



PARENT GUIDE

WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?

Adult Spiritual Growth Series

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GOD-CENTERD CHARACTER FORMATION



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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Adult Spiritual Growth Series

The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are qualities or characteristics that should naturally grow in us as the Holy Spirit guides us to follow Jesus. These are essential characteristics of a Christian and are central to planting seeds in a child's formative years to teach character development. These qualities are like the "fruits" that grow from a good tree rooted in a relationship with God. They show that a person lives a life influenced by the Holy Spirit. These qualities are:

- 1. LOVE: Wanting what is best for others by putting their needs above yours, speaking the truth to others, (even when the truth is not easy), and helping them avoid wrongdoing.
- 2. **JOY:** Joy is a permanent condition inside you (different than a changing feeling) that comes from knowing you are okay, even if your circumstances are not.
- 3. **PEACE**: A confidence and trust in God's control of your life and a calm heart, free of trouble and fear.
- 4. **PATIENCE**: Continuing to love while not being selfish, jealous, or angry, and not complaining or giving up when we don't get our way.
- 5. **KINDNESS**: Extending compassion, empathy, and goodwill toward others with gracious words and actions.
- 6. **GOODNESS:** Being kind, gracious, generous, and loving toward others while respecting them.
- 7. FAITHFULNESS: Being steadfast, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, and true to your word.
- 8. **GENTLENESS**: Being kind and respectful toward others using a mild tone and attitude in your speech and actions.
- 9. **SELF-CONTROL**: The ability to control your emotions, desires, and actions in a way that honors God and benefits others over yourself.



I AM THE VINE

You are the branches.

Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

The Fruit of the Spirt has three parts that are interdependent and will be present in different measures in every Christian life:

- 1. Our essential nature (love, joy, peace)
- 2. Our relationships with others (patience, kindness, goodness)
- 3. Our character before God (faithfulness, gentleness, self-control)

God promises that His followers will bear fruit. Fruit in the life of a Christian comes from abiding in Jesus.

Christlike Character Love

Wanting what is best for others by putting their needs above yours, speaking the truth, and helping them avoid wrongdoing.

Christlike Character Joy

Joy is a permanent condition inside you (different than a changing feeling) that comes from knowing you are okay, even if your circumstances are not.

Christlike Character Peace

A confidence and trust in God's control of your life and a calm heart, free of trouble and fear.

Christlike Character Patience

Continuing to love while not being selfish, jealous, or angry and not complaining or giving up when we don't get our way.

Christlike Character Kindness

Extending compassion, empathy, and goodwill toward others with gracious words and actions.

Christlike Character Goodness

Being kind, gracious, generous, and loving toward others while respecting them.

Christlike Character Faithfulness

Being steadfast, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, and true to your word.

Christlike Character Gentleness

Being kind and respectful toward others using a mild tone and attitude in your speech and actions.

Christlike Character Self-control

The ability to control your emotions, desires, and actions in a way that honors God and benefits others over yourself.