

SPIRITUAL FRUIT

Practical Guide for Daily Living

Discussion Guide
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Title

Patience, Kindness, Goodness

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Galatians 2: 22-23

Introduction: In this fifth chapter of Galatians Paul contrasts the deeds of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. As we move into the description of the Holy Spirit's fruit we find that Paul lists a total of nine qualities that group logically in three sets of three but which are described as singular: the *fruit* of the Spirit. It is clearly implied that all of these qualities are present simultaneously and relatively equally in one who is filled with the Spirit. In this study we will consider the second group of three: Patience, Kindness, and Goodness.

I. The Fruit of the Spirit is PATIENCE:

- A. Gk: Makrothumia: a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation. In a number of languages this patience is expressed idiomatically: "to remain seated in one's heart," "to keep one's heart from jumping." (Louw-Nida lexicon.)
- B. This is not stego, "to put up with, to tolerate" as in Paul saying "we endure everything rather than hinder the Gospel," (I Co 9:12), nor is it tropophoreo as in enduring for a very long time, "for forty years He put up with them in the desert," (Acts 13:18)
- C. This patience is an attitude, *which is clearly communicated to others by our action (or lack of negative action)* when we are provoked or faced with bad circumstances and results in a self-restraint and kindhearted endurance without complaint or irritation.

II. The fruit of the Spirit is KINDNESS:

This word, chrestotes has the foundation of moral goodness and integrity moving toward kindness and benevolence. In other words it is a spirit of wanting to be helpful and to bless others. In conjunction with "goodness" this is the attitude and spirit behind the actual behavior express in the next quality:

III. The fruit of the Spirit is GOODNESS:

- A. Gk: agathosune: (found only in the Bible and church literature) to engage in beneficent or useful action in behalf of others, "You are always doing good to people."
- B. Paul makes the classical distinction between legal precision (righteousness) and true goodness in Romans 5. Jesus asked the question, when accused of breaking the Sabbath, "Is it right to do good on the Sabbath?"
- C. A good person takes action on behalf of others without regard to personal cost, cultural values or tradition, or bureaucratic conventions which are not moral in their essence. A good person goes out of his/her way to help others without regard to personal cost or inconvenience.

Conclusion: How are you doing so far in the manifestation of Spiritual fruit. If you find yourself lacking remember that you need not try harder but yield more to Jesus. The flesh has its deeds, its works, but the Spirit naturally produce fruit when He is filling one's life. When we lack His qualities we simply lack His fullness, or put in reverse, He lacks our total yieldedness. You do not need more love, joy, or peace...you need Jesus Who is all of these and more!

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails; *1 Corinthians 13:4-8*

