

Sunday  
29th Oct.  
2023

The Fruit of  
the Spirit  
Gal:5:19-26



# **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

## **PART 2**

### **GALATIANS 5:19-26**

**Why is this fruit important in our  
Christian journey?**

In Part 1, we talked about addictions which Paul is calling here as; **“The acts of the flesh are obvious...”** (5:19-21)

**a) Sexual sin** – ...Sexual immorality (adultery, fornication), Impurity and debauchery.



**b) Sins connected with Pagan religion.**

...idolatry and witchcraft.

**c) Sins of Temper** ...hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy.

**d) Sins of drunkenness and orgies.**

- We said that for us to experience true freedom from these addictions or the power of flesh, we need **‘The fruit of the Spirit’**.
- In his letter to the Galatians, Paul demonstrates this by drawing a contrast between *Hagar and Sarah*.

Paul says, “For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. 23 His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.



These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar.

25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. (Galatians 4:22-26).



Paul draws our attention to two things:  
The first contrast Paul draws between  
real Christianity and legalism (*doing  
good works*) is the contrast between  
freedom and slavery. One son of  
Abraham was born by a freewoman, and  
one was born by a slave woman.

Legalism is living according to the flesh. It denies God's promise (*Isaac*) and tries to make own way to God through the law (*Ishmael*) The real Christian life is connected to God's promised miracle and not the flesh.

That's why Paul is saying, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.



6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. (**Galatians 4:4-7**)

Like trees, we can only produce fruit that is consistent with our character, the fruit of the spirit reflects the character of Christ. That is who He is, we cannot claim to be Christians and deny his character.

Speaking on the same Paul says that  
“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-  
control. Against such things there is no  
law.



24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22-25).

**My question today is, Why is this fruit so important for us as Christians?**

**This Fruit enables warfare against self-indulgent carnality.**

**a) Verse 5: 16-17;** *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”*



b) Paul also said, *“For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”* (Romans 7:18-20.)

**2. This fruit gives us discernment of what is unworthy,**

a) Speaking to the Romans, Paul said; “*hate what is evil; cling to what is good*” (Romans 12:9). That means that unless we have true discernment, we cannot determine what is evil and what is good?



b) For us to maintain the purity of the gospel, the church must distinguish truth from heresy. Wisdom also demands that we properly discriminate between what is **best** and what is merely **good**.



c) A discerning mind demonstrates wisdom and insight that go beyond what is seen and heard. For example, God's Word is "spiritually discerned." To the human mind without the Spirit, the things of God are "foolishness" (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Spirit, then, gives us spiritual discernment.

# Conclusion

**Each day our fruit is being tested by society.**

In his book 'Think on these Things' John maxwell writes that, "For four decades East Berlin was controlled by the Communists, West Berlin was free, one day some people who lived in East Berlin took a truckload of garbage and dumped it on the West Berlin side.



The people of West Berlin could have retaliated by doing the same. But instead, they took a truckload of canned goods, bread, and milk and neatly stacked it on the East Berlin side. On top of this stack of food, they placed the sign: “Each give what he has.”



*When the world is throwing mud at us,  
what do we produce?*

Jesus Character was tested in many  
ways including on the cross.