

# ***THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT***



**GULF SHORES**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Gulf Shores, AL*

## ***BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE***

*Prepared by Ray Reynolds*



# ***THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT***

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**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”*  
**(Galatians 5:22-23)**

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*This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for use in Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Dr. Edgar Elliott, Mark Copeland, Albert Barnes, Gleason L. Archer, Irving L. Jenson, Robert Milligan, Matthew Henry, Eric Gray, Ben Hayes, Chuck South, Philip Goad, Philip Bradley, Justin Guin, Andrew Itson, Ken Forrest, Chis Pinney, David Sargent, Ted Burluson, and other sources.*



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## **INTRODUCTION TO THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Introduction: The letter to the Galatians addresses the works of the flesh and compares them to the wholesome fruit of the Spirit. Paul is engaged in the debate of grace-oriented Christianity over works-driven Judaism. He feared that the brethren would fail to walk by the Spirit. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Bearing Fruit For God = "love, joy, peace"**

**Romans 5:8** says, *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

**Romans 15:13** says, *"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

**Romans 16:20** says, *"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."*

### **II. Bearing Fruit For Others = "patience, kindness, goodness"**

**Romans 2:4** asks, *"Do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"*

**Romans 12:10** says, *"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."*

**Romans 15:14** says, *"Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."*

### **III. Bearing Fruit For Ourselves = "faithfulness, gentleness, self-control"**

**Romans 3:3** says, *"For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?"*

**Romans 6:20-23** says, *"When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**Romans 12:16** says, *"Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion."*

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Do you prefer the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit? Are you ready to obey God's will? It's time to bear fruit!



# **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next several weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on love. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Love Is Essential For Genuine Christianity**

**I Corinthians 13:1-3** says, *"I may speak in different languages of people or even angels. But if I do not have love, I am only a noisy bell or a crashing cymbal. I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have all knowledge, and I may have faith so great I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and I may even give my body as an offering to be burned. But I gain nothing if I do not have love."* (NCV)

- \* Talk vs. Walk
- \* Attendance vs. Worship
- \* Work vs. Service

### **II. Love Is Perfection In The Making**

**I Corinthians 13:4-6** says, *"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love takes no pleasure in evil but rejoices over the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures."* (NCV)

- \* Love is expressed perfectly in our Father.
- \* Love is expressed perfectly in our Savior.
- \* Love is expressed perfectly in the Holy Spirit.

### **III. Love Is Something That Grows Throughout Our Walk**

**I Corinthians 13:7-12** says, *"Love never ends. There are gifts of prophecy, but they will be ended. There are gifts of speaking in different languages, but those gifts will stop. There is the gift of knowledge, but it will come to an end. The reason is that our knowledge and our ability to prophesy are not perfect. But when perfection comes, the things that are not perfect will end. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. It is the same with us. Now we see a dim reflection, as if we were looking into a mirror, but then we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part, but then I will know fully, as God has known me."* (NCV)

- \* Supernatural spiritual gifts were never meant to last forever.
- \* Love grows because it's a natural expression of the Spirit.
- \* Love will motivate us to explainable things.

#### **IV. Love Is A Virtue That Lasts Forever**

**I Corinthians 13:13** says, "*So these three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.*" (NCV)

- \* Love is our faith in action.
- \* Love is proof of our hope.
- \* Love is a reflection of something eternal.

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Love?**

- L - Listen (**James 1:19**)
- O - Overlook (**Matthew 5:39**)
- V - Vulnerability (**Romans 12:18-19**)
- E - Encourage (**Hebrews 10:24-25**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to love?



# **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next several weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on joy. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Grace is a Key to Experiencing Joy**

**Philippians 1:2, 7** says, "*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...And I know that I am right to think like this about all of you, because I have you in my heart. All of you share in God's grace with me while I am in prison and while I am defending and proving the truth of the Good News.*" (NCV)

- \* Saying Grace vs. Speaking Grace
- \* Eliminate the Negative & Accentuate the Positive
- \* Build On Your Strengths

### **II. Humbleness is a Key to Experiencing Joy**

**Philippians 2:5-11** says, "*In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death - death on a cross. So God raised him to the highest place. God made his name greater than every other name so that every knee will bow to the name of Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and bring glory to God the Father.*" (NCV)

- \* Seek the Lowest Place
- \* God Does the Exalting
- \* Name Dropping

### **III. Knowledge is a Key to Experiencing Joy**

**Philippians 3:9-11** says, "*Now I am right with God, not because I followed the law, but because I believed in Christ. God uses my faith to make me right with him. I want to know Christ and the power that raised him from the dead. I want to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death. Then I have hope that I myself will be raised from the dead.*" (NCV)

- \* Higher Learning
- \* Faith Walking
- \* Knowing, Sharing, and Dying

#### **IV. Contentment is a Key to Experiencing Joy**

**Philippians 4:4-13** says, "*Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy. Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you. I am very happy in the Lord that you have shown your care for me again. You continued to care about me, but there was no way for you to show it. I am not telling you this because I need anything. I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens, when I have enough to eat and when I go hungry, when I have more than I need and when I do not have enough. I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.*" (NCV)

- \* Be Full of Joy ALWAYS!
- \* Stop Worrying
- \* Find Joy in the Moment

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Have Joy?**

- J - Jesus First (**Matthew 6:33**)
- O - Others Second (**Matthew 7:12**)
- Y - Yourself Last (**Mark 12:31**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to have joy?



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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PEACE**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next several weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on peace. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Peace Can Be Lost**

**I Thessalonians 5:23-24** says, *"Now may God himself, the God of peace, make you pure, belonging only to him. May your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—be kept safe and without fault when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. You can trust the One who calls you to do that for you."* (NCV)

- \* Paul's Experience
- \* Paul's Fears
- \* Paul's Warning

### **II. Peace Must Be Pursued**

**II Timothy 2:22** says, *"Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."* (NCV)

- \* Peace Takes Effort
- \* Peace Is A Personal Choice
- \* Peace Is A Fruit-Bearing Experience

### **III. Peace Must Be Initiated**

**Colossians 1:20** says, *"And through Christ, God has brought all things back to himself again—things on earth and things in heaven. God made peace through the blood of Christ's death on the cross."* (NCV)

- \* Reconcile With God
- \* Reconcile With Others
- \* Be A Minister of Reconciliation

### **IV. Peace Must Be Kept**

**Colossians 3:15** says, *"Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking, because you were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful."* (NCV)

- \* Peace Needs to Control Our Thoughts
- \* Peace Needs to Control Our Actions
- \* Peace Needs to Control Our Hearts

## ***V. What Does It Mean To Have Peace?***

- P - Presence of God (**Matthew 28:20**)
- E - Endurance in Christ (**Philippians 4:13**)
- A - Anointing of the Holy Spirit (**I John 2:20, 27**)
- C - Contentment Without Understanding (**Philippians 4:7**)
- E - Everyday Trust (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to have peace?



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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PATIENCE**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next several weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on patience. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. The Patience of God**

**I Timothy 1:17** says, " *But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.*" (NCV)

- \* The Patience of God in the Christian Age
- \* The Patience of God in the Mosaic Age
- \* The Patience of God in the Patriarchal Age

### **II. The Patience of Godly People**

**II Timothy 3:10-11** says, " *You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.*" (NCV)

- \* The Patience of the Apostle Paul
- \* The Patience of King David
- \* The Patience of Job

### **III. The Steps Toward Patience**

**Colossians 1:9-12** says, " *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*" (NCV)

- \* If You Desire Patience You Must Know God Is With You
- \* If You Desire Patience You Must Know God Will Bless You
- \* If You Desire Patience You Must Know God Will Glorify You
- \* If You Desire Patience You Must Know God Will Use You

#### **IV. The Benefits of Patience**

**II Thessalonians 3:5** says, *"Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ."* (NCV)

- \* Patience Leads Us To Perfect Love
- \* Patience Leads Us To Unity
- \* Patience Leads Us To Prayer
- \* Patience Leads Us To Bear More Fruit

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Have Patience?**

- P - Prayer (**Psalm 40:13**)
- A - Accountability (**Romans 14:11-12**)
- T - Thankfulness (**I Thessalonians 5:16-18**)
- I - Integrity (**Job 2:3**)
- E - Emotion (**Psalm 34:18**)
- N - Never Give Up (**Galatians 6:9**)
- C - Compassion (**I Corinthians 13:4**)
- E - Effort (**Matthew 7:7**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to have patience?



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## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS KINDNESS**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next several weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on kindness. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Recognizing The Kindness of God**

**Romans 2:3-4** says, "You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change." (The Message)

- \* A Radically Changed Life
- \* A Dangerous Walk
- \* A Difficult Path

### **II. Remembering The Kindness of God**

**Titus 3:3-7** says, "In the past we also were foolish. We did not obey, we were wrong, and we were slaves to many things our bodies wanted and enjoyed. We spent our lives doing evil and being jealous. People hated us, and we hated each other. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior was shown, he saved us because of his mercy. It was not because of good deeds we did to be right with him. He saved us through the washing that made us new people through the Holy Spirit. God poured out richly upon us that Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Savior. Being made right with God by his grace, we could have the hope of receiving the life that never ends." (NCV)

- \* The Life That Never Ends
- \* The Evil Life We Left Behind
- \* The Amazing Grace of God

### **III. Revived By The Kindness of God**

**Ephesians 2:6-9** says, "And he raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the heavens. He did this for those in Christ Jesus so that for all future time he could show the very great riches of his grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus. I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it." (NCV)

- \* The Love of God
- \* The Sacrifice of Jesus
- \* The Conviction of the Holy Spirit

#### **IV. Represent The Kindness of God**

**Colossians 3:12-17** says, " God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So you should always clothe yourselves with mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you. Even more than all this, clothe yourself in love. Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity. Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking, because you were all called together in one body to have peace. Always be thankful. Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and instruct each other by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus." (NCV)

- \* New Life = New Clothing
- \* New Life = New Attitude
- \* New Life = New Mission

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Have Kindness?**

- K - Kingdom Mindset (**I Corinthians 6:9-10**)
- I - Intimacy (**I John 4:7-8**)
- N - Nature (**Genesis 2:20-31**)
- D - Destiny (**Romans 8:28-31**)
- N - Niceness (**Ephesians 4:32**)
- E - Exemplary (**I Timothy 4:12**)
- S - Speech (**Ephesians 4:9**)
- S - Searching (**Matthew 25:31-46**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to be full of kindness?



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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GOODNESS**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next few weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on goodness. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. The Spirit of God is Good**

**Titus 3:4-5** says, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." (ESV)

- \* We Know God's Spirit is Good Because of His Nature
- \* We Know God's Spirit is Good Because of His Creation
- \* We Know God's Spirit is Good Because of His Generosity

### **II. The Spirit of God's Son is Good**

**Romans 5:8** says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (NKJV)

- \* We Know God's Son is Good Because of His Sacrifice
- \* We Know God's Son is Good Because of His Wisdom
- \* We Know God's Son is Good Because of His Blessings

### **III. The Spirit of God's Children Should Be Good**

**II Thessalonians 1:11-12** says, "Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." (NKJV)

- \* The Message of God's Children Proves They Are Good
- \* The Lifestyle of God's Children Proves They Are Good
- \* The Works of God's Children Proves They Are Good

### **IV. God Has Expectations for His Children**

**Ephesians 5:8-9** says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord." (NIV)

- \* God Expects Us To Give Good Gifts
- \* God Expects Us To Focus on Good Things
- \* God Expects Us To Be Living Examples of the Good News

***V. What Does It Mean To Have Goodness?***

- G - Generous (**Ruth 2:14-16**)
- O - Others Focused (**Matthew 7:12**)
- O - Open Doors (**Galatians 6:9**)
- D - Decision Making (**James 1:2-8**)
- N - Neighborly (**Romans 15:2**)
- E - Equality (**Galatians 3:28**)
- S - Service (**I Corinthians 3:8**)
- S - Spirituality (**Colossians 3:1-3**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to be show goodness?



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## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS FAITHFULNESS**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. For the next few weeks we will study each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on faithfulness. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Faithful Christians Are Faithful Supporters**

**II Timothy 2:2** says, *"And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* (NKJV)

- \* Faithful Christians Support The Faith
- \* Faithful Christians Support Sharing The Faith
- \* Faithful Christians Support Men & Women of Faith

### **II. Faithful Christians Are Faithful Servants**

**I Corinthians 4:14-17** says, *"I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church."* (ESV)

- \* Faithful Christians Serve God
- \* Faithful Christians Serve The Family of God
- \* Faithful Christians Serve The Community

### **III. Faithful Christians Are Faithful Students**

**II Thessalonians 3:1-5** says, *"And now, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the Lord's teaching will continue to spread quickly and that people will give honor to that teaching, just as happened with you. And pray that we will be protected from stubborn and evil people, because not all people believe. But the Lord is faithful and will give you strength and will protect you from the Evil One. The Lord makes us feel sure that you are doing and will continue to do the things we told you. May the Lord lead your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience."* (NCV)

- \* Faithful Christians Study The Word of God
- \* Faithful Christians Search The Word of God
- \* Faithful Christians Surrender to the Word of God

#### **IV. Faithful Christians Are Faithful Stewards**

**II Corinthians 8:1-7** says, "And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (NIV)

- \* Faithful Christians Are Good Stewards of Their Abilities/Talents
- \* Faithful Christians Are Good Stewards of Their Opportunities/Time
- \* Faithful Christians Are Good Stewards of Their Possessions/Treasures

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Have Faithfulness?**

- F - Family (**Ephesians 4:16**)
- A - Attitude (**Matthew 5:3-11**)
- I - Importance (**Matthew 6:33**)
- T - Trust (**I Peter 5:7**)
- H - Humility (**Philippians 4:2**)
- F - Fruitful (**John 15:1-8**)
- U - Understanding (**Psalms 119:34**)
- L - Light (**I John 1:7-10**)
- N - Newness (**Romans 6:4**)
- E - Emotions (**John 14:1-6**)
- S - Separation From Sin (**Romans 5:10**)
- S - Servanthood (**II Corinthians 4:15**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to be faithful?



# **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Bible Class Study Guide (by Ray Reynolds)  
**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GENTLENESS**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. This week we will continue a study of each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on gentleness. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. We Learn Gentleness From Our Savior**

**II Corinthians 10:1** says, *"I, Paul, am begging you with the gentleness and the kindness of Christ."* (NCV)

- \* Jesus' Gentleness Is Seen in His Humble Spirit
- \* Jesus' Gentleness Is Seen in His Forgiving Nature
- \* Jesus' Gentleness Is Seen in His Servant Heart

### **II. We Learn Gentleness From Our Father**

**Colossians 3:12** says, *"God has chosen you and made you his holy people. He loves you. So you should always clothe yourselves with mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* (NCV)

- \* God's Gentleness Calls Us To Live a Holy Life
- \* God's Gentleness Challenges Us To Live a High Calling
- \* God's Gentleness Convicts Us To Live an Honorable Lifestyle

### **III. We Learn Gentleness From Our Family**

**Philippians 4:5-7** says, *"Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* (NCV)

- \* God's Family Should Be Led By Gentle Shepherds
- \* God's Family Should Be Led By Gentle Deacons & Evangelists
- \* God's Family Should Be Led By Gentle Disciples

### **IV. The World Learns Gentleness From the Children of God**

**Colossians 3:17-25** says, *"Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord. And in all you do, give thanks to God the Father through Jesus. Wives, yield to the authority of your husbands, because this is the right thing to do in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them. Children, obey your parents in all things, because this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not nag your children. If you are too hard to please, they may*

*want to stop trying. Slaves, obey your masters in all things. Do not obey just when they are watching you, to gain their favor, but serve them honestly, because you respect the Lord. In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people. Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people. You are serving the Lord Christ. But remember that anyone who does wrong will be punished for that wrong, and the Lord treats everyone the same."* (NCV)

- \* Gentleness Should Be In Our Home
- \* Gentleness Should Be In Our Workplace
- \* Gentleness Should Be In Our Relationships

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Have Gentleness?**

- G - Giving (**Mark 9:41**)
- E - Educated (**Proverbs 8:33**)
- N - New Life (**Romans 6:4**)
- T - Tamed (**James 3:2-12**)
- L - Lowly/Humble (**Matthew 11:28-30**)
- E - Encouraging (**I Thessalonians 5:14**)
- N - No Vengeance (**Hebrews 10:30-31**)
- E - Equality (**Philippians 2:5-11**)
- S - Self-Control (**I Peter 2:18-25**)
- S - Submissive (**Matthew 5:5**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to reveal gentleness?



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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS SELF-CONTROL**

Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Each attribute reflects our Savior. This week we conclude a study of each of these characteristics. In this lesson, we need to focus on self-control. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Who Should Practice Self-Control?**

- \* Husbands & Wives Should Practice Self-Control (**I Corinthians 7:5**)
- \* Single Christians Should Practice Self-Control (**I Corinthians 7:9**)
- \* Athletes Should Practice Self-Control (**I Corinthians 9:25**)
- \* Young Women Should Practice Self-Control (**I Timothy 2:9**)
- \* Preachers Should Practice Self-Control (**I Timothy 4:12**)
- \* Elders Should Practice Self-Control (**Titus 1:8**)
- \* Older Women Should Practice Self-Control (**Titus 2:1**)
- \* Older Men Should Practice Self-Control (**Titus 2:2**)
- \* Young Men Should Practice Self-Control (**Titus 2:6**)

### **II. What Does It Mean To Practice Self-Control?**

**II Timothy 1:6-7** says, *"This is why I remind you to keep using the gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. Now let it grow, as a small flame grows into a fire. God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control."*

- \* The Self-Control of the Holy Spirit Removes Our Fear
- \* The Self-Control of the Holy Spirit Fuels Us With Power
- \* The Self-Control of the Holy Spirit Provokes Us To Love

### **III. Why Should We Practice Self-Control?**

**I Thessalonians 5:5-8** says, *"You are all people who belong to the light and to the day. We do not belong to the night or to darkness. So we should not be like other people who are sleeping, but we should be alert and have self-control. Those who sleep, sleep at night. Those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But we belong to the day, so we should control ourselves. We should wear faith and love to protect us, and the hope of salvation should be our helmet."* (NCV)

- \* Self-Control Establishes Our Perspective
- \* Self-Control Ignites Our Spiritual Flame
- \* Self-Control Equips Us For Spiritual Warfare

#### **IV. When Should We Practice Self-Control?**

**II Timothy 3:1-5** says, *"Remember this! In the last days there will be many troubles, because people will love themselves, love money, brag, and be proud. They will say evil things against others and will not obey their parents or be thankful or be the kind of people God wants. They will not love others, will refuse to forgive, will gossip, and will not control themselves. They will be cruel, will hate what is good, will turn against their friends, and will do foolish things without thinking. They will be conceited, will love pleasure instead of God, and will act as if they serve God but will not have his power. Stay away from those people."* (NCV)

- \* Self-Control Will Be Hardest When You Face Adversity
- \* Self-Control Will Be Hardest When You Feel Alone
- \* Self-Control Will Be Hardest When You Are Surrounded By Sin

#### **V. What Does It Mean To Have Self-Control?**

S - Self-Esteem (**Genesis 1:26-27**)

E - Eternity (**Matthew 7:21**)

L - Lead (**II Chronicles 19:5-7**)

F - Freedom (**Galatians 5:1**)

C - Courage (**Acts 4:31**)

O - Obedience (**I John 2:3**)

N - Neighborly (**Mark 12:20-31**)

T - Trials (**James 1:2-4**)

R - Repentance (**Luke 13:3, 5**)

O - Openness (**Hebrews 4:13**)

L - Loyalty (**Matthew 6:24**)

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to show self-control?



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*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)*

## **CONCLUSION ON THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Introduction: Paul warns the Galatians about the works of the flesh. Then he identifies the fruit of the Spirit. We have studied of each of these characteristics. We want to conclude this series by noticing that there is "no law" against them. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Following The Spirit**

**Galatians 5:16** says, *"So I tell you: Live by following the Spirit. Then you will not do what your sinful selves want."* (NCV)

### **II. Resisting The Spirit**

**Galatians 5:17** says, *"Our sinful selves want what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit wants what is against our sinful selves. The two are against each other, so you cannot do just what you please."* (NCV)

### **III. Led By The Spirit**

**Galatians 5:18** says, *"But if the Spirit is leading you, you are not under the law."* (NCV)

### **IV. The Spiritual Kingdom**

**Galatians 5:19-21** says, *"The wrong things the sinful self does are clear: being sexually unfaithful, not being pure, taking part in sexual sins, worshiping gods, doing witchcraft, hating, making trouble, being jealous, being angry, being selfish, making people angry with each other, causing divisions among people, feeling envy, being drunk, having wild and wasteful parties, and doing other things like these. I warn you now as I warned you before: Those who do these things will not inherit God's kingdom."* (NCV)

### **V. The Fruit Of The Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22-23** says, *"But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience (longsuffering), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong."* (NCV)

### **VI. Living In The Spirit**

**Galatians 5:24-26** says, *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do. We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the Spirit. We must not be proud or make trouble with each other or be jealous of each other."* (NCV)

Conclusion: God wants us to become alive in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to be fruitful?