

Fruit of the Holy Spirit

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

The fruit of the Spirit is the spontaneous work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Spirit produces these character traits that are found in the nature of Christ. They are the by-products of Christ's control—we can't obtain them by trying to get them without his help. If we want the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, we must join our lives to his (see John 15:4-5). We must know him, love him, remember him, and imitate him. As a result, we will fulfill the intended purpose of the law—to love God and our neighbors. Which of these qualities do you want the Spirit to produce in you? Because the God who sent the law also sent the Spirit, the by-products of the Spirit-filled life are in perfect harmony with the intent of God's law. A person who exhibits the fruit of the Spirit fulfills the law far better than a person who observes the rituals but has little love in his or her heart.



Stephen Ministry

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LOVE: Agape love is love that selflessly acts on behalf of the highest interest of the one loved. It does not depend on feelings, natural human affinity, or worthiness of the one loved. In fact, the agape love which the Holy Spirit produces in us often works with or without natural motivations for love. This is love in action.

JOY: This joy abides deep in our hearts and is not necessarily related to our circumstances. It is an inner well of strength as seen in the early Christians as they endured suffering and persecution. Their joy was rooted in the love and faithfulness of God.

PEACE: God's peace is not an absence of turbulence in our lives. It is a supernatural peace that comes from trusting God and letting His spirit control our lives.

PATIENCE: We all need self restraint when provoked by others. The Spirit of God promises to give us patience so we should let Him guide us. Our patience grows as we trust God and find Him faithful through one challenge and then another.

KINDNESS: God's goodness in action. When the Holy Spirit produces kindness in us, we become humble servants who actively reflect His impartial love and compassion for people.


GOODNESS: Goodness is having a heart to be good, do good, and promote good. This inner goodness motivates right, noble and honorable words and deeds.

FAITHFULNESS: Characterized by absolute trust in God and personal trustworthiness. Faithfulness allows us to walk with God no matter what happens in life as well as be a beacon of light for others.

GENTLENESS: An inner grace primarily exercised toward God. To have gentleness is to believe God's dealings with us are good, and therefore accept them without dispute or resistance. This attitude of submission toward God brings gentleness into our relationships with others, even enemies, as we view them as the means by which God is carrying out His perfect will for our lives and producing Christ's perfect character in us

SELF-CONTROL: We need self-control to have biblical love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness. As the Spirit is allowed to develop these virtues in our lives, they motivate self-control--the good use, rather than abuse--of our God-given powers and freedoms.





**For I know the plans I have
for you, declares the LORD,
plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.
Then you will call on me
and come and pray to me,
and I will listen to you.
You will seek me and find me when
you seek me with all your heart.**

Jeremiah 29:11-13