



10 July 2026

The fruit of the Holy Spirit

Summer is here. With that comes heat, temperatures over 30° here this week, and also fruit. Cherries and apricots are being enjoyed, as well as berries and early peaches.

The devotionals this summer are going to be on fruit, spiritual fruit, zeroing in on the fruit of the Holy Spirit listed in Galatians chapter 5. Today I will introduce them, and next week we will start looking at this nine-fold fruit.



The first thing to note is that to be healthy is to be fruitful. While fruit trees and vines can be lovely to look at, they are not ornamentals. Their purpose is produce fruit. Healthy trees and vines produce fruit.

Jesus told us “the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit”, and “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples” (John 15:5, 8). God recreated us in Christ to be in a vital, faithful relationship with Him, and to be fruitful.



Key to being healthy is character, Christ-like character. Our character is both the sum and a summary of our moral and ethical qualities. Just as good character is important for our overall well being, Christ-like character is vital to being spiritually healthy, and then being fruitful. One writer identified over 30 qualities of godly, Christ-like character. In these weeks we will look at the qualities in this nine-fold fruit of the Holy Spirit.

How do we grow in Christ-like character?

Let's think about the process. The first thing to note is that God is the source and the power for godly character. Remember, as the apostle Paul wrote, God predestined us to become conformed

to the image of His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:29). God being the source and power is clear in John chapter 15 where Jesus emphasizes the necessity of remaining in a vital connection, fellowship with Him to be fruitful — He is the vine, and the fruit flows from Him. Based on this Paul prayed for the believers at Colossae, that they

“may be filled with the knowledge of [God’s] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all perseverance and patience” (1:9-11).

Our part is disciplined, obedient action. Remember, Paul instructed in Philippians chapter 2, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure” (12-13). In Ephesians chapter 4 he stated two sides of this,

“you are to rid yourselves of the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (22-24).

Then realize this is a life-long process. In Romans chapter 6 Paul directs, “now present your body’s parts as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification” (19). His personal testimony is recorded in the familiar words of Philippians chapter 3,

“Not that I have already grasped it all or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (12-14).

Next week we will begin our tour with first part of the fruit in Galatians chapter 5, love.

Pastor Lyle