



Fruit of the Spirit

This is a short, three-day version of a YouVersion Reading Plan by GlobalRize.org

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The moment you come to faith in Jesus Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit in your heart. He transforms you from within and makes you grow in holiness. This reading plan studies the fruit that the Holy Spirit bears in the lives of believers, as it is listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

Day 1: the fruit of the Spirit

Bible References:

Romans 8:1-17

Galatians 5:19-23

Everybody who has received eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ has received the Holy Spirit: “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him” (Romans 8:9). “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Romans 8:14). This is the background of today’s text in Galatians. Being a Christian means living by the Spirit, and this should show in our daily lives. If the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, this should become visible in the “fruit” we bear. Living by faith is not just believing certain theological truths, it includes being transformed by the Spirit and living according to God’s will.

Paul mentions nine elements of “the fruit of the Spirit”: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). During this series, we will have a closer look at some of these. We will see how they reflect God’s character, and how they work out in the life of a Christian.

Are you longing to bear this fruit of the Spirit?

Day 2: Peace

Bible References:

Romans 5:1-5

1 Corinthians 15:19-28

In the Bible, grace and peace are closely connected. Many of the New Testament letters actually use this phrase as a greeting: “Grace and peace to you”. This connection is meaningful.

The basic problem of humanity is that we naturally are not at peace with God. Sin has destroyed the relationship, and we are worthy of God’s wrath. In 1 Corinthians 15:24-25, we read about Jesus as a King who is going to destroy every rule and every authority and power and will put all his enemies under his feet. This problem of our enmity against God thus has to be solved first before we can ever experience lasting peace.

This is where grace comes in. By dying in our place, Jesus has reconciled believers to God. Through faith in Him, we can now be at peace with God. The relationship is restored, so that we can “with confidence draw near to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16) and know that – whatever may happen – nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Are you at peace with God?

Day 3: Faithfulness

Bible References:

Deuteronomy 7:6-11
2 Corinthians 1:16-22

Faithfulness is a characteristic of God. It means that we can rely upon his word, and be sure that He will do what He has promised. See for example 1 John 1:9 - "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins", or 2 Timothy 2:13 - "if we are faithless, he remains faithful".

God is faithful, and through his Spirit, He awakens faithfulness in his children as well. Without the Spirit, we just don't manage this. Faithfulness is important in "large" things, like keeping our marriage vows. But it is equally relevant in little things. How easily we promise someone that we'll visit him soon, and yet forget about it (or even didn't really take our promise too seriously). How easily we say "yes" but do "no". Then we are being unfaithful.

Faithfulness is also about taking responsibility for our God-given tasks, like a "good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). We have a responsibility to others, to be reliable and loyal, and to use the gifts and resources God has entrusted us.

Are you always faithful?

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