

### Walking in the Spirit

We've journeyed through the rich passage of Galatians 5, which has the main theme of walking in the Spirit. We've seen that every believer CAN walk in the Spirit, which enables the believer to not fulfill their fleshly desires. That doesn't mean this will be easy, but by God's grace we can have victory over the fleshly desires of our heart. Lest some believe that because of grace a Christian can live how they want, Paul highlights 15 works of the flesh that highlight how every believer must walk in the Spirit.

Before discussing today's message "*The Fruit of the Spirit*", read Galatians 5:16-25 and take some time to share how the Spirit has impacted you through His Word.

1. Paul gives nine facets of the fruit of the Spirit. Let's take a moment to talk about each one. Spend as much time as needed on each facet of the fruit of the Spirit.
  - a. **Love-** serving a person for their good and not for what the person brings you.
    - i. How does Romans 5:5-6 tell us that this love has come to us?
    - ii. This love is so unique from the world's versions of love. Compare with John 13:35.
  - b. **Joy-** A delight in God's sheer beauty and worth of who He is.
    - i. What are some things that people tend to look to for happiness?
    - ii. According to Psalm 16:11, what is the result of being in His Presence?
  - c. **Peace-** The inner calm and confidence in the wisdom and control of God, rather than your own.
    - i. Even in times of great difficulty, the believer can have peace. Consider the circumstances and encouragement in Philippians 4:6 and the result in Phil. 4:7.
  - d. **Patience-** It's being long tempered opposed to short tempered.
    - i. In the circumstances of personal irritation, patience can be hard. What are some things we come up with that excuse our impatience?
    - ii. However, according to 2 Peter 3:9, what do we have as a basis and motivation for our patience?
  - e. **Kindness-** Being gracious, and a steady force of good and care towards other people.
    - i. How does Titus 3:3-7 describe God's display kindness to mankind? Note: The word "goodness" in Titus 3:4 (ESV) is the same root word as "goodness" in Galatians 5:22.

- f. **Goodness**- Doing deeds of benevolence and generosity toward someone else.
    - i. Galatians 6:10 encourages the Galatians to do “good”. How can we do “good”?
  - g. **Faithfulness**- being faithful, loyal, trustworthy or dependable.
    - i. This aspect of faith is referring being trustworthy, faithful, loyal, and reliable. When is faithfulness and reliability tested?
    - ii. Note how God displays faithfulness in Hebrews 13:5, 8.
  - h. **Gentleness or Meekness**- the humble, gentle attitude that displays patient submission in every offence.
    - i. Meek people respond patiently and carefully in the difficult situations in life. They fundamentally understand that God is in control and that He allows people and circumstances into our lives for the purpose of growing us into Christlikeness. James 3:13-18 describes a person that lives a meek life.
    - ii. How do you typically respond to people who make decisions with which you don't agree?
    - iii. In what ways do you respond if those decisions end up affecting you in negative ways?
    - iv. Do you think that meekness means you never make an appeal? Does it mean that you never address things that need to be dealt with?
  - i. **Self-control**- overcoming desires of the flesh by being Spirit controlled.
    - i. This is the idea of having Spirit-controlled power so that you are controlled. What areas do you need to submit to the Spirit instead of doing what your flesh desires? Consider use of time, entertainment choices, personal thought life, eating habits, and finances.
2. After studying each of these facets of the fruit of the Spirit and then seeing how God/Christ exemplified the fruit of the Spirit perfectly, can the difficult trial, other people, or unfair treatment really be an excuse to not walk in the Spirit? Discuss as necessary.