

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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

Fruit of the Spirit
Lesson 3A
The Holy Spirit

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Let us start this lesson by looking at what is meant by *the Spirit* in the phrase *the fruit of the Spirit*. When Galatians 5 speaks of *the Spirit*, the reference is to the third member of the Godhead. God the Father is the invisible one, seated upon the throne in the third heaven. God the Son is God manifest in a body of human flesh, who died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. God the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within those who receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

God the Holy Spirit abides within the believer for a variety of reasons, but the one we are concentrating on in this study is His purpose of reproducing the character of Christ in our lives. The one God in the person of the Holy Spirit, the one God who sent His Son to die on the cross, the one God who died on the cross, (these three are one; 1 John 5:7) - that same God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, lives inside every believer (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 8:9; John 16). The heart of love that compelled Jesus Christ to go to the cross and die for our sins is the same love the Holy Spirit is working to reproduce in all who are born again. He is working to bring us to the place where our hearts are willing to lay down our lives for others. This daily taking up of our cross is called the *fruit*, singular, *of the Spirit*.

It is interesting to note that Galatians does not say the fruits of the Spirit (plural) but says *the fruit of the Spirit is* (singular) before listing nine characteristics of the one singular fruit produced by the Holy Spirit. The Lord is seeking to create in us one new man who is like the Lord Jesus Christ. If He accomplishes that, then all of those attributes and qualities of the Saviour will be seen in His redeemed.

Consider the first thing God's word teaches us about fruit in Genesis 1:11-12. *And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit...* Now watch, *after his kind, whose seed is in itself; upon the earth: and it was so.* Fruit brings with it its own seed, its own capability of reproduction. *And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.* That is the reason a tomato or a squash is a fruit and not a vegetable, although the produce manager in the grocery store might not be up to speed on Biblical truth. If its seed is in itself, it is a fruit.

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When the Bible talks about the fruit of the Spirit, we are not being told to seek something externally. We are not being admonished to ask God to give us something that was withheld when we were regenerated. When anyone trusts Christ as their Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live within them. That Spirit carried with Him the seed that is both necessary and capable of reproducing a spirit that is holy within the believer.

John 14:16-18 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you* This cannot be comprehended unless we believe God is a Trinity. Jesus comes to us in the person of the Spirit. See also the matching truth in Romans 8:9-11. *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.* According to this passage, if you are saved, the Spirit dwells in you, Christ dwells in you, and the Father dwells in you. These three are one.

In 1 Corinthians 3:16 we see the same truth. *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?* The indwelling Spirit makes us God's dwelling place. Into His place of residence the Holy Spirit brings the seed (Psalm 22:30) of new life (Isaiah 53:10) which abides in the believer (1 Peter 1:23). This makes it possible for Christ to be formed in God's children (Galatians 4:19), that is, the characteristic fruit of Jesus' life seen in our lives (1 Corinthians 1:6).

Let us consider this in another way. In Luke 8:5 and 11 we read, *A sower went out to sow his seed ... Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.* In this context, God's words are the seed (1 Peter 1:23). When anyone puts their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, they experience a new birth. The Bible calls it being born again, or regeneration. We all had a first birth when a man joined a woman, and they brought forth another man. When someone believes the gospel, God imparts to them a spiritual life. Just as God made Adam so He makes each new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Salvation is not God fixing up your old life; it is God creating within you a new life. Being born again does not mean starting over; it is an entirely new beginning. Christ does not "come into your life", as many modern preachers falsely proclaim. He gives you a brand new one.

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Decades after a man or woman has been born, his or her flesh is just as sinful, just as vile, just as rebellious and opposed to God as it ever was. All the flesh will ever be is the flesh. Likewise, the very moment one is born again, he has a life within him that is born of the Holy Spirit of God. This new life cannot sin. It is incorruptible. (1 John 3:9)

If you are lost, you are on the road to Hell. Your primary concern must be to get born again. Nothing else should make any difference in your life. Please understand how serious this statement really is. As we travel this road in life, many situations intersect our lives, some favorable and some not so favorable. As of 2024, the average number of deaths per day is 100,000. The horror of death is that you never know when it is going to happen. None of the 100,000 people that died yesterday knew when they had breakfast that they would never see dinner and that instead, they would be standing before God that day. The Bible says, and it is true, that when you die, you are immediately in the presence of God, and He begins to judge you (2 Corinthians 5:8). Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* Your first car, your career, your marital situation... Nothing is more important than getting born again. Look at it like your life preserver before you jump into the ocean of life. If you are saved, you are going to be with Christ in glory throughout eternity. That is wonderful. Now, what about all the time in between the day of your new birth and the day you go to be with Jesus? From conversion to translation is family, job, church, neighborhood, society, community every day, every moment of your life. Each day the believer has to determine if the flesh or the Spirit will govern.

Since the seed of Adam remains, we are all capable of manifesting the character traits of the first man. If the seed of the living God abides in us, then we are certainly capable of manifesting the character traits of the Son of man. The attributes which characterize God's grace toward us can characterize our treatment of others if we allow the Holy Spirit to produce in us what He abides in us to produce. Since Genesis 1 all seed has produced its own kind; apple seeds yield apples, etc. If the seed in us is God's word (1 Peter 1:23) from Christ (Psalm 22:30), then it is possible for us to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Titus 2:11 says, *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.* Thank the Lord, there is salvation, and thank the Lord, it is by His grace. Titus 2:13 says, *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.* Those saved by grace live in anticipation of their Lord coming to receive them unto Himself. These two wonderful truths are oft-proclaimed and much appreciated. But between them lies a verse seldom taught, which should be the cause for as much

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rejoicing as the truths which precede and follow it. In Titus 2:12 the Bible says of God's grace,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Have you been saved? If so, have you been taught by the Savior? His HOLY Spirit will use His HOLY word to teach all who have been born again to deny everything within and without that is ungodly. The Spirit of Christ within will teach the child of God to deny worldly lusts. Sobriety in thought and conduct and righteousness in word, way and actions, indicating one knows God, will characterize the life of one who allows the indwelling Lord to lead and guide him into all truth.

The moment a baby is born, what that child inherited from Adam begins to mold, make, and direct it. The moment anyone is born again, what they inherited from their Father (the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 1:13-14) begins to mold, make, and direct them. Many teach that it is easy to follow Adam, for that comes naturally, but that it is difficult to be led of the Spirit, for that is unnatural. Not so! The Spirit of Christ in the believer can govern as easily as the spirit of Adam. One may yield to either with equal liberty (Romans 6). It is time to decide to which teacher we will take heed.

Matthew 7:16-20 says, ***Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Thorns do not produce grapes, and figs do not produce thistles. Everything reproduces after its kind. Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*** There is evil fruit, and there is good fruit. The type of fruit depends upon the type of tree. The fruit that we produce will prove to all observers the governing power of our lives. The Lord wants us to allow Him to work in us so that as surely as it is evident that we are physically born of Adam, it will be evident that we are spiritually born of God.

In our starting passage, Galatians 5:19 says, ***Now the works of the flesh are manifest.*** Our profession carries little weight if it does not match what is seen by others. Our doctrinal correctness is only validated if our conduct is consistent with our stated beliefs. Those with the most basic knowledge of vegetables can tell corn from beans and tomatoes from cabbage. The people of this world would laugh at a store owner who displayed a table full of bananas and called them carrots. When people who call themselves Christians live after the flesh, glorying in the world's amusements, they bring shame and reproach to the God who saved them. It is vital that the life God



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put within the believer be manifest as a reflection of the God who saved them.

When we allow the Holy Spirit of God to teach us how to live in accord with the grace that saved us, our new birth is going to be evident because of the fruit in our lives.

Notes

KJV

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Name _____

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

1. What is the Lord seeking to create in us?
2. Where does a person find the fruit of the Spirit?
3. Why are tomatoes and squash fruit and not a vegetable? *
4. Explain 2 Corinthians 5:17.
5. What happens to everyone at the moment of their death? *
6. Explain why the common belief of it being hard to walk in the Spirit is untrue. *
7. In what way does the Holy Spirit teach us to be more like Jesus Christ?
8. Explain the trinity. *

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9. What is the primary goal of the Holy Spirit for our lives?
10. How do we learn to live in accord with the grace that saved us? *
11. What happens when a person who confesses to others that they are Christ's and yet act like a lost person?
12. Explain 1 Corinthians 3:16. *
13. Explain 1 John 3:9.
14. Are you ready to die?

True/false

- God understands momentary outbursts of anger and lust even in the life of a Christian. *
- It is OK to sin, just as long as we claim 1 John 1:9 right away?
- God requires a Christian to be holy. *
- Salvation is more important than a career or success in life?



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper: Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 9:27; 1 John 5:7
(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?