

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

1, WHAT IS THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE?

After becoming a Christian, and especially after being baptized with the Holy Ghost, the believer then should live according to the direction of the Spirit of God. A Spirit-filled life is one that is controlled and motivated by the Holy Spirit. Read Romans 8:1,5

2. WHAT IS MEANT BY "THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT"?

This "*fruit of the Spirit*" is the very nature of the Holy Spirit that is produced in and through the Christian. Fruit is something that is grown, not created instantly. It is the sure sign of healthy life in a tree. Even older people can expect to continue bearing spiritual fruit. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Psalm 92:14.

3. WHY DOES IT SAY FRUIT RATHER THAN FRUITS?

Paul does not speak of fruits (various kinds) because it is one fruit from one source (the Holy Spirit). Unlike the "gifts of the Spirit", where the believer might have only a few gifts, it is God's desire that all of the fruit of the Spirit be manifested in the believer's life.

4. HOW CAN WE PRODUCE THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Someone has said that "it is not so much what we do FOR Christ that counts as what we do IN CHRIST". The works of the flesh involve hard, fruitless toil and yields death as its wages. Fleshly endeavor, even when it is FOR Christ, cannot yield the fruit of the Spirit. It is produced by simply allowing the Spirit to move in and through us - like the sap of life in the vine brings fruitfulness to the branches. We can affect the environment (just as a tree can be cultivated and pruned), but it is the life of God within which brings forth the fruit.

5. WHAT ARE SOME KEY PRINCIPLES IN "GROWING" THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. **Make sure your life including your rights, possessions, family etc. is fully surrendered to Jesus Christ. Read Matthew 6:33.**
- B. **Be willing to be "pruned" (changed) by God's Word. Read John 15:2.**
- C. **Be thankful for whatever comes your way (trials, irritations, etc.) knowing that God uses them to perfect us. Read Romans 8:28.**

Now as we study the various aspects of each of the fruit of the Spirit, evaluate these characteristics in your life and ask God to reveal ways that you can further develop them.

FRUIT OF LOVE.

6. WHAT WAS THE "NEW COMMANDMENT" JESUS GAVE?

We are not only called to love each other as ourselves, but to go one step further: to love each other as Christ loved us. To do this, we must be filled with His Spirit. Read John 13:34 and I John 3:16.

7. DEFINE THE WORD "LOVE".

The word for "love" as it is mentioned in the fruit of the Spirit comes from the Greek word "agapao" which means God's unconditional love. This is far greater than human love. Instead of being hurt by an offense, God's love seeks to heal the need in the heart of the offending party.

8. HOW CAN WE EXPRESS THE GENUINE LOVE OF GOD?

In order to demonstrate the love of God we must cultivate:

- A. **A PURE HEART.** This speaks of our motives. The highest motive we can develop is the desire for God's gain and the fear of God's loss. Is our life being lived to add to His kingdom, or to detract?
- B. **A GOOD CONSCIENCE.** We develop a clear conscience by making things right with all whom we have offended or who have offended us.
- C. **A SINCERE FAITH.** We must purpose in our hearts to believe God's Word not only for our needs, but also to be used to meet the needs of others.

FRUIT OF JOY

9. WHAT ARE THE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR JOYFUL LIVING?

- A. A personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The knowledge that God is speaking to us through His Word and in the silent time of prayer is a joy of which the world knows nothing.
- B. Our lives must be wholly surrendered to His will. Read John 17;13

10. HOW CAN WE MAINTAIN A JOYFUL ATTITUDE IN OUR LIVES?

By obeying God's Word. We are especially called to love one another.
Read John 15:9,12

11. WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE ABOUT JOY?

Our attitude or outlook plays a very big part in whether or not we possess joy. Read Proverbs 15:13.

12. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS?

When we see that "all things" are working together for our good because we love God and are called of Him, we can rejoice in our trials (Romans 8:28-29). The Lord wants us to develop a joyful spirit under every circumstance. Read I Thess. 5:18

FRUIT OF PEACE

13. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "PEACE"?

In its broadest sense, it means "freedom from both inner and outer disturbance." The Hebrew word "shalom" means "soundness", "well-being", "prosperity" (of body, soul, and spirit).

14. HOW DO WE RECEIVE PEACE?

We receive peace as a gift. When we give our heart and will to God, we are reconciled to God and have peace with God and peace in our soul. Read Romans 5:11

15. HOW MAY PEACE BE MAINTAINED AND GROWN AS A FRUIT IN OUR LIVES?

- A. Peace comes from developing a spiritual mind. To know the Lord is to know His mind as revealed in God's Word. Read Psalm 119:165 and Romans 8:6.
- B. Peace goes "hand-in-hand" with righteousness. If we break the laws of God's kingdom, guilt will weigh heavily upon our consciences and we will have no true peace. Read Psalm 85:10 and Romans 14:17
- C. Prayer and thanksgiving are essential ingredients to faith. We must not let the cares of this world choke out our peace. We are to take our needs to God in prayer and thank Him for the answer before we receive it. Read Phil. 4:6-7.
- D. Peace cannot be grown in an atmosphere of striving and impatience. Patience and peace compliment each other.

- E. We can have a deep inner satisfaction and peace knowing we are engaged in God's work. Many look for peace through selfish endeavors but it will not be found there. Read Romans 2:10.
- F. Our conversation should center on that which builds each other up (edification). Many people only talk about "things", "themselves", or "problems in others". Read Romans 14:19.
- G. Peace is experienced through the body of Christ, His Church. Read Haggai 2:9 and Col. 3:15.

FRUIT OF PATIENCE

16. HOW IS "PATIENCE" DEFINED IN THE BIBLE?

The word is translated 10 times in the New Testament as "long suffering" and at least 27 times as "endurance" and "continuance". The New Testament clearly tells us there will be trials and suffering as a part of God's perfect will to bring us to maturity. Read James 1:2-4.

17. HOW IS PATIENCE GROWN AS A FRUIT?

Patience is grown through tribulation. The word for "tribulation": is "thlipsis" in the Greek, which means "a pressing together". We can expect pressure to be a part of our walk with the Lord. A correct response to pressure is possible and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, true patience can be developed. Our attitude is all important when pressure comes. God want us to be joyful as we realize that He is developing patience in us. "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." (James 1:2-3)
Read Romans 5:3.

18. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF ALLOWING GOD TO PRODUCE PATIENCE IN US?

- A. We will receive the promises of God. Read Hebrews 6:12.
- B. We will gain our lives by our endurance. Read Luke 21:19.
- C. God wants us to persevere in prayer. Read Psalm 40:1.

FRUIT OF GENTLENESS

19. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "GENTLENESS"?

In the Hebrew, this word means "humility", "to bend low", "a fairness", "pliability" and even implies "rest" once in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the word gentleness comes from the Greek word "chrestotes" which means "graciousness", "kindness" and "usefulness".

20. WHAT ARE THE SCRIPTURAL ASPECTS OF GENTLENESS?

- A. The first word used in the New Testament for "gentleness" is "chrestos" (gentle, useful).
- B. Secondly the Greek word for "moderation" is "epieikes" which means "pliability", "gentleness", or "forbearance" in interpersonal relationships: moderate attitude toward each other. Lighfoot translates Philippians it as "let your gentle and forbearing spirit be recognized by all men". Hastings translates "let your sweet reasonableness be seen by all men." The Greek gives us the picture this is not a passive attitude, but we are to go out of our way to demonstrate it.
- C. Paul tells us that he was as "gentle" as a nurse with the Thessalonians. The Greek means "kind". We are to be kind, especially with babes in Christ. Read I Thess. 2:7.
- D. If true gentleness is working in us, we will not be argumentative or striving with men. There is a way to present the truth to people without becoming embroiled in an argument.

FRUIT OF GOODNESS

21. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF "GOODNESS"?

One who is praise-worthy in character or "morally excellent". No one is born good. Until we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and are filled with his enabling Spirit, we will fall continuously short of God's goodness.

22. WHAT ARE SOME SCRIPTURAL INSIGHTS INTO GOD'S GOODNESS WORKING IN US?

- A. One must hunger after the goodness of God. A person must long to be like Jesus Christ in character. If that motive is present, he will be filled with the Lord's goodness. Read Psalm 107:9.
- B. One way we can see "goodness" practically demonstrated is through faithful service to God and His house. Many "profess" to be good but refuse to stand in their place of service in the church. Read Psalm 65:4.

- C. Paul tells us that there are two elements that we must have balance to successfully "admonish" (warn, counsel) one another- "goodness" and "knowledge". Without goodness, we would counsel with harshness; without knowledge of God's Word; we would be blind guides. Read Romans 15:14.
- D. We are called to continue in God's goodness. Read Romans 11:22.

FRUIT OF FAITH

23. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF THE WORD "FAITH" AS IT IS USED IN THE CONTEXT OF GALATIANS 5?

The word "faith" comes from the Greek word "pistis" which means to "believe steadfastly". As we grow, our faith becomes more steadfast and strong. Read Romans 1:17.

24. WHAT INGREDIENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR FAITH?

Trials. God allows tests and trials to perfect our faith. Read I Peter 1:7.

25. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE WALK OF ABRAHAM, OUR "FATHER OF FAITH"?

- A. Abraham first saw God as his "guide" as He was led to leave Ur of the Chaldees into the "pasture" of Caanan without knowing where he was going. Read Genesis 12:4.
- B. Next, Abraham demonstrates his faith toward God by paying tithes to Melchizadek (a type of Jesus Christ). He looked to the Lord as his source of provision. Read Genesis 14:20.
- C. Abraham recognized the Lord as his "justifier" when he was declared righteous because of his faith. Read Genesis 15:6.

26. WHAT ARE THE FRUITS OF MATURE FAITH?

- A. Greater ability to preach the Gospel
- B. The promises of God in Christ
- C. Salvation for the soul

FRUIT OF MEEKNESS

27. HOW MAY WE DEFINE MEEKNESS?

Meekness is an essential attitude for successful Christian living. Its meaning comes from the Hebrew word "anow" which means "having been afflicted" or

"suffering". One develops "gentleness" and "meekness" by walking in the school of the Holy Spirit and giving thanks for every circumstance of life.

28. HOW CAN WE DEVELOP A MEEK SPIRIT?

- A. Recognize our need in relationship to God's standard.
Read James 1:21
- B. Yield our rights to God. Jesus did not defend Himself.
Read I Peter 2:23.
- C. Do not return evil for evil, but in showing love and meekness to our enemies. Read Proverbs 25:15 and 15:1.

29. WHAT ARE THE REWARDS OF MEEKNESS?

- A. God's Word will satisfy us.
- B. God will vindicate us.
- C. We will inherit the earth and prosper. Read Matthew 5:5
- D. God will teach the meek His ways and guide them in judgment. Read Psalm 25:9.
- E. God's grace will be ours.

FRUIT OF TEMPERANCE

30. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF TEMPERANCE?

The word means self-control or "self-mastery". It is the God-given ability to renounce, to whatever degree necessary, anything that would interfere with doing God's will and reaching our highest efficiency in His calling.

31. WHAT THREE ATTITUDES MUST WE HAVE TO WALK IN TEMPERANCE?

- A. The proper fear of God. Read Proverbs 8:13.
- B. A vision of future reward. Read I Cor. 9:25
- C. The desire to glorify God in whatever we do. Read I Cor. 10:31.

32. IN WHAT AREAS DOES THE BIBLE ESPECIALLY COMMAND TEMPERANCE?

- A. In pre-marital relationships. Read I Cor. 7:9.

- B. In our appetites. Read Proverbs 25:16.
- C. In dealing with our temper. Read Proverbs 25:16
- D. In controlling our tongues. Read James 3:10.
- E. In the realm of finances. Read Luke 14:28.

_____ **YES, I have looked up and read each and every Scripture reference in this lesson when instructed to do so. This must be completed for this lesson to count.**