

# Fruit of the Spirit

## Key Verse

*Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)*

## Exploring the Bible

### I. The Battle

*Galatians 5:16-18 - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)*

Question: If we walk by the Spirit, what will we not gratify (verse 16)?

Answer:

Question: The desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit are (choose one): *The same as each other / Opposed to each other*

Answer:

*Romans 8:7-8 - For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (ESV)*

Question: Can the flesh please God?

Answer:

Question: Why can't the flesh please God (verse 7)?

Answer:

What exactly is the flesh? In passages like this it refers to more than just our physical bodies or the flesh on our bones. It refers to everything related to our sinful nature that finds its gratification through our physical bodies. The flesh is completely hostile to

God. Everything that God requires of man for righteous living the flesh immediately rebels against. That is why, if we are going to live the way God wants us to live, it requires not only a supernatural encounter with God (salvation or being born again) but also the power of a supernatural being living within us producing desires within us that are in line with the requirements of God. In this way we are able to live in obedience to God out of passion rather than commandment.

## II. The Works of the Flesh

*Galations 5:19-21 - Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (ESV)*

Question: The works of the flesh are (choose one): *obvious / hidden?*

Answer:

Everything listed in these verses are in direct opposition to the 10 commandments. The 10 commandments were the moral law that God gave to the Israelites when God was establishing them as a nation and as His people. This list in these verses is not exhaustive. We could add many other items. But, what each of these items in this list represent are actions that flow from the "desires of the flesh" (verse 17).

*Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. (ESV)*

Question: What was the purpose of the law?

Answer:

God's law, the 10 commandments, was never intended to give eternal life or to save anyone. Its purpose was to let everyone on this earth know exactly what it was that God considered sin. But more than that it was designed to show everyone on this earth that they are sinners who are not able to live up to the moral standard that God has set. Instead of obeying the 10 commandments we naturally produce the list of actions in verses 19-21.

*Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)*

Question: What are the wages of sin?

Answer:

In a previous lesson we learned the difference between gifts, harvest, inheritance, and wages. Wages are always paid to someone for work they have done. In this case the works of the flesh earn wages, but the wages are not good ones. The wages of sin is death.

### III. The Fruit of the Spirit

*Galatians 5:22-23 - the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (ESV)*

Question: Is there any law against the items listed in this passage?

Answer:

While the works of the flesh focused on the results that come from yielding to the desires of the flesh, this section focuses on what the "desires of the Spirit" mentioned in verse 17 look like. If these desires are the desires controlling our life, then we will be walking in obedience to God and all that He required in the 10 commandments. It is impossible to imagine anyone who is walking with the fruit of love or peace living in violation of any of the 10 commandments.

### IV. Producing the Fruit of the Spirit

Have you ever heard anyone say, "I need more patience so I have been praying and asking God for more patience." There is one problem with this prayer. It is unanswerable. Why? Because patience is a fruit of the Spirit. Patience come from the Holy Spirit, so if it is a fruit of the Spirit and we have the Holy Spirit in our lives, we have all the patience we will ever need. If we are struggling with patience, our prayer should NOT be, "Lord give me more patience" but instead it should be, "Lord, why isn't the fruit of patience manifesting in my life?" This goes for any of the fruit in the list of the fruit of the Spirit. So, how do we increase the production of this fruit in our lives?

*Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (ESV)*

Question: If you sow to the Spirit what do you reap?

Answer:

In a previous lesson we learned about sowing and reaping. Fruit is always the result or harvest from something we have sown. Therefore, the fruit of the Spirit is the result of the law of sowing and reaping. We can't sow to the flesh and expect to produce the fruit of the Spirit. In order to produce the fruit of the Spirit we must sow to the Spirit.

*Galatians 5:18 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (ESV)*

Question: If you are led by the Spirit you are no longer under what(verse 18)

Answer:

Before we were saved we didn't have any choices. We only had our unsaved, fallen, sinful nature (the flesh) to follow and that is what we did, producing the works of the flesh. But now, since we have been saved we have a choice. We can choose to respond to the desires of the flesh and continue to reap a harvest of corruption, or we can choose to respond to the desires of the Spirit. As we do, we will be led by the Spirit, and the Spirit will be able to produce His fruit in us.

## **Practical Exercise:**

Do you find that the fruit of the Spirit is not as abundant in your life as you would like? This is a primary result of sowing to the flesh and yielding to the desires of the flesh. If you want more of the fruit of the Spirit to manifest in your life, then here is your challenge. Ask God to show you by His Spirit every area where you are sowing to the flesh and yielding to the desires of the flesh. Then ask Him for the grace to begin sowing to the Spirit and yielding to the desires of the Spirit in those areas.