



## The Fruit of the Spirit

June 1

**SERIES:** Throughout June we'll be studying another famous passage of the Bible that speaks to Christian living, the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5. Far beyond moralisms these are miraculous fruits progressively borne by the Spirit's presence in a believer's life. Today we'll have an overview and in coming weeks survey the fruits themselves.

**SONG:** Many songs of these verses exist, here is one.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Rob McFadden)

- What was the theme of the sermon?
- What was the passage about?
- What was/were the main point/s?
- What stood out to you or provoked you to think?
- What were the key take-aways?

**READ PASSAGE:** Gal 5:16–24

**CONTEXT:** The great theme of Galatians (written between Paul's first missionary journey and the Council of Jerusalem) is justification by faith. It was written to counter the Judaizers who argued for a faith+works salvation. It is God's grace received by faith that both saves and sanctifies the believer (and not works); to revert to works nullifies faith. In Christ we are free from the penalty of the Law and free to follow Christ by His Spirit. (ch. 5).

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What has been your experience with this passage on the Fruit of the Spirit?
2. Gal 1:3 (vs. verse 6)- What is the Gospel and how does the Holy Spirit factor into it (Ezk 36:26; Jn 3:6; Acts 2:38)?
3. How is belief in the Gospel the key to living such a renewed life that our passage expects?
4. *V. 16b- The "desires of the flesh" means our fallen human nature; worldliness; the old self.*

5. **Perhaps easier said than done, what does it mean to walk by the Spirit? (v. 16a)<sup>1</sup>**
6. If Christians are saved, why can it be such a struggle? (v. 17). If we are a new creation why do we wrestle with the old?
7. Does v. 18 mean we can live as we please or that under the New Covenant there is a new way of doing things (and if new, why revert to the old ways)?
8. **Let's read two important passages about what Jesus said of 'fruit':**
  - a. **Mt 7:15–20 (\*the general principle of false prophets applies to false professors)**
  - b. **Mk 7:14–23**
  - c. **'You shall know them by their fruit.' Speaking of evaluation and not Judgementalism, how can you tell if someone is a Christian beyond mere profession; what do we look for to determine the genuineness of a professor's faith? If a professor doesn't bear fruit what are the only two options?**
9. *Vv. 20–21 contrast vv. 22–23.* Paul wants us to see the striking contrast between those who produce fleshly evidence and those who produce spiritual evidence.
10. Though vv. 20–21 may likewise be called fruits, explore why Paul uses the terms "works of the flesh" and "fruit of the Spirit."
11. **In a general way, what differences do you notice between these two lists?**

*The Fruit of the Spirit are the miraculous Christ-like characteristics progressively borne by all Christians through the work of the Holy Spirit, and are evidence of His presence.*

12. *V. 23b- i.e. we fulfil the Law in these things.*
13. **Is Galatians 5 the only place in the Bible where such fruit is mentioned (also known as tests of assurance)? (e.g. James 3:13–18; Book of 1 Jn).**

**Next Week:** Love, Joy and Peace

<sup>1</sup> I'd suggest expecting the Spirit's work as we trust God's promises.