

Galatians 5:22-24

What the Spirit produces in contrast to the works of the flesh—5:22a

- 1) ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is ...*
 - a) cf. 1st John 3:9; this is the natural result of God's seed being in us
 - b) It is not the same as a gift from the Spirit.
 - c) It is indisputable proof of genuine saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - d) It is the underlying orientation of selflessness instead of selfishness.
- 2) Consider the following fruit in light of 5:13-15.

Detailed list of the Spirit's fruit in the life of every genuine believer—5:22b-23

1) **Specifically**

- a) *love*—ἀγάπη—love for God, for other image bearers; self-sacrificing affection
 - i) God demonstrates this: John 3:16, 1st John 4:8; etc.
 - ii) We are responsible for this: commands to love one another
- b) *joy*—χαρά—God-centered optimism and contentment, not dependent on our circumstances
 - i) God demonstrates this: Zephaniah 3:17
 - ii) We are responsible for this: many commands to rejoice cf. Philippians 4:4
- c) *peace*—εἰρήνη—wholeness of soul, inner quietness leading to external peace
 - i) God demonstrates this: Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9
 - ii) We are responsible for this: 2nd Corinthians 13:11; 1st Thessalonians 5:13
- d) *patience*—μακροθυμία—bearing injury without avenging ourselves, no retaliation, tolerant of others when they provoke us
 - i) Cf. outbursts of anger (5:20)
 - ii) God demonstrates this: Romans 2:4; 9:22; 1st Peter 3:20; 2nd Peter 3:9
 - iii) We are responsible for this: 1st Thessalonians 5:14; James 5:7-8
- e) *beneficence*—χρηστότης—attitude of tender kindness toward others
 - i) God demonstrates this: Romans 2:4; 11:22; Ephesians 2:7; Titus 3:4; 1st Peter 2:3
 - ii) We are responsible for this: Colossians 3:12
 - iii) We are incapable of this apart from the Spirit: Romans 3:12
- f) *goodness*—ἀγαθωσύνη—active or constructive goodness
 - i) God demonstrates this: Acts 14:17;
 - ii) We are responsible for this: 1st Peter 2:15, 20; 3:6, 17; 3rd John 1:11
- g) *trust*—πίστις—loyalty toward others, trustfulness, not questioning or doubting the motives of others
 - i) God demonstrates this: 1st Corinthians 1:9; 10:13; 2nd Corinthians 1:18;
 - ii) We are responsible for this: 1st Corinthians 4:2; 1st Timothy 3:11
- h) ²³ *unselfishness*—πραΰτης—the ability to bear slights without bitterness and resentment; the ability to provide a soothing influence on someone who is angry, bitter, or resentful
 - i) God the Son demonstrates this: Matthew 11:29; 21:5; 2nd Corinthians 10:1
 - ii) We are responsible for this: Colossians 3:12; 1st Timothy 6:11; Titus 3:2

- i) *self-restraint*—ἐγκράτεια—self-control, self-discipline
 - i) It is never said that God demonstrates this.
 - ii) We are responsible for this: 1st Corinthians 9:25; 2nd Peter 1:6
- 2) **Generally**—*against such things there is no law*.
 - a) The Law never restrained or condemned these virtues. Christians don't need the Law to restrain their behavior.
 - b) The Law could never motivate or enable these virtues.
 - c) These virtues never lie dormant. They are active and dynamic. They seek expression in various ways in our life.
 - d) This fruit is the result of God's work in our lives cf. Philippians 2:12-13

Why is this fruit to be expected in the live of every genuine believer?—5:24

- 1) To whom do all Christians belong? ²⁴ *Now those who belong to Christ*
- 2) What have all Christians done? *have crucified* [aor. act. ind. σταυρώω] *the flesh*
 - a) When does this crucifixion take place? at the moment of salvation cf. Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:19-20
 - i) It is something we need to remind ourselves (cf. Romans 6:11)
 - ii) There has been a definitive break with sin and spiritual death.
 - b) What exactly has been crucified?
 - i) *along with its interests* [πάθημα] *and desires* [ἐπιθυμία].
 - ii) These are still present in the flesh that genuine believers battle. However, they no longer rule and reign in our lives.
- 3) Don't administer first aid to your flesh by flirting with temptations!

Take-home truth: As genuine believers walk in the Spirit, the glory of God will be seen in their fruitful lives.