

The Holy Spirit

Part 2

LIFE-CHANGE OBJECTIVES

- To understand, access, and practice the fruits of the Spirit.
- To understand, access, and practice the gifts of the Spirit.

Understanding the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is...

- Supernatural (Act 2:1-4)
- Powerful (Romans 15:19)
- Accessible to the believer (Acts 1:8)

God has granted us through the Holy Spirit nine Fruits of the Spirit. These nine marks of a true believer govern our daily walk and are a witness to the world of our commitment and personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

The Greek word translated "fruit" refers to the natural product of a living thing. Paul used "fruit" to help us understand the product of the Holy Spirit, who lives inside every believer. The fruit of the Spirit is produced by the Spirit, not by the Christian. The Greek

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word is singular, showing that “fruit” is a unified whole, not independent characteristics. As we grow, all the characteristics of Christ will be manifested in our lives.

Yet, like physical fruit needs time to grow, the fruit of the Spirit will not ripen in our lives overnight. Like a successful gardener must battle against weeds to enjoy the sweet fruit they desire, we must constantly work to rid our lives of the “weeds” of our old sin natures that want to choke out the work of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power we need to reject those old sinful desires. We can say “no” to sin and accept the “way out” God faithfully provides (1 Corinthians 10:13) by following the Holy Spirit’s leading.

As we give the Spirit more control of our lives, He begins to do in and through us what only He can do - to shape us and grow us to look like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

Since God’s goal for all His children is for us to be like Jesus (Romans 8:29), the Holy Spirit constantly works to rid our lives of the “*acts of the sinful nature*” (Gal 5:19) and display *His* fruit instead. Therefore, the presence of the “fruit of the Spirit” is evidence that our character is becoming more like Christ’s.

Love

True, biblical love is a choice, not a feeling. It deliberately expresses itself in loving ways and always seeks the welfare of others. Biblical love is dependent on the giver’s character, not emotion. For instance, a mature believer demonstrating love will not exercise his or her freedom if that action might harm another Christian in some way. Rather than risking the possibility of causing the immature Christian to question and stumble, the mature believer will not exercise his freedom out of love for his brother ([Romans 14:1-15](#)). Love chooses to set aside one’s own preferences, desires, and sometimes even needs to put the other person first ([Philippians 2:1-3](#)).

Joy

Sometimes we Christians tend to downplay the meaning of joy. But, the Greek word translated as “joy” in [Galatians 5](#) means “gladness and delight” – basically the same thing the world means when it talks about joy. It is a feeling of gladness based on our circumstances. Sadly, the world’s joy cannot last because it is based on fleeting, physical

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circumstances. But the joy of the Lord is established in our spiritual, eternal circumstances. As we cling tight to Jesus, abiding daily in our saving relationship with Him, we will experience the fullness of joy He promised ([John 15:4-11](#)).

Peace

The world doesn't offer much peace. Just look around. The world cannot give it because the world doesn't know the One who is peace. But for those who have the Spirit of peace within us, the peace of Christ is possible, no matter our circumstances ([John 14:27](#)). We can reject the chaos of the world and embrace God's peace. The book of Philippians tells us how ([Philippians 4:4-9](#)). First, choose to rejoice in God and who He is. Second, bring all your worries, fears, and concerns to God in [prayer](#). Third, fill your mind with God's truth. And fourth, choose to think about the things of God.

Patience (Forbearance)

The King James uses the word "forbearance" which is defined as patience, restraint, and self-control. We do not see much patience in the world today, not even in the church. Maybe part of the reason is our fast-paced, want-it-now culture. But Christians have everything we need to be patient because we have the Holy Spirit living in us longing to display His character to those around us. Patient people put up with circumstances and other people, even when severely tried. Patient people display endurance, longsuffering, and perseverance. The New Testament also specifically connects patience with sharing the Gospel. God is patient as He waits for the lost to come to Him ([2 Peter 3:9](#)) and He calls His people to be patient as we extend the offer of salvation in Christ to others ([2 Timothy 4:20](#)).

Kindness and Goodness

The characteristics of "kindness" and "goodness" are closely related. Together they present the picture of one who not only possesses moral goodness and integrity, but also generously expresses it in the way they act toward others. This "goodness in action" reflects God's kindness and goodness toward us. God demonstrated His kindness and goodness to us in our [salvation](#) ([Titus 3:4](#)) and will continue to "show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us" for all eternity ([Ephesians 2:7](#))!

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Faithfulness

To be "faithful" is to be reliable or trustworthy. For the Christian, this is faithfulness specifically to the Savior who redeemed us. Christian faithfulness therefore, is continued and consistent submission and obedience to the same Spirit who provides the ability for us to be faithful. This attitude is in direct contrast to our previous "faithfulness" to our own sinful desires and ways. The word also describes someone willing to suffer persecution and even death for Christ's sake. *"Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring."* ([2 Thessalonians 1:4](#))

Gentleness/Meekness

Closely linked to humility, gentleness is grace of the soul. It is not weakness, but instead it is strength under control. For instance, in Paul's second letter to Timothy, he wrote that the "Lord's servant" will "correct his opponents with gentleness" ([2 Timothy 2:25](#)). And in Paul's letter to the church in Galatia, he wrote that those who have been caught in sin should be restored in a "spirit of gentleness" ([Galatians 6:1](#)). Gentleness, being the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest, is also a key ingredient in unity and peace within the body of Christ ([Ephesians 4:2](#)). King Solomon reminds us of this great fruit benefit when he tells us in ([Proverbs 15:1](#)) "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Self-Control

The last characteristic in Paul's description of the fruit of the Spirit points us back to his list of the "works of the flesh" in [Galatians 5:19-21](#). Those of us with the indwelling Holy Spirit has the strength to control our sinful desires, to say "no" to our flesh. Self-control gives us the power to say "yes" to the Spirit and allows us to continue to develop all of the other fruit gifts of the Spirit.

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In addition to the nine Fruits of the Spirit, God has granted us access to the nine “power” gifts of the Spirit. Unlike the fruits of the Spirit which are universally accessible to all believers, the power gifts of the Spirit are given at the discretion of the Holy Spirit according to the will of the Father. ***“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”—1 Corinthians 12:11***

Some may be gifted with all nine gifts, some may be gifted with one. But all come from the Father according to His wishes for our lives. These nine gifts are in addition to the universal gift of an unknown prayer language for personal use ([Acts 1:5](#), [Acts 1:8](#), [Acts 2:4](#))

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for you to use how you want. They have specific purposes for God’s Kingdom. They are intended to glorify God by revealing more of who He is and displaying His sovereignty and power over all things.

The purpose of the Spirit’s manifestations is to benefit the Body of Christ. *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”* **1 Corinthians 12:7**

God’s Word tells us that we should earnestly seek and desire these gifts, not quenching the Spirit

- *“Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy...”* **1 Corinthians 14:39**
- *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”* **1 Corinthians 14:1**
- *“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies.”* **1 Thessalonians 5:19-20**
- *“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things, give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.”* **1 Timothy 4:14-15**
- *“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”* **2 Timothy 1:6**

There are seven distinct passages of scripture that tell of a person being baptized in the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 3:11](#), [Mark 1:8](#), [Luke 3:16](#), [John 1:33](#), [Acts 1:5](#), [Acts 11:16](#))

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The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12

1. **The Word of Knowledge**—This gift of the Holy Spirit is having knowledge about something that you have no ability or means of knowing based on your human intelligence.
2. **The Word of Wisdom**—This gift of the Holy Spirit works with the word of knowledge. It gives you the ability and understanding of how to apply the word of knowledge and the Word of God effectively in every situation.
3. **The Gift of Prophecy**—This gift of the Holy Spirit is one that the scripture says, *“to especially desire.”* This gift is a direct Word from the Lord that is to be given to someone else to edify and build them up.
4. **The Gift of Faith**—This gift of the Holy Spirit grows is a powerful gift. The gift of faith is the unwavering knowledge that God is able. This gift is of great benefit to the individual and the church as faith is the foundation stone of our walk with Christ.
5. **The Gifts of Healings**—There are actually different kinds of healings that the Spirit will do. Notice that the scripture says *“gifts,”* plural. These gifts equip you in various ways to access healing for yourself or be an anointed vessel that will heal others. These may take the form of physical, mental, emotional, relational, or spiritual healings.
6. **The Working of Miracles**—This gift of the Holy Spirit is depicted throughout the Bible, from Moses parting the Red Sea to Jesus feeding 5000 people. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, He is still in the business of working miracles. Like the word of knowledge, this spiritual gift is manifested not by human efforts, but by the Holy Spirit. The work is unexplainable by nature. It edifies and delivers others.
7. **The Discerning of Spirits**—This gift of the Holy Spirit equips the discerner to see evil spirits that are operating in someone’s life. The Holy Spirit pulls back the curtains, exposing the evil spirits so that the person can experience a breakthrough from their bondage.
8. **Different Kinds of Tongues**—This gift of the Holy Spirit is simply a supernatural ability to speak and pray in a tongue that you do not naturally know. This can be spoken forth in prayer direct to God, or in an assembly where God anoints another Believer, with the gift of interpretation, to interpret the word spoken in the native tongue of the congregation (1 [Corinthians 14:2, 13-14](#)).

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9. **The Interpretation of Tongues**—This gift of the Holy Spirit is to interpret the tongue that was spoken. This can either be for yourself (see 1 Corinthians 14:13-14) or for the Church (see 1 Corinthians 14:27-28).

Conclusion: The fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit are intended by God to give you the power to be witnesses in every area of your life of the life-changing work of salvation through the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.