

**The Epistle to the Galatians**  
**Lesson #22 • Galatians 5:22-26**

**“Life in the Spirit”**

• **Part 3 of 3** •  
• **H A N D O U T** •

► In this final discussion on “Life in the Spirit,” [Part 3 of 3], Paul changes his focus from the “Acts of the Flesh” to the “Fruit of the Spirit.” He begins by laying out the problem with the Law: If one was able to obtain protection from the consequences of sin through the Law, it would be by the “works” which he must perform. However, these “works” must be fulfilled without error or compromise. Since no human being can do that, the Law is unable to deliver salvation. Furthermore, the law is not capable of reconnecting the broken relationship between God and man. So, for those who continue to depend on the Law for their salvation, there will never be a reconnected relationship with God. Reconciliation can only be experienced through God's Grace, through faith in Christ.

► Understanding how to live life in the Spirit has been Paul's ultimate goal. Thus, he concludes with this truth: It is only *through* the Fruit of the Spirit, that we are able to truly live “life **in** the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:22-26 [NLT] • But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.  
There is no law against these things!

- Q: What is significant about the phrase: “Fruit of the Spirit?”
- Q: Why is this referred to as “Fruit of the Spirit?” Wouldn't “Works of the Spirit” better describe it?
- Q: Scripture refers to both the “Fruit of the Spirit” and the “Gifts of the Spirit.” What is the difference between the two?
- Q: What is the purpose for all Believers to receive the Fruit of the Spirit while the Gifts of the Spirit are given selectively?

James 3:1 • “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

**Since Paul is focusing on the Fruit of the Spirit  
Let's take an in-depth look at the nine virtues that comprise the Fruit of the Spirit  
which are given to every Believer ...**

The nine virtues that comprise the Fruit of the Spirit divide naturally into three categories of three virtues each. We will look at each one individually:

God-Given Virtues		Relationship Virtues		Character Virtues	
1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

Q: Why are the first three virtues designated as “God-Given?”

**[1] Love:** •

**[2] Joy:** •

John 15:11 • Jesus said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

**[3] Peace:** •

John 14:27: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.

**The Second Category of the Fruit of the Spirit is the Relationship Virtues of  
Patience • Kindness • Goodness**

Q: Why are these three virtues considered to be “relationship virtues?”

**[4] Patience:** •

Joel 2:13b [NLT] • "Return to the LORD, your God, for He is Merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish."

**[5] Kindness:** •

**[6] Goodness:** •

## The Third Category of the Fruit of the Spirit is the Character Virtues of Faithfulness • Gentleness • Self-Control

### **[7] Faithfulness: •**

1 Thessalonians 3:3 • But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

### **[8] Gentleness: •**

Matthew 11:29 [NLT] • Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

### **[9] Self-Control: •**

Q: Paul ends his list of the Fruit of the Spirit with this statement: *“There is no law against these things!”* What does Paul mean by this statement?

## Paul summarizes by imparting some very needed admonishments ...

Galatians 5:24-26 [NLT] • Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Q: What is the Christian's solution to the sin-nature's control over us?

Q: Paul could have simply chosen the word “killed” or “execute” but, instead he chose “crucified.” Why is that important?

Q: Who is the one who nails our sin-nature to the Cross?

Q: Paul concludes with: *“Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.”* What does his use of the word “since” tell us?

Q: What evidence does Paul say should be present in our lives if we are living by the Spirit?

Q: Paul lists some negative traits in the last verse: *“We are not to become conceited, nor are we to provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.”* When these traits are present in us, what is their source – where do they come from?

**Here are two additional verses which succinctly summarize the call for us to surrender and live life in the Spirit ...**

John 15:9-12 • "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Colossians 3:13 • Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**Paul's letter is almost finished.  
He now takes everything he has taught about “Life in the Spirit”  
and he applies it to everyday life.  
This is where we will pick up next time ...**



Next Time • Lesson #23

**~~ Practical Exhortations ~~**

Galatians 6:1-10

