

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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

Fruit of the Spirit  
Lesson 1B - 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).***

**Produced by the Flesh**

adultery, fornication,  
uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,  
variance, emulations, wrath,  
strife, seditions, heresies, revelling  
envyings, murders, drunkenness

**Produced by the Spirit**

love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, gentleness,  
goodness, faith, meekness,  
temperance

The column on the left speaks of those things each of us can produce in our own energy or without any deliberate action. The column on the right lists those things which are produced by God's Spirit in the life of anyone who will submit to His control. It seems the choice would be a simple one, yet the right-hand list is only more desirable to the spiritually minded.

People are *by nature the children of wrath* (Ephesians 2:3). ***But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*** (1 Corinthians 2:14).

This is why everyone must be regenerated (born again) and walking in the Spirit before they can bear spiritual fruit. ***Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*** (1 Corinthians 15:46).

These spiritual fruits only come from God. They are not produced by serving God, learning about God, giving to God, singing about God, telling others about God, or any other righteous activity. As the Father was glorified in the Son (John 14:13), and the Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14), when our lives are controlled by God, we will bring honor to Jesus Christ. In Philippians 1:15-17 we read, ***Some indeed preach Christ (good) even of envy and strife; (not good) and some also of good will: (correct) The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: (incorrect) But the other of love, (very good) knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.*** See how different men may be engaged in the same righteous act, but some of them are righteous in the act, and some are not.

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Fruit is produced to be taken away from the branch for the advantage and pleasure of others. The branch does not benefit from producing fruit. All that it yields is for the enjoyment of another. Many saved people are not interested in bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit because there is nothing in it for them.

"I'm not going to church today." Why not? "Well, I don't think I need it." This is the attitude of the flesh. "Well, I'm not going to pray today." Why not? "It doesn't do anything for me." These are the sentiments of carnality.

It is the nature of Adam still striving to govern which provokes many to decide what they are willing to do for God. It is all based on how they feel. They call God the Lord, but the real master is their flesh.

The New Testament is careful to distinguish between good works and evil deeds, but it also draws a clear line between doing what is right and being right while so doing.

The fruit is the glory of the branch. If the branch does not bring forth fruit, there is no glory or worth therein. Fruit is something the branch bears, not for itself but for its owner. When we live after the flesh, we do so for self. When we desire to be branches bearing spiritual fruit, we do so for God's glory. That is the reason the owner planted, cultivated, and cared for the tree—so it can be a blessing to him and to others. Our labors are in vain if they are in any way for self. As the Father was glorified in the Son (John 14:13), and the Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14), when our lives are controlled by God, we will bring honor to Jesus Christ.

Orange trees do not sweat to produce fruit. They do not toil nor are they tired at the end of a growing season. They just allow the operation of God that was set in motion in the Garden of Eden to work in them. These trees simply allow the process God ordained to take place inside them, and fruit is borne. The gardener may labor without by digging, mulching, watering, and pruning; but he can do nothing to produce an orange. The tree bears its own fruit. The gardener keeps the life healthy, but the tree produces the fruit. *Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these* (Luke 12:27).

Likewise, Galatians 5 tells us of the fruit of the Spirit; i.e. those blessings for God and man which will be produced in each saved man or woman if the Lord is allowed to work in us according to His purpose.

We move now to Romans 5 and Luke 6 to behold a clear comparison which shines clear light on this matter.

Romans 5:1-5 says, *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And*

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*patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God (not love for God but the love of God) is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

In verse 8 of the same chapter we are told, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

For our present purpose we draw a principle from these verses. While we were committing sins against God which merited us a place in hell, the Lord was so loving us (John 3:16) and sending such a commendation of His love that we were not only spared death until we did hear the gospel, but by His love He pardoned us completely the moment we trusted Christ. Hallelujah! Glory to God! But He did not place these truths in Romans 5 to discuss our salvation (that was done in Romans 3-4). The topic here is the *result* of our new life. The message here is that the Lord wants the love wherewith He loved us when we were still alienated from Him to be flowing through us to others. As He lovingly laid down His life for us, He directs us to do the same for each person we encounter.

Romans 5:1 addresses those who are already justified and possess peace with God. They stand by grace, and their hope is sure. Thus, the benefit of their tribulation, experience, patience, etc., is not the saving of their souls but a total yielding to the Holy Ghost so that the love God sends their way flows through them to others. It is to be shed (not kept within) abroad (in every direction and without reserve) by (there must be a supernatural agent with the power and means to bring this about) the Holy Ghost. With this truth consider Luke 6:31. *And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.* Everyone who is living under the influence of the flesh treats others the way others have treated them. But Christians have the opportunity, and with the Spirit's help, the ability to do far better in their responses. We ought to treat everyone as the Lord treated us when we were yet at enmity with Him.

Jesus had the following words to say about the unsaved. *For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them **of** whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again* (Luke 6:32-34).

By contrast, Romans 5 showed us that Jesus Christ loved others because He is love; was longsuffering toward others because He is longsuffering. Jesus' actions were not dictated by external forces or circumstances but by His holy person. He did not die on the cross to save people who loved Him; He died on the cross to save people He loved. It is this very love which the Holy Spirit can and will produce in our hearts if we allow His will to be done.

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God sends rain and sunshine on both the just and the unjust. He is good to men because He is good, not because they are good. The principle is simple: The Lord is gracious to me. Thus, I should be gracious to others. In each verse of Luke 6:32-34 we see someone acting on the basis of self-love. If self gets love, it will love. If self is blessed, it will bless. If self is slighted or insulted, it will respond accordingly. This is what Jesus said is expected of lost people,

***But***, He says to His saints, ***love ye your enemies, and do good***. Watch how the Lord finishes so as to tie us right back to Romans 8. If we treat others as Christ would treat them, regardless of how they act toward us, He said, ***and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil*** (Luke 6:35).

God's will for us once we are saved is ***that he might be the firstborn among many brethren*** (Romans 8:29). We will know that we have begun to take on the image of the firstborn, the Lord Jesus Christ, when we are able to treat others like God treats us instead of the way they treat us. This victory over what we are by nature is won when the Spirit of God holds sway. Continuing with Luke 6:35-36, ***for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful***. When we fall into error, we want the Lord to be patient and gracious, and so we ever find Him to be. Those areas of our lives that are not yet perfected, we want to be viewed through eyes of grace and dealt with by a heart of unfailing love.

The indwelling Holy Spirit wants to live this way in and through us so that we minister to that which is lacking in the lives of those we encounter in the same way God deals with us when we come short of His glory.

Follow one more line of thought as we introduce our subject. All saved people are instructed to be in a Bible-teaching church, participating in good ministries, and living in fellowship with dedicated people. However, if you attend church only to learn as much as you can about the Bible, there will come a point in time when you will have heard everything you want to hear. You will learn all you care to know, and from that point on you will grow bored and disinterested. The preaching and teaching have all been for you; there has been no application or appropriation. With your Bible questions answered and sufficient information to win debates or accomplish personal goals, you will soon start focusing on the faults of the pastor, the failures of other church members, and the things not quite done the way you would do them. Massive discontent and then bitterness will begin to grow. Instead of a fruitful orchard, the life will become a briar patch. You have come to church, but only for yourself.

By contrast, if you come to church to give more of yourself to God so that He may use you to give more to and be more to and do more for others,

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the love and joy and peace of the Holy Spirit will make each trip to the place of fellowship so blessed you will never tire of attending.

Saved men and women ruin their marriages. Men and women who deny themselves and put the other person first, as directed and enabled by the Lord within, spend a happy lifetime together. It is almost unheard of for a lost man to split or divide a church. Salvation does not make one longsuffering or gentle.

How are you when you attend Church? If you are bored, disinterested, critical, fault-finding, wrapped up in yourself, you are selfish. God is not being allowed to operate in your life. Those who keep churches, friendships, and families walking in unity are those bearing the fruit of the Spirit.

### Notes

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**Lesson 1B - Introduction**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. Where does spiritual fruit come from?
2. Why is your heart attitude important when you attend Christian fellowship?
3. What do we learn from an orange tree growing fruit?
4. If you are under the influence of your flesh, how will you treat people?
5. Why are the nine fruit in Galatians 5:22-23, identified as being singular fruit, not fruits?
6. How do the works of the flesh manifest themselves?
7. Why is it that an unsaved person cannot understand the Bible? \*
8. What seven things do we learn from Ephesians 2:1-8
  1. *dead in trespasses and sins*
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.

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9. Explain John 16:14.
10. Why can you not get the fruit of the Spirit through service?
11. How can two people both be handing out gospel tracts, and one be righteous and one not be righteous? \*
12. Why would a Christian not be interested in bearing fruit?
13. Was there a time in our lives that we committed sins that made us worthy of the reward of Hell fire? What changed that? \*

**True/false**

- Tribulations, trials, and troubles teach us how to express love and patience.
- The areas of our life that are not yet perfect show us how the God of longsuffering deals with us.
- We should only attend churches that are spiritual and will be a benefit to us.

**Scripture memorization**

Luke 6:28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36

Write out these verses on the back on this page or a separate piece of paper:  
(must be in KJV)

any questions?