

Galatians 5:22-23 – Works of the Spirit

TSK, Gill, GreekLexicon, Rienecker, Trapp, PNT, Henry, JFB, Lightfoot, Family, Geneva, Eclectic, Clarke, Calvin, Barnes, Gaebelein, Luther, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Apostle Paul warned the Galatians they were **not to use their freedom as an excuse to sin** – to live however they wanted.

Rather, they were to be led (guided) by the Holy Spirit.

If they were not led by the Spirit, they would produce **works of wickedness**. (You can see that list in V19-21.) That list of wickedness included sexual immorality and idolatry.

However, if they were led by the Holy Spirit, they would produce **good fruits**. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Evidence of Good Fruits

Examples of Good Fruits

Extent of Good Fruits

Our goals are: **That you will not desire to walk in ways *you think is best*, but you will be guided by the Holy Spirit of God so you can successfully do the work the Lord has called you to do.**

22 But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.**
Against such there is no law.

Evidence of Good Fruits

1. The *fruit* God commands in those he has freed from sin comes from the work of God's Holy Spirit in man.

2. How does the Holy Spirit work in man to produce those good fruits?

(Some people insist there is one fruit (singular) of the Holy Spirit, but that simply shows there is one source and one package.)

The Holy Spirit works in man's spirit to **plant and cultivate the Word of God and fertilize it with his love and assurance of eternal life**. Look at a beautiful picture of the Holy Spirit nourishing man so that he produces light!

Zechariah 4:12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

Remember the response to Zechariah: **It's not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord.**

3. Why does Apostle Paul say “works of the flesh” in verses 19-21, but does not say “works of the spirit” but instead says “fruit” of the Spirit in verses 22-23?

Works of the flesh have their source in man. Wickedness is like breathing to a man. He works at being wicked. Man by himself is barren and cannot produce any good fruit.

Fruits of the Spirit are produced through the promptings and working of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit **produces fruits in man.** Man is the instrument – not the source – of the good fruits. **So the distinction is important.**

4. Lessons:

a. You can (you have the ability to) resist the Holy Spirit of God. This is called “quenching” of the Spirit. This means you can stop him from producing fruits in you.

b. But the good Christian will let the Spirit work in you.

The Holy Spirit will **create holy habits in you.**

These are the **fruits that God and man must see in you when the Word is planted and nurtured.**

The Holy Spirit will **convict you** when you are wrong.

He'll **give you courage** when you are afraid.

He will **convince you** of what to say when you are dealing with someone who needs your help.

He will **give you the right words to speak** when you don't know what to say.

c. The good Christian must bear fruit. You will want to do it. You are commanded to do it.

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

One commentator wrote: "Nothing but what is evil comes from man; nothing good comes but from the Holy Spirit."

Examples of Good Fruits

1. The foundational fruits you must bear in your life.

a. Love – This is agape love-true love for God and love for man. Man shows this love by **fulfilling of the law of God.** Fulfilling the law (loving God and man) **immensely pleases God,** considering that man was God's enemy before.

For example: **You must not say you love your children if you don't teach them!**

But it was Christ's work, and his work alone, which brought love to man so he could respond and love God and man!

Man may have killed his neighbor before, but when he is saved, he is called to love his enemies.

Love is evidence that man has passed from death to life in Jesus Christ. Love is the foundational fruit of Christians.

b. Joy – This only comes when your conscience has a good relationship with God. The soul finds satisfaction when this happens! Man knows God loves him (through the Spirit) and he sees the blessing of loving others (with the Spirit's help).

This fills him with joy.

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

c. Peace – This refers to having peace with God and assuaging his anger. This is nothing but the work of the Spirit who gives you the assurance of his salvation. So your mind is satisfied.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Having peace with God, you now are able to avoid strife with your neighbors. (Which leads into the next category of fruits.)

2. Fruits with regards to others inwardly.

These require energy – activity – on the Christian's part.

a. Longsuffering – This is opposing hastiness or rushing to revenge.

This is **patiently bearing injuries.**

This is **bearing with the taunting of others.**

This is **bearing with others who are weak** and who can't do all things you can.

This means **not expecting others to be as strong or spiritual as you.**

This means **accepting difficulties without complaining.**

This means **submitting joyfully to God's providence.**

b. Kindness – This refers to being sweet. This is a grace that makes people like you.

It is a very rare grace in our modern society where people are taught to look out for themselves.

Naturally you aren't kind, but when the Spirit works in you, you bear fruits of kindness.

c. Goodness – This refers to being good and doing good to your neighbors. But it also requires you stay **away from things that are bad.**

Since the Tree you are drawing nourishment from is good, the fruit must be good. This is the Holy Spirit's work.

3. Fruits that help you to serve others outwardly.

a. Faithfulness – While old translations use the word “faith,” the intention is not the having of faith but the living of faith, or showing faithfulness. This requires that you do your job conscientiously... ignoring nothing.

Matthew 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you pay tithes** of mint and anise and cummin, and have **neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith.** These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Titus 2:10 not pilfering, **but showing all good fidelity,** that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Even if you don't like the job you have to do, you still do it. The Spirit urges you to do it.

b. Gentleness – Or meekness. Gentleness is not a state of mind, but an evident fruit. It includes your tone of voice.

Others will want to be around you. |

The Spirit makes you gentle, if you let him.

This is saying a kind word to the tired or hurting.

c. Self-control – This refers to holding and controlling your appetites and passions.

This means you will **abstain from illicit drugs** and harmful food and drinks. It refers to being able to **control your temper and your tongue**. It requires that you **control your passion for money and power**.

How this is needed today! Let the Spirit produce this in you.

4. Lessons:

a. Every good tree will bear these 9 fruits. If you don't produce good fruits, wonder if you are in Christ.

b. Do you regularly get a bumper crop of these fruits of the Spirit? The more the Spirit guides you, works in you, and nourishes you, the more fruit you will produce. Let him give you the desire to love and serve your neighbor.

Avoiding worship and the Lord's Supper will make you unproductive - barren.

Let the Holy Spirit help you to bear fruits so you are able to nourish your friends and the lost.

Extent of Good Fruits

1. Apostle Paul then said something quite interesting: There is no law against bearing fruits of the Holy Spirit.

2. What does this mean?

While laws are made for the purpose of restraining men, godly men (who are bearing good fruits) don't need laws to compel them what to do or not do.

They do what is good without the law!

They don't want to be lawbreakers.

The Christian's heart is molded according to the righteousness of Christ.

Obedying becomes more and more natural.

Look how Apostle Paul taught this to Timothy. **This is what new life does!**

1 Timothy 1:9 knowing this: that **the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless** and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

3. These good fruits bring wonderful rewards from the Father of Rewards – great rewards!

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, **And in keeping them there is great reward.**

These rewards may start to come in this life, but they come for sure in heaven.

4. Lessons:

a. Because you are redeemed and given a new heart by the Holy Spirit – a heart that can love God—and because he continues to plant the good seed of the Word in you, you will produce fruit of the Spirit!

You won't focus on the condemnation of the law because you can't be condemned, not ever! Christ bore your condemnation.

You'll focus on bearing fruit.

This is no limit to how much you can bear!

b. Take an evaluation of your life! How much fruit of the Holy Spirit is present and useful in your life? How much are people nourished by this fruit? When was the last time you nourished someone?

c. Don't be fooled by those who are not believers who seem to show these gifts of the Spirit. If they don't have the Spirit in them, they are not bearing fruits of the Spirit.

These fruits are “specious disguises.” They fool the giver and the receiver.

You need a redeemed heart to bear good fruit.

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit gives 9 major fruits that are **visible, nourishing, and beneficial** - beneficial to your Savior, his children, and you! You must bear all of them and bear great quantities of them.

Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

1. I trust you are abandoning the works of the flesh and bearing fruits of the Spirit.

You are surrendering to God so his Spirit can clean you, plant good seeds in you, nourish you, and lead you to bear good fruits.

2. I trust those around you are able to enjoy the fruits of the Spirit you are bearing. I trust your wife sees your kindness. I hope your husband sees your joy. I hope your parents see your self-control. I pray your boss sees your faithfulness. I want your neighbor to see your peace. I desire the drivers on the road see your patience. In fact, I hope everyone sees your love!

3. Never forget the reason you are able to bear fruits: The tree on which the Jesus was crucified.

Finally: **If you aren't a Christian, you can't bear anything good.** The only way you bear good fruit is if your spirit has new life. The Holy Spirit does this by using God's Word to regenerate your soul. **Only he can do this work.** If you want this new life to bear good fruits, ask him. He will give it for free.