result, we will fulfill the intended purpose of the law--to love God and our neighbors. —Life App. Notes Gal. 5:22

The nine fruits (works, graces) of the Holy Spirit can be broken down into three groups; one, our relationship to God; two, our relationship to others, and third our relationship as individuals in God's family.

1.) Our relationship to God

Love [descriptive of God's love for his son and for us] the foundation to right relationship with Him. *John 3:16*

Joy [cheerfulness, delight, gladness] emotion having received the fullness of His love, being reconciled with God.

John 5:11 But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peace [quietness, rest] describes a harmonious relationship with God. We are no longer enemies, we are at peace with God.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Acts 10:36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2.) Our relationship to others

Patience [long-suffering, forbearance] bearing with others for their good. *1 Cor. 13:4; Ep. 4:2; Col. 3:12-13*

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1 Cor. 13:4 Love is patient

Ephes. 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Col. 3:12-13 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Kindness [useableness, i.e. moral excellence, gentleness] being profitable to others because of biblical based values. Always working for their good.

Col. 3:12-13 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Ephes. 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Goodness [virtue, beneficence] giving of our resources, reaching out to meet the needs of others.

Proverbs 25:21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

*Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: **'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'***

Romans 15:14 I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

3.) In relationship to ourselves

Faithfulness [firm persuasion, moral conviction of religious truth] not compromising our walk in God or the trust of others.

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Luke 19:17 " 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

1 Cor. 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Gentleness [humility, meekness] how we respond emotionally to God and others.

Psalms 25:9 He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Luke 14:10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests.

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Luke 22:26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

Self-control [strength, temperance] having command over our appetites. *Micah 6:8; James 1:21; 1 Tim. 3:2*

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

1 Tim. 3:2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

Because the God who sent the law also sent the Spirit, the by-products of the Spirit-filled life are in perfect harmony with the intent of God's law. A person who exhibits the fruit of the Spirit fulfills the law far better than a person who observes the rituals but has little love in his or her heart. —Life App. Notes Gal. 5:23

4.) God wants to produce (fruit) his character in us and he demands our discipline and effort.

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faith must be more than belief in certain facts; it must result in action, growth in Christian character, and the practice of moral discipline, or it will die away (James 2:14-17). Peter lists several of faith's actions: learning to know God better, developing perseverance, doing God's will, loving others. These actions do not come automatically; they require hard work. They are not optional; all of them must be a continual part of the Christian life. We don't finish one and start on the next, but we work on them all together. *God empowers and enables us, but he also gives us the responsibility to learn and to grow.* We should not be surprised at or resentful of the process.