

The Holy Spirit
Fruit of the Spirit



The fruit of the Spirit is

Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

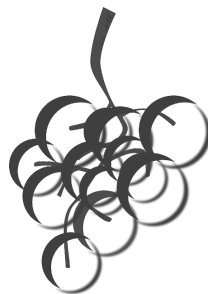
Goodness

Faith

Gentleness

Self-Control

Galatians 5:22-23



*"I am the vine;
you are the branches.
The one who remains in Me
and I in him
produces much fruit,
because you can do nothing
without Me."*

John 15:5



The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit. John 3:8



See the Wind

R. Lyndel Littleton
Acrylic on canvas

You can't "see" the wind, but you can see the effects of the wind. In the same way, you can't see the Holy Spirit in your life or in the life of other believers. However, if He is allowed to work in our lives we will see His fruit. Our lives—our actions—will show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control.

The Holy Spirit

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit
-the Father will send Him in My name-
will teach you all things and remind you
of everything I have told you.*

John 14:26

*When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the
truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak
whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.*

John 16:13

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses*

Acts 1:8

You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:9

*The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit
that we are God's children*

Romans 8:16

*Don't you know that you are God's sanctuary
and that the Spirit of God lives in you?*

I Corinthians 3:16

Fruit of the Spirit



Dunbar Cave

Lord God, as Your Holy Spirit works in and through us:

Love blossoms as we strive to love You with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, and love others as ourselves;

Joy bursts forth in its

fullness as we keep Your commandments;

Peace that passes all understanding blooms as we keep our minds on You, because we trust You;

Patience buds as we cooperate with your perfect work to make us perfect and complete, lacking nothing;

Kindness unfurls as we meet the needs of others;

Goodness flourishes as we proclaim that we are nothing without You;

Faithfulness is established as we walk in full assurance that You will never leave us nor forsake us;

Gentleness opens for all to see because You are near;

Self-control emerges as we stop living like pagans and strive to live a holy life by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide.

We exemplify the Fruit of the Spirit by ministering to others in such a way that they want what we have. We show the world that we are children of God.

~ Cinde Jones

Give God the Glory

Give God the Glory
 Be a reflection of the Lord
 So that all the world may see

Now the Lord is the Spirit
 And the Spirit is Freedom
 And it's the freedom of the Spirit
 That's burning inside of me

Give God the Glory
 Ever increasing glory
 Which comes from the Spirit of
 the Lord
 Living inside of me

Unveil your faces
 Reflect His Image
 Give God the Glory
 So all the world can see

~ Robert Boyles



Reflection
 (Do you see it?)



Friends! We are going to be talking about the Fruit of the Spirit. Do you know what the Fruit of the Spirit is? Do you think it's talking about apples, oranges, and grapes? Well those are fruits, but these are Fruit of the Spirit. They are actions that we perform because of Jesus' work in our lives. They are provided to us through the Holy Spirit.

There are 9 Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

~ Rebecca Robertson Holloway



*Look for our “loving handprint” at the start of each chapter that indicates a section for our special needs friends.

Commentary —Galatians 5:22-23

- **But the fruit of the Spirit** – The word “fruit” is singular. This means that all of the attributes listed are but different aspects of one fruit, which is a joyful, godly, lifestyle empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- **Love** – the act of selflessly giving and doing for others out of compassion and mercy.
- **Joy** – a deep abiding emotional satisfaction that provides a sense of knowing that something is good and right.
- **Peace** – the sense that all is at sweet rest with oneself, despite external circumstances.
- **Patience** – the ability to abide quietly and joyfully over time as one waits for the work of God.
- **Kindness** – the act of doing and showing good to others.
- **Goodness** – a sense of what is right and valuable and beneficial to others.
- **Faithfulness** – a joyful persistence in “coming back” with the work of the Lord.
- **Gentleness** – an ability to be easy and loving about relationships with others.
- **Self-control** – the facility to be able to discipline oneself to do what is right.

Against such things there is no law – Paul was saying, “These things will never break any laws! On the other hand, they will help you maintain the real law of love.”

~ James Sanders

The promise of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*

*After this I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity;
then your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your old men will have dreams,
and your young men will see visions.*

Joel 2:28

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out My Spirit on your descendants
and My blessing on your offspring.*

Isaiah 44:3

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes
and carefully observe My ordinances.*

Ezekiel 36:26-27

*This is not an all-encompassing list. It's a good cross section—a starting point.

To Me...

To me:

LOVE is choosing to desire the best for someone even when emotions are running high against what that person is doing or has done.

JOY is the result of obedience even when another option is preferred.

PEACE is resting in the fact that God is in control and will work out all things for good.

PATIENCE is continuing to show respect to someone who just doesn't get it or who is having a hard time getting it all together.

KINDNESS is acknowledging a person's right to their own opinion even if it may be wrong.

GOODNESS is helping someone through a mess of their own making.

FAITHFULNESS is following through on promises regardless of personal sacrifices or other difficulties.

GENTLENESS is rebuking someone while showing concern during a difficult situation.

SELF-CONTROL is knowing the truth and doing the right thing, even if it's the hard thing.

~ Cinde Jones



Porto, Portugal

Fruit Not Fruits

“How sweet is the fruit of the Spirit! I say ‘fruit’ and not fruits, for the text says so.

The work of the Spirit is one, whether it be known by the name of love, joy, peace, meekness, gentleness or temperance.”

~ Charles Spurgeon

I am always intrigued when I hear people jokingly say, “Don’t pray for patience or God might give you some!” Often times I hear others say, “I just can’t love that person!” This is the one I hear and see the most “Choose Joy!”

The quote above by Charles Spurgeon reminds us that the Holy Spirit that lives in believers is the producer of the fruit. They aren’t individual fruits that we somehow conjure up by way of any effort on our own. We can’t “learn” patience by some lesson or test that God gives us. We can’t imagine loving someone that we consider unlovable by way of our own flesh and we definitely can’t gain joy by simply choosing it! If that were the case for any of those individual fruits, we wouldn’t need the work of the Holy Spirit! Our flesh is the producer of our lack of patience or unwillingness to love someone or a joyless life. The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to fight against our flesh and lead us into the way of abundant life and holiness.

*“And every virtue we possess,
And every victory won,
And every thought of holiness,
Are His alone”*

~ Our Blest Redeemer ere He Breathed

Church of England Hymn Book

When we take the fruit of the Spirit and divide it into individual fruits, we are missing the God-promised work of the Holy Spirit. When we are deficient in one of them, we are deficient in all of them. What we are truly lacking, is complete surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit in our lives. Let these questions by Spurgeon prick your heart with inquiry into your relationship with God.

“Now my dear hearer, have you this [fruit] in your heart? Judge by your relationship to God. Do you live without prayer? Do you very seldom read God’s word? Are you getting indifferent as to whether you go and worship with His people? Ah, then be afraid that the [fruit] of God is not in you.”

~ Charles Spurgeon

The next time you hear someone else say or are tempted to say yourself, “I need to pray for patience, or I can’t love that person, or choose joy”, remember this truth. The fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control are the evidence of a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit. Don’t pray for them individually. Pray with complete surrender to the Holy Spirit’s role in your life and let Him produce the fruit that fits the need or circumstance in your life!

~ Ramona Ambrose

Fruits of the Spirit Disaster Relief Style

It's four o'clock in the morning and I rustle myself out of bed to get ready to meet the team at the FLC by 5:30. We have to be pulling out of the parking lot by 6:00 because we have a 12 hour drive ahead of us. I take a few moments to spend time with my Lord, thanking Him for loving me. We will all need His strength to get through the jobs waiting on us. Each house was flooded to the ceiling and under water for at least a week. Messy, muddy, moldy, stinky devastation. But it is our honor to serve Him. Arriving at the FLC, I begin to unload my heavy suitcase and bedding bag that the team has appropriately named "the coffin." Boy is it heavy! But suddenly it gets very light because one of the fine gentleman that is on the team takes it from my hand and loads it in the back of the truck. He is so **kind!**

It may be early, but there is an atmosphere of **joy** in the air because we are about to go serve, and bring Christ's hope to people who have lost



Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Hurricane recovery

everything! We gather to pray before departing, then load up and get on our way.

When we finally get to our first job we see that it's a big one! It may take a couple of days, but as we meet the homeowner we understand why God wants it to

take a while. He is broken, with no joy, and his heart is closed and doesn't want

us to discuss the gospel. It takes all of our **self-control** to not take him gently by the face and say "Please wake up! We don't have much time left!" But we know that our actions speak louder than words, so we **patiently**

work hour after hour, with **love** and **joy** in our hearts. The homeowner is watching every move. With every piece of drywall that we remove, every piece of flooring ripped up, pieces of the wall that was built around his heart are being chipped away because of the **goodness** that is being shown to him.

Close to the end of the first day, with true longing to understand, the homeowner asks, “Why do y’all do this?” The chaplain then **gently** takes his hand and says, “we do it because we love God, and He sent us here to show you that He loves you very much! Even in these devastating times, He has never left your side. He loves you so much that He became flesh and dwelt among us as Jesus the Christ. He suffered and died on the cross as a ransom for our sins, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of God. He is reaching His hand down from His holy throne, asking you to take it and accept the free gift of salvation that He offers. For we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Will you accept His gift?” The homeowner drops his head and says, “I don’t know, I don’t think I’m ready for that.”



Houston, Texas
Hurricane recovery

It’s disappointing, but we can see the Holy Spirit is working on him and we know that we have at least one more day to spend time with him and work on his house, and his heart.

Our team arrives the next day and the homeowner is there, happy to see us! We begin to see **joy** return! We begin our work, praying each moment that Christ’s light will shine through us! By the end of our job the

walls that the homeowner had built around his heart are torn down and the Holy Spirit is in full gear!

Before we leave we gather around the homeowner and present him with a Bible that is signed by each of us. We tell him that within the pages of this book he will find all of the **peace, love, joy** and hope that he will need to get through these tough times.

As we pray together, the homeowner stands there, tears streaming down his face, clutching the first Bible he has ever held to his chest. We ask one more time if he will accept Christ into his heart. Still he is not ready, but we all have **faith** in knowing that, although he did not accept Christ's gift at that time, we know that we did our job to plant the seed. We have **peace** in knowing that the Holy Spirit will continue His work. We prepared the field and pray that some day soon he will be our brother in Christ.



~ Michelle King

Gatlinburg, Tennessee
Fire recovery

