

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—PART 2

Galatians 5:22–23

TREE

- fruit doesn't exist without a tree; and the fruit of the Spirit doesn't exist without the Holy Spirit's presence
 - the Spirit only produces fruit in people He indwells; if He's not living in you, no fruit will be produced
 - the fruit of the Spirit is found only in believers
 - a good tree produces lots of fruit—the more a tree produces the better the tree
- the Spirit wants to produce lots of fruit in you; He's like a grafted tree: He can produce nine kinds of fruit in every believer!
 - trees that don't produce aren't much good; they're cut down and replaced with better ones (Luke 13:6–9)
 - a tree is known by its fruit (Matt 12:33; cf. 7:17–19; Luke 6:43)
 - when people see the fruit of the Spirit in action, they learn something about the Holy Spirit—they learn something about God when they see what He has produced in your soul

MENTAL ATTITUDES

- the fruit of the Spirit is produced in the mind
- the fruit of the Spirit are all mental attitudes: many Christians confuse the fruit of the Spirit with the production of good works
 - these attitudes result primarily from the Holy Spirit's teaching ministry; good works result from these attitudes (since attitudes usually express themselves in deeds)
- the sequence is: gospel hearing, faith, salvation, indwelling, Bible teaching, confession, spirituality, spiritual growth, production of fruit, Christlikeness, good works, and rewards

CHRISTLIKENESS

- the Spirit came to help you change on the inside by producing new things in your soul—attitudes you've never had before
- through filling and bombardment with God's Word, you change slowly and steadily as the fruit of the Spirit forms in your soul
 - you become more and more like Christ—a mature Christian
 - the Holy Spirit came to help you become more like Christ—to become more loving, patient, happy, peaceful, gentle, and self-controlled
- you can be a beautiful person with the character of Jesus Christ abiding in you

EXAMPLE OF LOVE

- the Holy Spirit produces God's love in our hearts (Rom 5:5):
 - (1) "the love of God" is the love God has for others;
 - (2) "has been poured out" shows this love can be transferred from God to us;
 - (3) "within our hearts" is the destination of this love—our souls; (4) "through the Holy Spirit" indicates the agent who transfers God's love to our souls; (5) "who was given to us" says we must be indwelt with the Spirit before he can transfer this love to us
 - we can have the same kind of love for others that God has!
- love motivates us to pray for one another—especially for our spiritual leaders (Rom 15:30–31):
 - note the apostle's prayer request for deliverance from persecution and for acceptance by the saints in Jerusalem (the Greek verb *sunagonizomai* 'fight or contend along with someone, then also gener. help, assist someone' implies using prayer as a weapon in spiritual warfare)
 - the Holy Spirit helps us love "all the saints" (compare Col 1:4 with 1:8)