



Introduction

- Continues the theme of Christian character as evidence of salvation (cf. Lesson 15: Beatitudes).
- Focus: The **fruit of the Spirit** as described in **Galatians 5:22–23**.
- Context: Paul addresses both **legalism** and **antinomianism** in the Galatian church.
- Key concept: Justification is by faith, and sanctification is Spirit-empowered—not by works of the law.

Walk by the Spirit

- **Galatians 5:16–18**: The Spirit and flesh are in conflict.
- The Spirit leads us into **holiness**, not lawlessness.
- The **fruit of the Spirit** contrasts with the **works of the flesh** (Gal. 5:19–21).
- Paul uses “**fruit**” (singular): it’s a unified whole, not separate fruits.

The Fruit of the Spirit

(Galatians 5:22–23)

One fruit, nine aspects—all cultivated by the Holy Spirit.

Love (Agape)

- Self-sacrificial, God-centered, others-serving.
- Originates in God (Rom. 5:5).
- Defined by 1 Corinthians 13:4–7.
- Evaluated by our willingness to serve others sacrificially and without favoritism.

Joy

- Joy in who God is and what He has done in Christ.
- Empowered by the Spirit, not circumstances (Phil. 4:4; Rom. 5:11).
- Includes joy in suffering (Hab. 3:17–19; Ps. 30:5).

Peace

- Peace with God (Rom. 5:1) → experienced as inner calm and confidence.



- Based on truth from God's Word (Rom. 8:1, 31–35; Phil. 4:7).
- Expressed through peace in relationships and internal trust in God.

Patience (Longsuffering)

- "Slow to anger"; bearing with others and enduring trials (Ex. 34:6; Heb. 12:3–4).
- Reflects Christ's endurance.
- Expressed in forbearance and trusting God in suffering.

Kindness

- Benevolence and compassion in word and action.
- Modeled after God's kindness (Rom. 2:4; Titus 3:4).
- Expressed through soft answers, gentle speech, and helpful deeds.

Goodness

- Moral and spiritual excellence aligned with God's nature (Mark 10:18).
- Goes beyond kindness to include **righteous actions**.
- Defined objectively by God's Word (Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:21).

Faithfulness

- Reliability and loyalty to God and others.
- Reflects God's and Christ's own faithfulness (1 Thess. 5:24; Rom. 3:3).
- Seen in consistent living for God, especially under pressure.

Gentleness (Meekness)

- Humble self-restraint.
- Not weakness, but controlled strength used in love (Gal. 6:1; Eph. 4:1–3).
- Reflects a Christlike posture toward others.

Self-Control (Temperance)

- Holy restraint for God's glory (Prov. 16:32; 25:28).
- Empowered by the Spirit, not mere human discipline.
- Keeps bodily desires and passions in submission to God's will (1 Cor. 10:31).



Conclusion

- These traits **mark a true Christian**—not perfection, but increasing presence.
- The Spirit uses **God's Word** to grow this fruit in us.
- Believers are **commanded** to walk in these virtues (e.g., Rom. 12:10; Col. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:7).
- **Examine yourself:** Are these qualities being cultivated in your life?
- **Philippians 1:6:** The Spirit who began the work will complete it.