

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

*An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries*  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

**Fruit of the Spirit**  
**Lesson 2A - Attributes of God**

return pages 5 &amp; 6

The *fruit of the Spirit* are those characteristics and attributes of God the Father that He desires to reproduce in our lives by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit so that we might be conformed to the image of His Son. These are the attributes and characteristics of God that we cannot, by our own efforts, produce for God. Only the Lord can accomplish these things in us. However, they will not be forced upon us, but will grow in us as we allow Him to have His way in our lives.

You can plant an orange tree. You can water an orange tree. You can fertilize an orange tree. You can destroy the bugs which may land on the orange tree. But you cannot produce oranges.

You can read your Bible. You can pray, study, labor, witness, and give, but you cannot produce *the fruit of the Spirit*. It is by its very designation that which the Holy Spirit of God produces, or more accurately, reproduces in the life of a born again believer.

In our opening chapter, we saw that Galatians 5:19-21 listed a sampling of *the works of the flesh* which manifest themselves in the life of every lost man and each carnally-minded saved man. These unpleasant traits are given as *adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like*. All these things are outward displays revealing that the sinful flesh has the mastery over the individual.

By contrast, Galatians 5:22-23 sets forth the delightfully pleasant fruit which will be just as clearly in evidence in the life of one controlled by the Holy Ghost. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Let's look carefully at verses 24 and 25. *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

We must be honest with ourselves that most saved, born again people have not surrendered control of their lives to Jesus Christ. Yes, they have asked a Savior to forgive their sins and take them to heaven when they die, and many of them are living in the security of that salvation and sporadically rejoicing in the certainty of that heavenly hope. But between the time they call on the Lord for salvation and the time they are escorted out of this world and into heaven, they allow Jesus Christ little or no control over their lives. This is evidenced by the fact that even among people who profess to be

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saved, we still find the remnants of those sins listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Sometimes they are more characteristic of the man or woman than the spiritual fruits listed in the verses that follow.

A man whose life is directed by Jesus Christ does not commit adultery. A woman whose life is yielded to Jesus Christ is not engaging in fornication. Jesus Christ is not the author of variance, strife, or heresy. And yet we see all these things and more among professing Christians. Sadly, these works of the flesh, which are so prominent in the lives of those who claim the name of Christ, stand as an unhappy testimony to the fact that though someone may be saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, most are still walking in accord with the dictates of the flesh rather than walking under the leadership of the Lord.

Salvation is once for all, but the realization of our weakness, the certainty of our need, and the casting of our every hope on the Son of God should be the moment by moment, day by day approach to life on the part of every saved child of God.

What the Lord who gave us eternal life desires is that each day of that life be lived with the same conviction of sin that was known on the first day. He desires that the same longing to be delivered from sin is continually working in our heart, and that the same realization that we cannot overcome transgression in our own strength will motivate us to put our faith and trust in Him - every day as on that first day. The Lord wants us coming to Him continually for victory over the flesh.

We did not save ourselves from the penalty of sin. We came by faith to the Savior, and He imparted salvation by His grace and power. How do we now save ourselves from the power of sin so that the Spirit may produce His fruit in us? We do not. We must learn to continually trust in the Lord as we trusted Him momentarily in the hour of our conversion. When we learn to cast ourselves upon Him in total dependence, spiritual fruit will grow in our lives.

**Romans 8:28-29** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.* As we have already learned, the purpose of God in saving us was to use all the things that take place in our lives to bring about in us a reproduction of the character of His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. When the world speaks of love, they refer to something their flesh craves (I love that car!) or to something that satisfied their carnal desires (emotion for a person only because of what is gained from them). When the world speaks of joy, the reference is to a giddy or euphoric state produced by something going their

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way. When the world speaks of peace, it is not a positive possession but the absence of war or the end of a conflict. When the world speaks of faith, it usually means nothing more than "I believe in something other than myself, but I cannot define it or will not define it lest I offend someone." We are not speaking here about the misuse of Bible terms by people who have no confidence in the word of God. What the Holy Spirit produces is love toward the unlovely, peace in the midst of horrible circumstances, mistreatment from others, and the rule of Christ over our heart and emotions through the peaks and valleys of life. As much as we would like to avoid any situation beyond our control, that option is not available. All things have to work together for good because all things are not good. Yet the Spirit of Christ within us can bring forth goodness in us through all of these tests and trials. The Lord is going to direct our path, to bring us into situations and circumstances where we realize the utter and total inability of our flesh, so that just as we came to Jesus Christ for salvation, we will learn to come to Him for help in the moment by moment events of each day.

In 2 Peter 1:3 *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:* Everything we need to live a life that is godly was given to us when we were saved. From the day of our new birth, we had both eternal life and the ability to live a Christ-like life.

Titus 2:11-12 puts it this way: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.* The Lord saved us by His marvelous grace, but that salvation carried with it instruction and guidance sufficient to show us how to be righteous in a world gone wrong.

The latter half of 2 Peter 1:3 tells us that *through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.* Once more we see that the Lord did not just save us so we could live forever, dwell in a mansion, or walk on streets of gold. We were washed in the blood of the Lamb so that Jesus Christ could impart to us His virtue and His glory.

2 Peter 1:4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.* Our Savior does not want us to be enslaved by our sin nature until we finally stagger into heaven. He wants to loosen us from the chains of the Adamic nature. He has made that possible by imparting to us His divine nature. This corrupt world filled with lust and the painful consequences thereof need not hold any child of God captive. Not only have our sins been forgiven, but the chains of sin which held us bound have been broken. We now have within us not just what we

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are by nature owing to our first birth but what we are by a new nature owing to our second birth.

The world is a corrupt place, but it is possible for a believer to walk right through it without being corrupted, if his lust has been subdued. The corruption that is in the world can only operate in our life if it makes an alliance with the appetites of our flesh. If the flesh, which God tells us to reckon as crucified, is denied and cast down, if the Holy Spirit of God has control of our will, there is no corruption in this world that can lay claim to us.

2 Peter 1:5-8 *And beside this, (the blessings already ours in verses 3-4) giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you (We cannot make ourselves Christ-like, but our obedience puts us in a place where the Lord will work these things in us.) that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Knowledge is essential. It is commanded. We are given the word of God so that we might know. Yet when knowledge is not applied, when it does not mold the heart, when it does not bend the will, no fruit will be borne. Intelligent but fruitless! Possessing all the Biblical answers but void of love, peace and longsuffering!

Knowledge of the word of the Lord is a necessary starting place, and without it one cannot go on to perfection, but where facts acquired and truths assimilated do not lead to the virtues which in turn bring about spiritual fruit, *we frustrate the grace of God* (Galatians 2:21). Knowledge, even knowledge about the Lord Jesus Christ, cannot produce fruit. *Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth* (1 Corinthians 8:1).

We all know men and women who read, study, preach the Bible, and witness but are obnoxious. We have all heard the sad reports of those who preach, pray, win souls, build churches and are then found to be thieves or adulterers. It is so painfully evident that men and women can know the facts and do the work while still being governed by the flesh and subject to the course of this present evil world. Another book, another sermon, another Bible study, and another diploma from another Bible school is not going to produce fruit in our lives. Only when we abandon ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit will we grow into the people the Lord desires us to be. Men who know the Bible inside and out mistreat their wives. Women who have been in good churches all their lives often drive their husbands out to the *corner of the housetop* (Proverbs 21:9).

We need truth in our head, but it is essential that it makes its way into our heart.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Note: (\*) An asterisk indicates must include scripture with your answers.

1. What is the fruit of the Spirit?
2. How do we save ourselves from the power of sin? \*
3. What does the Bible teach us about knowledge? \*
4. How do we walk in the Spirit?
5. Why would we desire to walk in the Spirit?
6. Why would we desire to walk in the Flesh?
7. If God did not save us to walk on streets of gold or save us from the fires of Hell, what did He save us for?

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8. Define the words below as they relate to the group of people?

The Lost person

The Saved person

Love - \_\_\_\_\_

Love - \_\_\_\_\_

Joy - \_\_\_\_\_

Joy - \_\_\_\_\_

Peace - \_\_\_\_\_

Peace - \_\_\_\_\_

9. When do we frustrate the grace of God? \*

10. When a person is walking in the Spirit, does that mean that they will not have any problems, Explain?

11. Where in scripture do we learn that upon salvation we received everything we need to live a life that is godly? \*

12. Once we learn how to live a godly life, where does all the knowledge need to go? \*

True/false

- Knowledge is our starting place.
- You can walk in the Spirit if you are a bold witness for the Lord.
- A born again believer can live his/her life like the devil and still go to heaven.
- Casting our every hope on the Son of God is to be a moment by moment accomplishment for the born again believer.



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper: 2 Peter 1:3-4; Romans 8:28-29  
(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?