

**King James Bible Study Correspondence Course**

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

**Fruit of the Spirit**  
**Lesson 1A - Introduction**

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***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*** (Galatians 5:22-24).

The fruit of the Spirit is what is produced by God in a life that is yielded to Him. Though we labor, work, and serve as we should, we cannot produce this fruit in and of ourselves. Let us take a brief examination of our lives. Do we love only those who love us, or does the Holy Spirit love all others through us? Do we have joy in all circumstances, or do circumstances govern our emotions? Do we trust the word of God and the God of the word in all things, or do we live by faith at times and lean to our own understanding at others? Are we temperate despite the temperature, or are we tossed to and fro by every wind of change?

All honest readers will join me in admitting we are far from what the indwelling power of the risen Christ can make us. The question is: are we willing to be conformed to His image, or would we prefer to muddle along in the energy of the flesh?

As our churches and ministries grow and as we see souls converted and families strengthened, we rightly rejoice; but even in these apparent victories, honest inquiry must be made. Many things in the religious realm may be accomplished simply by human effort. What is to be desired in a life or in a congregation is the growth and maturing of the whole body as the Son of God is exalted, not just a part here or there.

The Holy Spirit wants to bring every saved man and woman, and thus the churches in which they fellowship, to Christ-likeness and complete maturity.

John 3:6 says ***That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*** What the Lord desires is the work done by the Holy Spirit. Nothing else can ever take a lost man and turn him into a saved man. No other power can take a man spiritually blind and make him one who can spiritually see.

Then, to all who have been born again, the Bible says in Galatians 3:3, ***Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*** When we couple this with Psalms 14:1, where the scripture tells us, ***The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God,*** we are brought face to face with two important truths.

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1. The salvation of the soul is not the end of the work the Lord desires to work in us.
2. If we imagine this perfecting will be the result of our fleshly striving, we have left God out of our thinking.

It took a supernatural intervention of God to save us from our sins. That was the beginning; Christ the Alpha. Likewise, it will take an equally powerful working of the Lord in us to bring us from salvation to spiritual fruitfulness. That is the ending; Christ the Omega.

Salvation secures one a place with the Lord in eternity. We have all seen more than enough evidence in our lives and in the lives of others that the fact someone has trusted Jesus Christ as Savior does not mean they are anything like Him. It probably does not surprise you to be told that saved people lie, mistreat their wives, backtalk and badmouth their husbands, fail to pay their debts, harm churches, quit churches, drink alcohol, are addicted to tobacco, lose their temper, etc. But why do those who claim the name of Christ do such things?

The reasons are few.

1. They thought that when they became saved, that was all they needed from God. They were given no instruction as to how they were to live between salvation and the rapture.
2. When they became saved, that was all they wanted from God: an escape from hell and a ticket to heaven. They will not receive instruction as to how they are to live between salvation and the rapture.
3. They were gladly saved and will now gladly yield themselves to the word and will of God, they are just awaiting instruction.

It is to and for the latter that these studies are prepared.

God did not save us to take us to heaven, or we would have been transported there the moment we trusted Christ as Savior. He saved us, not just to change our location but to change our lives, inside and out.

Let us view the Lord's purpose in saving us as set forth in Romans 8:28 ***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.*** Do not misunderstand or misuse the verse, as many do, for if one does not love God, nothing is working together for their good. But to them that love God there is a certainty that all things work together for good in accord with the purpose God has for their life. What is His purpose? Romans 8:29 ***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.*** The reason God saved me when I believed on His Son was so that from that day forward, He could work in my life to make me like Jesus Christ. Everything in the life of a child of God is used

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toward that end result. Troubles, trials, blessings, gains, sunny days, rainy days are but tools in the hands of the Master whereby He daily makes us more and more like our Lord. According to Galatians 3, we cannot fulfill this purpose any more than we could save ourselves. As it took the Holy Spirit to regenerate us when we called on the name of the Lord, so it takes the Holy Spirit to conform us to the image of the One who gave us life eternal.

Thus, it is important that while we live in complete trust and dependence upon Jesus Christ for everlasting life, we must also live in a state of desire, longing for the Holy Spirit to give us ever increasing victory over the flesh and making us more and more like our Redeemer with each passing day.

While it is true that we cannot make ourselves like Jesus Christ, we can yield ourselves to the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and allow Him free course to work out God's holy objectives in us. We may also resist the power and hinder the work of the Godhead. Warnings given that we quench not the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and grieve not the Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians 4:30), coupled with the truth that a man may resist the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:51), make us aware that our cooperation is required if the Lord is to make a short work of bringing us on to perfection.

Each time we stop our ears at the preaching of the word, we hinder the Holy Spirit. Every time we do not receive the rebuke and correction from a brother or sister who loves us, we frustrate the grace of God. Whenever we respond inappropriately to a man who tries to assist us, we prevent the Holy Spirit from accomplishing His blessed work in us.

God is trying to help us be more like Jesus Christ, and often we are saying, "I will do it myself," or "Do not touch that area of my life." To the best of our ability we may be serving God, living for Him, going to church, reading our Bible; but few ever surrender themselves and allow the Holy Ghost to accomplish in them what can only be done in demonstration and power of the Spirit. Until the Lord controls the man, there will be little or no spiritual fruit in that life.

We return to our foundation passage in Galatians 5 and focus on the initial phrase, *But the fruit of the Spirit is...* The conjunction *but* requires that we move backward into the chapter; it will not allow us to ponder becoming fruitful until we have cleared away the weeds and debris from the orchard. We are given to understand that spiritual fruit stands in contrast to what grows naturally, and while the former traits come without effort or care, the fruit of the Spirit requires attention.

Following the scriptural key, we retreat to verse 19 and find. *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these.* There is much to take in from this simple phrase.

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1. The flesh is at work.
2. These works are *now*, present-tense, ongoing tendencies, even in the life of one who is saved.
3. Such works cannot be hidden but *are manifest*.

While it is true that salvation makes it possible for the Lord to accomplish the total transformation of the life of His child, it is obvious from the words we just read that this does not take place immediately and will not take place without the opposition of the old man.

*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication...* Adultery is the failure of marriage. Fornication is the failure to honor marriage.

Compare the first two items in the list of fleshly manifestations with the first product of a Spirit-controlled life: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love*. When people join flesh with flesh before marriage, in addition to marriage, or after forsaking a marriage, they are declaring to all that, whether they profess to be saved or lost, their actions are governed by the flesh. When a man or woman remains pure until marriage, faithful in marriage, and preserves that union, they are displaying lovely spiritual fruit for an unfaithful world to behold. *Fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness...* The Lord strikes out at three forms of impurity. The world looks at lewdness, pornography, prostitution, and sexual encounters of diverse kinds and calls such dirty acts love. The holy God of the Holy Bible refers to them as acts of self-gratification which are the very opposite of love and leave one wanting for the peace and joy which come only from the Holy Ghost.

**The Flesh Craves**

adultery, fornication  
uncleanness  
lasciviousness

**The Spirit Produces**

love  
joy  
peace

Why is a man lascivious? Why is a woman dirty? Why is a young person pursuing defiling immorality? It is because they lack joy. In the energy of the flesh, people seek love and peace from the sins of the world and continue to be empty inside. Many of these people come to Jesus and receive Him as Savior only to be frustrated when they find He was not the perpetual thrill or high they were seeking. Because they continue to live after the flesh, they continue to find only death (Romans 8:6). It is not until one is yielded to the Holy Spirit that life and peace can be enjoyed.

The list of things which come naturally continues in verse 20 with *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations...* Once again, the contrasts are dramatic. Idolatry and witchcraft could be replaced by Spirit-produced faith.

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To overcome variance (an attitude of continual opposition, complaining, and fault-finding) and emulations (the result of such deep-rooted dissatisfaction and envy that a person spends their life mimicking or infatuated with someone else), the Lord will produce meekness and longsuffering.

The Adamic nature has more to offer in its ongoing outbursts of hatred, wrath, strife, seditions. These emotions and actions, so hurtful to self and to others, dominate the life without consent. They are the very essence of each man's being. Unless there is a new birth, unless the Holy Spirit of God comes to live within, the only things which can counter these intuitive forces in the heart, mind, and will are hopelessly insufficient.

Against these differing degrees of conflict and discontent the world offers the following:

- **Good parental training:** A great advantage, but the parents possess the same flawed nature.
- **Education:** Even where morals and virtues are set forth, the teachers and administrators possess the same flawed nature.
- **Government:** Law enforcement and a court system may subdue certain degrees of strife and sedition, but this leaves the nature unchanged; and in its corrupt forms, government is often a greater source of strife and hatred than individuals.
- **Religion:** Even in its purest form this is but a form of government. See above.
- **Self-help:** Like curing drunkenness with a case of beer.

Only the indwelling of the Holy Spirit can supply the believer with love to overrule hatred, with longsuffering to overrule strife, with meekness to overrule wrath, with temperance to overrule drunkenness and reveling, with gentleness to overrule seditions. When a greater power than the flesh takes up residence inside the man or woman regenerated by the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:5), it becomes possible for Christ living within (Galatians 2:20) to produce in them the godly traits which are impossible without the Lord's power.

Notes

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. What is the purpose of this lesson? \*
2. How do we acquire the fruit of the Spirit? \*
3. What does the flesh naturally produce? \*
4. What does the Spirit supernaturally produce? \*
5. Why did the Lord save us? \*
6. Can a saved born again child of God act like an unsaved/lost person? How and why?
7. What is the saved man ultimately saying to God when he is carnal? (Use Psalm 14:1 for your explanation)

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8. Give the definition to the following:
  - a. Fornication.
  - b. Adultery.
  - c. Abstinence as pertaining to marriage. \*
  
9. What is meant by quenching the Holy Spirit?
  
10. Explain Galatians 5:24?
  
11. Explain John 3:6?
  
12. Explain why the world's definitions of help can never really help, but only offer a momentary resolve to the intuitive forces of the human heart, mind, and will.

**True/false**

- When a saved man neglects to do what God has instructed, his salvation is still secure. \*
- Living a life yielded to the Holy Spirit is filled with joy.
- We were saved to become more like Jesus Christ. \*



Scripture memorization, write out these verses on the back on this page:  
Romans 8:28-29; Galatians 3:3; Psalm 14:1  
(Must be in KJV)

Any questions?