

## The Fruit of the Spirit

Pastor Danny de Armas

### Passage: Galatians 5:16-24

[16](#)But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17](#)For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. [18](#)But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. [19](#)Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20](#)idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21](#)envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. [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](#)And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

### Background

In this week's message on the Holy Spirit, Pastor Danny will help us understand the characteristics of a life lived under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In Paul's letter to the churches in the region of Galatia, he draws a clear and dramatic contrast between those who are controlled by their own personal, "fleshly" desires and those who are guided by the Spirit. Paul's warning is clear as well. We cannot have it both ways. We cannot say we are led by the Spirit while our lives demonstrate "fruit" of the flesh. For the first readers of this letter and for us today, the question at hand is this: Does my life produce the FRUIT of the Spirit or does it show "works of the flesh?" The difference between those who "walk according to the Spirit" and those who don't is NOT that one is perfect and one isn't. The difference is in how we *respond* to sin in our lives. Do we repent or do we repeat? When we recognize sin in our life, repent, and surrender to the work of the Spirit in our life – that's how the fruit of the Spirit grows in us and through us.

### Service Notes

## Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

## Getting Started

- What is one specific reason you are thankful to God for today? In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit working in your life this week? How can we pray for you?

## Talk it Over

- **Read Galatians 5:16-18.** Paul instructs (commands) the believers in Galatia to “walk by the Spirit?” What does that mean? What is the *result* of walking by the Spirit according to verse 16? How does walking by the Spirit keep us from giving into sinful desires (our flesh)? Why would Paul remind them that the works of the flesh and Spirit are in **OPPOSITION** to each other? How should change the way we think about our obedience to Jesus? What do you think it means that we are not under the law if we are led by the Spirit? How does someone grow in following the guidance of the Spirit?
- **Read Galatians 5:19-21.** Paul’s list of “works of the flesh” covers many sinful actions, but it is not exhaustive. Why would someone consistently living out these “works of the flesh” **NOT** inherit God’s kingdom? Is Paul saying some folks in the churches might **NOT** have the Spirit, therefore might not be genuine followers of Jesus? *Why or why?* Since Christians still sin (no one is perfect!), then how should we understand and respond to Paul’s warning? According to **1 John 1:9**, how will God respond to repentance? How can we know with confidence that we *will* inherit the kingdom of God (see 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rom. 10:9-10)?
- **Read Galatians 5:22-24.** Why would Paul call it **FRUIT** (singular) of the Spirit and list nine different characteristics? What does this teach us about how they are connected? Which of these are the *least* evident in your life right now? Why is this so? What might be the *most* evident today? Why? What is one step you can take this week to allow more of the fruit of the Spirit to spring up in your life? In what ways can God use our circumstances to “produce” the fruit of the Spirit in our lives? Can you give any examples?

## Live it Out

- How would you encourage a friend lost in sinful behaviors to turn away from them and trust in Jesus?