

The Fruit of the Spirit

TEXT: Galatians 5:22-26

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES: Psalm 1:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Peter 1:4-8

KEY VERSE: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. — Galatians 5:25

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul shows that since the time of Christ's death no rites or ceremonies of the Jewish Law or any of man's own works can avail in the justification of a sinner. Jesus Christ is our only means of salvation (Acts 4:10-12). The fruit of the Spirit becomes evident in our lives when we are saved, and grows as we continue to live and walk in the Spirit.

1. Why do you think the nine virtues listed in our lesson are referred to as "the fruit" and not "the fruits"?

2. Explain why the flesh must be crucified if we are to be fruit-bearing Christians.

3. What do the nine virtues of the Spirit have in common?

4. List the fruit of the Spirit. Then name some benefits that Christians enjoy from having each of these virtues in their lives.

5. Why can a Christian still feel peace when things go wrong?

6. Describe an incident in which the fruit of the Spirit really proved to be a benefit to the one who exhibited a specific virtue.

7. How can the fruit of a tree be used to determine the worth of the tree that is bearing it? See Matthew 7:16-18.

8. Self-image is an important concept in our society. Distinguish between self-improvement and the fruit of the Spirit.

9. How can you be sure you have the fruit of the Spirit in your life?