

# The Fruit of the Spirit

**Galatians 5:16-26 Amplified Bible (AMP)** <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk *and* live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to *and* controlled *and* guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings *and* desires of the flesh (of human nature without God) <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free *but* are prevented from doing what you desire to do <sup>18</sup> But if you are guided (led) by the [Holy] Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. <sup>19</sup> Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), <sup>21</sup> Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites *and* desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the [Holy] Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. [If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit.] <sup>26</sup> Let us not become vainglorious *and* self-conceited, competitive *and* challenging *and* provoking *and* irritating to one another, envying *and* being jealous of one another.

**Galatians 5:16-26 Living Bible (TLB)** <sup>16</sup> I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. <sup>17</sup> For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures. <sup>18</sup> When you are guided by the Holy Spirit, you need no longer force yourself to obey Jewish laws. <sup>19</sup> But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group—and there will be wrong doctrine, <sup>21</sup> envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there. <sup>25</sup> If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. <sup>26</sup> Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings.

**Galatians 5:16-26 The Message (MSG)** <sup>16-18</sup> My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness. For there is a root of sinful self-interest in us that is at odds with a free spirit, just as the free spirit is incompatible with selfishness. These two ways of life are antithetical, so that you cannot live at times one way and at times another way according to how you feel on any given day. Why don't you choose to be led by the Spirit and so escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated existence? <sup>19-21</sup> It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom. <sup>22-23</sup> But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. <sup>23-24</sup> Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified. <sup>25-26</sup> Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.

Question #1: In considering **Galatians 5:16-17**, how would you describe a believers freedom?

Question #2: Read **Ephesians 5:15-21**.

a. What do you understand as the will of the Lord from these verses?

b. What practical realities of the fruit of the Holy Spirit do you see in:

v.18 \_\_\_\_\_

v.19 \_\_\_\_\_

v.20 \_\_\_\_\_

v.21 \_\_\_\_\_

Question #3: What is the connection with singing, making melody in our hearts and the Holy Spirit and how is this evident in our lives and in our interaction with each other?

#4: Read **Matthew 15:10, 18-20**. Where is all this taking place?

“the heart”

**Luke 1:51** – our imagination

**Matthew 9:3-4** – our thoughts

**Romans 1:21** – our understanding

**Romans 6:17** & **Colossians 3:15** – our will

What do we see in the “heart” of Jesus in **Philippians 2:1-5**?

#5: Looking back at **Ephesians 5:15-17**, we are exhorted to “be careful how we walk”. Why do you think the Holy Spirit emphasizes “wisdom” here? **James 3:13-18**

#6: The condition to receive: **Mark 11:20-26, Luke 11:5-13**

#7: The responsibility to maintain & grow: **Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 15:31**

Memory Verse: **Galatians 2:20**