

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

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

Fruit of the Spirit
Lesson 5A
Stages of Development

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We have established that, according to the Bible, the Lord's purpose in saving sinners is not to take them to heaven but to begin a process that will continue until the saved man or woman is like Christ. Throughout the rest of the believer's life on Earth, the Trinity will be in the process of conforming us into the very image of Jesus Christ.

The great passage in Galatians 5 on the fruit of the Spirit shows how the God who saved us and came to dwell within us wants to work within us so that our lives become filled with the graces and attributes of the Lord.

When we allow the Holy Spirit control of our lives, we will no longer need laws, commandments, or ordinances, though we will act in accord with the Bible's teachings. This will not be done because of counsel or reproof, but because the life of the risen Christ will be evidenced in our lives. We will not be a god (as the Mormons and extreme charismatic teachers falsely declare), but the one true God will have such control of our thoughts and our hearts that our words and deeds will be Christ-like.

When someone begins to learn about the control of the Holy Spirit, or the fruit of the Holy Spirit or the operation of the Holy Spirit, and they begin to incline their heart and yield themselves to the Spirit of God, instantly the flesh, the old Adamic nature, feeling its hold upon a life slipping away, will take an entirely new tactic. The carnal mind, in its enmity against God, will begin to counterfeit the work of the Holy Spirit. It will begin to counterfeit liberty and freedom. The flesh will begin to convince you that since you are becoming spiritual, you do not need to be governed. One of the devil's ministers will offer you a sermon, book, or pamphlet suggesting that since you are becoming a Spirit-led man or a Spirit-led woman, you no longer need preaching, church attendance, a pastor, correction, commandments, etc. This false spirituality will not be a freedom from sin but a freedom to sin. It will not be a deliverance from unrighteousness but a breaking of fellowship with those who call for holy living.

Floating about sniping at Christians and churches are those who claim to be so spiritual that they do not go to church - in defiance of the Holy Spirit's order (Hebrews 10:25). They claim to be so spiritual that they do not read their Bible, imagining that their thoughts are the voice of God - in rejection of how the Holy Spirit said He would speak to men in this age (2 Timothy 3:15-16). They claim they are so spiritual that they do not fellowship with other

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believers because no one is good enough - while the Holy Spirit abides continually with everyone who is saved. Such persons delude themselves into thinking they are so spiritual that they can do anything, and it is not sin, simply because they are spiritual. They will wrest the scriptures with boastings such as, "I'm not under the law; I'm under grace. I'm not under carnal ordinances; I'm led by the Spirit." (2 Peter 3:16).

We are not teaching such nonsense. The Bible says the man who is fully controlled by the Holy Spirit needs no law, needs no government, needs no reproof - not because he is set at liberty to sin against God and man but because the Holy Spirit has set him at liberty from self so that he can live a righteous life voluntarily, not by restraint. Liberty is not liberty to sin. It is liberty from sin. Liberty is not liberty from God's government. It is liberty to live as governed without the government being exercised. A man steals repeatedly from his neighbors. He is arrested, tried, and sentenced to a place where he cannot steal from his neighbors. He still has an appetite for theft but is denied the opportunity. When his time in prison is over, he leaves a free man. He is free to resume a life of theft, or he is free to steal no more, his choice. Man's government cannot prevent him from stealing, and freedom cannot change his character.

Parents hope that good employment, or the benefits of church may restrain and limit him from sinning. These beneficial forces do not take away his appetite for sin but in many ways deny him the opportunity. When he trusts Jesus Christ as his Savior, he is free to continue a life of sin and he is free to **go, and sin no more** (John 8:11). Just as the inmate who is paroled is not set free so he may resume his criminal activity, so a man is not saved so that he can continue sinning.

The grace-only, God-does-not-care, emerging-church blasphemers have a very corrupt understanding of liberty and freedom.

In this bible lesson we are going to discuss how those of us who have been made free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2) may begin to yield ourselves to the control of the Holy Spirit and leave behind the controlling influence of laws and commandments, while not forsaking the narrow way and falling into the libertine ditch.

We are lost one moment and saved the next, but the transition from a life controlled by the flesh to one ruled by the Spirit is a lengthy process. This work of God will last our lifetime. One trip to an altar of prayer or one mountaintop experience will not accomplish the great work of putting off the old man with his deeds and learning to walk under the control of the Holy Ghost. But we can move a little in the right direction each day.

Let us see what place the laws of God have in the life of one who has been born again.

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Let's look at 1 Timothy 1:5-9

Notice the beginning of these verses ***Now the end of the commandment...*** When God gave the commandments, He had an end in view. They were not meant to dominate our lives from the cradle to the grave but to bring us to a destination. When that end is reached, then the commandment can be done away with.

Let's look at it again ***Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*** When we can love others as Jesus Christ loves us, we will no longer need a commandment. If I love you, I will not lie to you. If you love me, you will not do me harm. People who love each other do not murder or commit adultery. Persons lacking love need to be commanded.

Verse 6: ***From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling.*** In this verse, first we see that to denounce what is given by commandment is to incite disaster. Those whose mouths rattle on in contempt of righteousness and holiness have left the right path; they have turned aside. Second, observe the warning is not about turning your back on the commands of God but about swerving. Many a terrible accident has been caused by someone swerving just a little bit.

Verse 7: ***Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.*** Those who advocate for disobedience because we are no longer under the law and those who suggest that subjection to the Old Testament law is required of a New Testament Christian are both disqualified from teaching believers. The Holy Spirit says they do not know what they are talking about.

Verse 8: ***But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;***

Verse 9: ***Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane,*** We are not discussing the nation of Israel; we are not discussing people living before the cross; we are not discussing lost people in the world today. In 1 Timothy the Holy Spirit says to saved people that the purpose of the law is to restrain bad people. It is a check upon the flesh to keep men from acting upon the impulses of a fallen nature.

The disobedient need laws. Those not completely holy need commandments. Those who still sin need to be controlled. The profane (secular, not dedicated to God) require constant correction. The law and commandments are good because men are not good and need to learn the difference between what they are by nature and what God expects them to be.

Then comes another of those lists of sins found in Adam for which the flesh of every one of his offspring has an appetite. The natural man is

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disobedient, unholy and profane. Thus, the law was given *for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.*

The self-confident man would boast in his flesh, thinking it superior to the man who would kill his mother. The law answers by asking if he has ever lied. The self-righteous would never equate the perjury committed when the full truth is not told with carrying off someone's child or killing the child's father - but the Holy Spirit does.

By placing what men would consider heinous sins side by side with sins which rarely receive censure, the Lord attempts to show that all transgression is offensive to His holiness and that no one can live to please Him unless they yield to the dominating force of His law or the life-changing power of His Holy Spirit.

What is the antidote for the sinful, Adamic nature? What is the cure for all this lust of the flesh? Is there anything that can deliver a lawless individual from the harmful influence of self? Yes. If a man or woman will live according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, they may enjoy liberty.

There are passages in God's word which teach that the gospel is the means whereby the lost are saved, the condemned are justified, and those bound for hell are given everlasting life with Jesus Christ. It is important to note that the gospel is not limited to the one-time changing of our standing before God and of our eternal destination. This passage of scripture says that the gospel was given to bring us out of a daily life of sins and carry us into the glory of the Lord. It is not just a saving gospel for eternity; it is a transforming gospel for time. Thank the Lord, the gospel can save our souls. Thank the Lord, the gospel can sanctify our lives (see again Titus 2:11-14).

No Gentile was ever under the law, and no Christian is ever to be placed under the law, but the New Testament teaches a proper use of God's law in this age. Notice what the scripture teaches us in these passages:

Romans 7:7 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

Romans 7:12-13 *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

A man bows his knees and says, "God, I don't want to go to hell. I don't understand a lot about the Bible, but I know if I die right now, I deserve to go

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to hell. I believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins, and I believe Jesus rose again. Lord, save me, please." Seeing the plea to be sincere, God saves that man by grace through faith, without works. In a moment he is saved and on his way to heaven. He is a new creature in Christ. Hallelujah.

That man is also the same kind of husband, father, neighbor, employee, and citizen that he was the day before. There is nothing about his temporal life, his character, or his conduct that has been changed, with the incredible exception that he now has God the Holy Spirit living inside him. He immediately has the potential to become Christ-like and to bear in his life the fruit of the Spirit, but for the moment he is a carnal, selfish, sinful, fleshy, worldly, struggling man who will go to heaven not to hell when he dies. He may stop a particular sin or two that day - the ones he was aware of, and which brought him under conviction in the first place - but his emotions, reactions, thoughts, and impulses will be remarkably unaltered by his new birth. He is no more capable of living the Christian life than a newborn baby is capable of running a business. He has all the potential, but none of the tools, training, or understanding.

He begins to read the Bible, and he starts to faithfully attend church. It is only then that he begins to learn all the many, many reasons why he was lost. It is only then that he begins to see what a great catalog of sins ruled his life. It is only then that he begins to comprehend how lofty and how extensive are God's demands upon him and God's expectations for him.

He realizes that the word of God addresses every aspect of his conduct, expects obedience within and without, denounces things he never knew were wrong, and demands service in areas he never considered. This is the law. It is good. It reveals to man his unrighteousness while setting forth to him the true holiness of God.

Make sure you read 5B to get a clearer understanding of these truths.

Notes

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Name _____

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

1. What is the purpose of this lesson?
2. Explain 1 Timothy 1:5-9.
3. What does the flesh do when a person begins to learn about the control of the Holy Spirit?
- 4a. What does the self-confident man hope to prove by comparing his sins to the sins of someone else which he believes are worse?
- 4b. How does the Lord look at all transgressions?
5. Who conforms us to the image of Jesus Christ?
6. What cults believe that we will become a god or goddess through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to his commandments?

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7. Why was the Law given?
8. What is meant by being set at liberty from self?
9. Explain Hebrews 10:25 in view of what you have learned in this lesson.
10. What is God's ultimate purpose for saving sinners?
11. How does a man/woman become controlled by the Holy Spirit?
12. Is there anything that can deliver a lawless individual from the harmful influence of self?
13. Why was the Law given?
14. Define Titus 2:11-14. (use a separate piece of paper)

True/false

- Those who are disobedient need laws and commandments.
- The Law was not made for a righteous man. *
- Gentiles were under the Law prior to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Scripture memorization**

Titus 2:11-14

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)
 any questions?