

Galatians 5:22-23

22-23. But the **FRUIT of the Spirit** is LOVE, joy, PEACE, longsuffering (patience), KINDNESS, goodness (meekness, humility), faithfulness, GENTLENESS, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **James 3:17-18** "But the wisdom that is from above (from God) is first pure, then _____, _____, willing to yield (humble, submissive), full of _____ and good _____, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the _____ of righteousness is sown in _____ by those who make peace."
- **John 15:4-5 & 11** "Abide in _____, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear _____ of itself, unless it abides in the _____, neither can you, unless you abide in _____. I am the vine, you are the _____. He who _____ in Me, and I in him, _____ much _____; for without _____ you can do nothing." (Verse 11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My _____ may remain in you, and that your _____ may be full."

Definition: "The FRUIT of the SPIRIT" - The Holy Spirit is the POWER SOURCE for the growth of this FRUIT as you ABIDE in Jesus, but there are hindrances to the filling of the Spirit. If your heart and mind are filled with anxiety, anger, fear, doubt, selfishness, pride, or any other "works" or "lusts of the flesh" (Galatians 5:14-21), those attitudes will control you. **If you allow your heart and mind to be CONTROLLED and FILLED with God's Spirit, the evidence ("fruit") will be seen in your life**, and you will be filled with his love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit. Your life will exhibit **the fruits of the Spirit which are in essence the character qualities of Jesus Christ**. Jesus promises that **the spiritual fruit of His JOY** will remain in you, and that your JOY will be full, if you abide in Him. There is a great deal of confusion about the filling of the Holy Spirit, and also about abiding in Christ, and how to bear spiritual fruit. **To "ABIDE" in Jesus simply means to remain in a close relationship and constant fellowship with Him - to stay connected**. Jesus came to live in your heart when you received Him by faith. He dwells in you by His Spirit - the Holy Spirit. All the FRUIT of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control will be abundant in your life as you allow the Holy Spirit to control your heart, mind, and actions. **This is what Jesus meant by our lives producing fruit that will glorify God the Father**. Many well-meaning Christians struggle so hard to have these Christlike qualities (the "fruit of the Spirit") in their lives, but they fail to realize that the fruit must come from within, from the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts, and **by YIELDING to Him. It is NOT by struggling, but by SURRENDERING**, that the Holy Spirit is allowed to fill us and produce His fruit. Jesus said that without Him, we can do nothing, and by that He meant that **ONLY His Spirit working within us can PRODUCE His FRUIT** in our lives. You must completely surrender your life to Jesus Christ, learn to abide in Him, work out and resolve the barriers of sin and dysfunction from your past, and **the fruit of the Spirit will come automatically. Anything you do "apart from Him" is "in the FLESH" and worthless.**

- **John 15:8** "By this My _____ is _____, that you _____ much _____."
- **I John 4:13 & 15** "By this we know that we _____ in _____, and He in us, because He has given us of His _____. (Verse 15) "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God _____ in him, and _____ in _____."

- **Ephesians 5:9** "(for the _____ of the _____ is in all _____, righteousness, and _____)."
- **II Peter 1:5-8** "But also for this very reason giving all _____, add to your _____ virtue (moral excellence); and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge _____ - _____; and to _____-control perseverance (patience); and to _____ godliness; and to godliness brotherly _____; and to brotherly kindness _____. For if these are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor _____ in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **Colossians 1:10** "That you may have a walk _____ of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being _____ in every good work and increasing in the _____ of God."
- **John 15:8** "By this is My Father glorified, that you _____ much _____; so you will [prove to] be My _____."

Definition: "GIVING ALL DILIGENCE" - The dictionary defines **DILIGENCE** or **being diligent** as "characterized by steady, earnest and **energetic application and EFFORT.**" There are some things **in your Christian walk that require that kind of EFFORT** and perseverance, and you need to APPLY God's word to your life and situations. We're not talking about working for your salvation, because **salvation is NOT of WORKS, but of grace** (Eph. 2:8-9). This is concerning our spiritual growth, and the BLESSINGS of God, and rewards both here and in heaven. But how does this coincide with **"It is not by struggling, but by SURRENDERING,** that the Holy Spirit is allowed to fill us and produce His fruit"? Because our "diligence" is **NOT in struggling and striving in our own fleshly strength,** but **we must be diligent to ALLOW the Holy Spirit to do His work** and bear His fruit. **Yielding and submitting our wills to God is NOT as easy** as it may sound (we want to think we can still "be in control", or we have big egos, and lots of pride), and it takes a lot of "work" and "diligence" on our part to stay close to Christ and yield our lives to Him. **You are to "ADD to your faith"** certain qualities listed in these verses. God will reward your diligence, and Jesus said it is proportionate to **HOW MUCH effort you put into seeking God's will in your life.** With the "same measure" you use, which means the **amount of diligence,** effort and perseverance you put into **seeking God's will and obeying it,** the rewards or blessings will be measured back to you.

- **Mark 4:24** "And He said to them, 'Take heed what you _____. With the _____ measure you use, it will be _____ to you; and to you who hear, _____ will be given.'"

Definition: "VIRTUE; KNOWLEDGE; SELF-CONTROL; PERSEVERANCE; GODLINESS; BROTHERLY KINDNESS; and LOVE" - II Peter 1:8 says, "For if these are yours and abound, you will be **neither barren or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." So, if you are NOT unfruitful, then you must **be FRUITFUL,** right? **These qualities in II Peter 1:5-8 are just another way to say the "FRUIT of the Holy Spirit"** as listed in Galatians 5:22-23, and also are amazingly like the description of what love is in I Corinthians 13:1-8. First Corinthians 13, the "Love Chapter" of the Bible, tells us what love is, and also what it is not. A careful study of this description of love shows us that **it includes the fruit of the Spirit,** although some are described from the negative side: **love is NOT puffed up with pride** (fruit of goodness, also called meekness, or humility), **does NOT behave rudely** (fruit of gentleness, kindness), does not seek its own (is not selfish), is not provoked (doesn't get easily irritated, fruit of patience, gentleness, self-control), and thinks no evil (fruit of faithfulness). Love suffers long (is patient) and is kind (fruit of patience, kindness), and so forth. **All the fruit of the Spirit are summed up in the word "GODLINESS",** which means having the character attributes of God and Christ; **being and acting LIKE JESUS in all situations.** We can NEVER attain godliness in our own power and strength, but God has provided us the Holy Spirit and

the fruit of the Spirit. When we ALLOW the **Holy Spirit to produce His fruit** in our lives, **He is producing the character of Jesus in us.**

- **II Peter 1:3-4** "As His divine _____ has _____ to _____ all things that pertain to _____ and _____, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been _____ to _____ exceeding great and precious promises, that through these _____ may be _____ of the _____ nature (TO BE LIKE JESUS), having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
- **Romans 12:10** "Be _____ affectionate to one _____ with _____ love, in honor giving preference to one another."
- **I Corinthians 13:4-8** " _____ suffers long (is patient) and is _____; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up (with pride); does _____ behave _____, does not seek its own (is not selfish), is not provoked (not easily irritated), thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the _____; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. _____ never fails."

Definition: "KINDNESS, GENTLENESS, SELF-CONTROL" - Just a quick highlight on these three components of the "fruit of the Spirit" that we seem to need so much in our lives. **Kindness and gentleness should be seen in our ACTIONS as followers of Jesus, but also in our WORDS.** So many times, we speak sarcastic, angry words that cut down other people, rather than words that edify and build up others, or bring comfort and peace to a situation. Next time you open your mouth and speak scathing words against another person, which is usually caused because you are holding onto bitterness and resentment in your heart, ask the Holy Spirit to examine you, and ask Him to take control of your mouth and the attitudes of your heart. **The "FRUIT of SELF-CONTROL" is actually the Holy Spirit controlling our SELF,** not ourselves controlling our self. We must ALLOW God's Spirit to take control of our words, attitudes, and actions. This is "being filled with the Spirit."

- **Ephesians 4:32** "And be _____ to one another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you."
- **Proverbs 31:26** "She opens her _____ with _____, and on her _____ is the law of _____."
- **Colossians 3:12-13** "Therefore, as the elect of God, _____ and _____, PUT ON _____, humbleness of mind, _____, longsuffering (patience); bearing with one another, _____ one another, if anyone has a _____ against another; even as Christ _____ you, so _____ also must _____."
- **Ephesians 4:29** "Let no _____ (unkind) communication proceed out of your _____, but what is good for necessary _____, that it may impart _____ to the hearers."
- **Colossians 4:6** "Let your _____ always be with _____, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to _____ each one."
- **Proverbs 8:13** "The fear of the Lord is to hate _____; _____ and _____ and the _____ way and the _____ I hate."
- **Ephesians 5:17-18** "Therefore do not be _____, but _____ what the _____ of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be _____ with the _____."

Definition: "PERVERSE MOUTH" - A perverse mouth is one of the things GOD hates! Perverse means "turned away from, or opposing what is right or good; **CORRUPT**;

improper, stubborn, obstinate." Obviously, this would be the opposite of being under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Definition: "BE FILLED WITH the SPIRIT" - Ephesians 5:17-18 tells us that **it is God's will** for us to be FILLED with the SPIRIT and bearing spiritual fruit in our lives, and **Jesus said if we would abide in Him, we would produce this fruit. The evidence of a person being filled with the Holy Spirit is the FRUIT of the Spirit, NOT the GIFTS of the Spirit**, as some claim, and this is where much of the confusion comes from. "By their fruit you will know them," Jesus said, not "by their gifts." Jesus also said they will know we are His disciples by our love for one another, and love is a fruit of the Spirit, not a gift (see I Corinthians 13). In fact, **the evidences or proof of being filled with the Spirit** are mentioned right in the verses following **the commandment to be filled**, but we don't usually read it that way. Ephesians 5:17-21 is all one long sentence, telling us what being filled with the Holy Spirit should result in: singing and praising God in our hearts, being thankful in all things, and being submissive to one another. Ephesians 5:22-33, and 6:1-9 are a continuation of the same thought, as Paul breaks down how **being submissive and having God's LOVE in our hearts** will show itself in husband and wife relationships, children and parent relationships, and even employer and employee (servant and master) relationships. Therefore, a husband who is not loving his wife as Christ loved the church cannot claim to be filled with the Spirit, no matter what "gifts" of the Spirit he may have. A wife who is not submissive to her husband, or a child who is rebellious and disobedient to his parents cannot claim to be filled with the Spirit, no matter what gifts they may have received at one time, and **no matter how much they claim to be "Spirit-filled"** according to their church or denomination. Someone behaving rudely, or puffed up with pride, or acting in an unkind manner would obviously NOT be filled with the Spirit, since these things are **the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit**. Again, contrary to much wrong teaching, the evidence of a person being "Spirit-filled" is the fruit of the Spirit (especially LOVE), not the gifts of the Spirit. At least four "spiritual gifts" are mentioned in I Corinthians 13:1-8, and they are: speaking in tongues, prophecy, knowledge and faith, but verses 2-3 say that **without LOVE, they are NOTHING** (worthless). The Corinthian church had plenty of "gifts" (see chapters 12 and 14), but Paul said they were **carnal (fleshly), and not "spiritual" people** (I Corinthians 3:1-3)

- **John 13:35** "By this _____ men will _____ that you are My disciples, if you have _____ for one another."
- **John 15:8-9** "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much _____; so you will (PROVE to) be My _____. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; _____ in My _____."
- **Ephesians 5:18-26** "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be _____ with the _____, speaking to one another psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, _____ and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Giving _____ always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, _____ to one another in the fear of God. Wives, _____ to your own husbands, as to the Lord..... Husbands, _____ your wives, just as Christ also _____ the church and gave Himself for it....."
- **I Corinthians 13:1-8** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not _____, I have become as sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not _____, I am _____ Love suffers long (is patient) and is _____; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up (with pride); does not behave rudely, does not seek its own (is not selfish), is not provoked (not easily irritated), thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."