

What is the Fruit of the Holy Spirit?

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit represents the character of the Father. When we become His children, we adopt the characteristics of our Father into our lives. We then become reflections of His nature to the world around us, 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT: *So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.* The reflection that we show forth is the result of the acts of love and kindness that we do for others, Matthew 5:14-17 NLT: *You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

The acts of love are the result of the individual elements of the Fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22, 23 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!* We will exhibit these qualities in our lives as we focus on walking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and when we walk under the leading of the Holy Spirit, we will have an automatic reaction to do what pleases God. The thing that most pleases God is to be obedient to His will. Jesus said that if we loved Him we would obey His commands, John 14:15.

We will not be focused on sinning as we walk in obedience to God's will. The apostle Paul describes this process in, Galatians 5:16 NLT: *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.* When we fail to follow our Lord regarding spiritual discipline (the leading of the Holy Spirit), then we begin to focus on the things of this world, which will cause us to sin. We sin when we are drawn away from the things of God and partake in the things of the world, James 1:14 NLT: *Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away.*

The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring attention onto the Father so we will not become entangled with the affairs of this world. Paul describes this work in Romans 8:5, 6 NLT: *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.*

It is no surprise that the elements of the Fruit of the Holy Spirit are consistent with the nature of the Kingdom as stated by Paul in Romans 14:17 NLT: *For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* The battle then becomes the struggle to lead a life that is obedient to God's will; that is submitted to the authority of God's Kingdom; and that is being lead by the direction of the Holy Spirit. We can see therefore, that this Fruit is not merely a nice add on to the faith but rather it is the very core of the faith. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is the light that will shine into the darkness of the world and will lead people to the grace of the Father.

