

*Lesson 4*

**Fruit of the Spirit: Part 1**

We are born again of His Spirit and a new man in Christ Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of God's spirit in us, just as an apple is the evidence that a tree is an apple tree. The Lord reveals Himself with the fruit of His Spirit. While our fleshly body physically remains, His complete nature (fruit of the Spirit) is deposited in us so that He might be revealed in us and through us. This is evidence for ourselves and for others that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. He is now dwelling in our bodies with His characteristics and traits so we can serve Him and be witnesses to others of Jesus Christ on the earth today. The characteristics and traits of Jesus are the fruit of the Spirit and they should now become our characteristics and traits as new men and women of God. This is true for all believers who are born again. Before we look at each fruit of the Spirit individually, we must have some foundation of why they were given to us.

**Our fleshly nature versus Spiritual Nature**

When we compare our human nature with the fruit of the Spirit (God's nature), we see that it is necessary to be born again and to take on the characteristics of Christ Jesus. Human nature is described in **Galatians 5:19-21** *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."* God's nature is described in **Galatians 5:22-23** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

Our fleshly, human nature can never serve God in righteousness because it is against the very Word of God. It is futile to try to fulfil the Word of God without God's nature in us. **Galatians 5:21** tells us "...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God". But God, who is rich in mercy and grace and not willing that any should perish has made provision for us. He gives a new nature from heaven, even His Spirit so that we may be able to inherit the Kingdom and fulfill His law.

The fruit of the Spirit is part of the new man but there is a part that we must fulfil to have these characteristics manifest in our lives. There is a battle between the flesh and the Spirit, and we are specifically instructed in how to win that battle. **Galatians 5:24-25** *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* **Romans 8:11-16** *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

**John 3:30** *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* **Romans 13:14** *“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”* **Galatians 2:20** *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

These scriptures are for the believer, not the unbeliever. We must mortify our human nature by walking in God’s nature which is now in us through the fruit of His Spirit. We cannot serve both our human nature and God’s nature. **Matthew 6:24** *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

### **Purpose of The Fruit of the Spirit**

The fruit of the Spirit was in Christ Jesus when He walked on earth. We witnessed the nature of our Heavenly Father and His love towards us. Every fruit identified in Galatians 5 was displayed in Jesus in ministering the Word of God unto us. It is the fruit of the Spirit in Jesus that completely changed the world through His actions. They demonstrated the true meaning of the Word to mankind. Those qualities and characteristics were in Christ Jesus not to glorify himself but to glorify God the Father. The fruit of the Spirit is for our benefit so that the Word of God can become alive to us. The true intent is revealed not only by written words but by the Spirit of the living God. **2 Corinthians 3:3-6** *“Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”*

The fruit of the Spirit in us now also giveth life to others. The fruit of the Spirit in Christ Jesus was not for Himself but for others. The same fruit of the Spirit in us is so that others may benefit. **Matthew 5:13** *“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”* **Colossians 4:6** *“Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* **Job 6:6** *“Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt? or is there any taste in the white of an egg?”* **Psalms 34:8** *“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.”* **Psalms 119:103** *“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”* **Jeremiah 15:16** *“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”*

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The importance of the fruit of the Spirit in understanding and walking in the Word of God is beautifully shown in the following scriptures. **John 8:1-11** *“Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”* In this scripture, every fruit of the Spirit is manifest by Jesus to the woman accused and to those who accused her.

The scribes and Pharisees thought they understood the Word. Jesus revealed that they understood the Word by the letter only and not by the Spirit. Where the letter of the Word brings judgement, condemnation and certain death, the Spirit brings salvation (saved her soul). **2 Peter 3:9** *“...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* This is the true purpose of the Word of God.

### **The Individual Fruit of the Spirit**

Now that we understand the purpose of the fruit of the Spirit, we will look at each individual fruit or characteristic as identified in Galatians 5:22-23. We will see how each is manifest in us for God’s purpose and plan. There are nine specific fruit of the Spirit identified in Galatians 5:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering
5. Gentleness
6. Goodness
7. Faith
8. Meekness
9. Temperance

Human nature might be to look at the definitions of each of these traits from a dictionary. These are “fruit of the Spirit” so we must look to the Word of God (Spirit) for true understanding and revelation of each of these traits. **1 Corinthians 2:14** *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* These are Godly traits and are given to us for a Godly purpose, that is the reconciliation of man back unto the Heavenly Father which is the building of His Church. Let us begin to look at each of the fruit of the Spirit.

## Love

Love is the foundation of our entire relationship with God. All the other fruit come from love and operate by love. This is God's love, not man's love which is fatally flawed. God's love is perfect and well defined in the scriptures. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* **Romans 5:8** *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

**1 John 3:1** *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."* **1 John 4:16** *"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."* **John 17:26** *"And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."*

**John 14:23** *"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."* **John 21:15** *"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."*

**Matthew 5:44** *"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"* **John 13:34-35** *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

**1 John 3:14** *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-8** *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling 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, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."*

The nature of God's love is revealed in these scriptures. We see the qualities of God's love and the purpose of God's love given to us as a fruit of His Spirit. Love is who He is and now who we are for His love dwells in us.

In our next lesson we will continue to look at how the other fruit of the Spirit are revealed in God's Word.



**ANSWER KEY**

1. Read **Col 3: 1-17**  
My answers:

2. Read **Col 3: 1-17**  
My answers: