

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”

(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

(1 Corinthians 1:25)

## PREPARING THE GROUND FOR FRUIT

The apostle Paul calls what Christians have “the fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22. We should consider that Paul does not call what we have “the works of the Spirit.” Nor does Paul call it “the fruits of the Spirit.” Fruit carries a certain imagery that is different than works. To be able to understand the fruit of the Spirit, it is important to begin our study by considering what our Lord taught about fruit.

43 “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44 for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (Luke 6:43–45 ESV)

1. Where does our fruit come from?

2. If we produce bad fruit, what does it mean? If we produce good fruit, what does it mean?

4 And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. 8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

9 And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, 10 he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (Luke 8:4–15 ESV)

3. What keeps fruit from being produced or maturing?

4. What is needed to produce the fruit God desires?

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned." (John 15:1–6 ESV)

5. How is fruit produced? Can we produce fruit on our will?

6. What will happen if we do not bear fruit?



#### TRANSFORMATION

1. Evaluate your actions (cf. Luke 6:43-45). What are you doing that shows that the treasure of our heart is not good as we desire it to be? What can you do to change this?

2. Evaluate your schedule (cf. Luke 8:4-15). What is causing your heart to not be fruitful? What is interfering with the growth of your spiritual heart?

3. Evaluate your desires (cf. John 15:1-6). What desires must change so that you abide (live) in Christ? What does abiding in Christ look like?

## 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. (ESV)

### THE CONTRAST TO FRUIT

Before the apostle Paul discusses the fruit of the Spirit, he first addresses the contrast: the works of the flesh. He also addresses the conflict that exists between the flesh and the Spirit. To properly understand the fruit of the Spirit, let us first consider what wars against our ability to bear fruit for the Lord.

1. What is keeping us from doing the things that we want to do and know that we need to do?
2. What does Paul mean that if you are led by the Spirit that you are not under the law? For help, look how this is said again in verse 23. Also, think about why desiring God from the heart would mean that we are not under law.
3. What does Paul mean that “the works of the flesh are evident?” What is Paul trying to get Christians to understand?
4. Discuss the first three works of the flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, and sensuality. What actions would be included in these fleshly works?
5. Discuss idolatry. What does this look like in our lives today?

6. Discuss sorcery (witchcraft). What does this look like in our lives today?
7. Discuss enmity (hatred), strife (discord/contentions), dissensions, and divisions. What does this look like in our lives today?
8. Discuss jealousy, rivalries, and envy. What does this look like in our lives today?
9. Discuss fits of anger (outbursts of anger; fits of rage). What does this look like in our lives today?
10. Discuss drunkenness and orgies (revelries; carousing; wild parties). What does this look like in our lives today?
11. Is this an exhaustive list that Paul gives (5:21)? What is the result of practicing things like these listed things?



## TRANSFORMATION

1. How does participating in the works of the flesh make it impossible to have the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?
2. What can we do to stop participating in the works of the flesh?
3. If we participate in any of the above things, what does this tell us about our relationship with God? What does this tell us about our hearts?

**GALATIANS 5:22-24**

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. (ESV)

**LOVE**

1. The first outcome that Paul describes that true followers of Jesus have is love. Read the following passage that Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

**Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Corinthians 13:4–7 ESV)**

2. Write down the things that love does and does not do.
3. The apostle Peter wrote: **“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8 ESV)**. Write down and discuss what this means for us.
4. Write down your observations about what the apostle John instructed:  
**11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous. 13 Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him? 18 Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:11–18 ESV)**

5. What does John say that love does?
  
6. What does it mean if we do not love? Look carefully because there are a number of answers John gives describing the result of who we are and what we are doing if we lack love.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What makes showing love difficult?



#### TRANSFORMATION

1. What are ways that you are not showing love in your life in the various relationships you have?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What changes can you make in your life so that love will become a greater fruit in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What can you do to encourage love in others (cf. Hebrews 10:24)?

**GALATIANS 5:22-24**

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**JOY**

1. When we think about joy and gladness, we typically think about our joy in terms of the present circumstances we are experiencing. Our happiness is typically directly tied to what is happening to us right now. Consider the following scriptures and note how these passages speak of joy that is not dependent on the present circumstances.

**1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (Hebrews 12:1–3 ESV)**

How did Jesus have joy in spite of his present circumstances? Explain.

**2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2–4 ESV)**

How are we to have joy in spite of our present circumstances? Explain.



2. According to Peter, how can we have joy in difficulties?

**6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:6–9 ESV)**

3. What does the apostle Paul say would give him joy?

**1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1–4 ESV)**



### TRANSFORMATION

1. What are ways that you are not showing joy in your life in the various relationships you have? What is the reason why joy is not be expressed?
2. What changes can you make in your life so that joy will become a greater fruit in your life?
3. What can you do to encourage joy in others?

**GALATIANS 5:22-24**

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. (ESV)

**PEACE**

1. Consider the scripture below. What does peace look like in the life of the Christians? How can we do fulfill this teaching?

**17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:17–21 ESV)**

2. Consider the following scriptures. Explain the passage and how we can fulfill the teaching.

**12 What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good. 13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. (Psalm 34:12–14 ESV)**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9 ESV)**

**Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." (Mark 9:50 ESV)**

**So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (Romans 14:19 ESV)**

3. Look at the following passage. Why is our message called “the good news of peace?”  
**34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed.” (Acts 10:34–37 ESV)**
  
4. What problems are there if we are proclaiming a message of peace yet we are not being peacemakers or acting peaceably?
  
5. What makes having peace difficult?



#### TRANSFORMATION

1. What are ways that you are not showing peace in your life in the various relationships you have? What is the reason why peace is not be expressed?
  
2. What changes can you make in your life so that peace will become a greater fruit in your life?
  
3. What can you do to encourage peace in others? What can you do to be a better peacemaker?

## GALATIANS 5:22-24

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### PATIENCE

1. Why is it hard to be patient with people? Why is it hard to be patient about your life?
2. How were the prophets an example of patience? What did that look like?  
**As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. (James 5:10–11 ESV)**
3. Describe the patience seen in Jesus, looking at the scripture below.  
**Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. (1 Timothy 1:15–16 NIV)**

What is Jesus' patience supposed to show us? Explain.

4. What characteristics are required to inherit the promises of God? How can we imitate this?  
**For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:10–12 ESV)**

5. What makes being patient difficult?



#### TRANSFORMATION

1. What are ways that you are not showing patience in your life in the various relationships you have?  
What is the reason why patience has not be expressed?
2. What changes can you make in your life so that patience will become a greater fruit in your life?
3. What can you do to encourage patience in others?

## GALATIANS 5:22-24

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### KINDNESS AND GOODNESS

1. Describe what kindness and goodness looks like in life.
2. Describe the riches of God's kindness toward you. Be specific. Give examples.
3. Read the following scriptures and write down more the riches of God's kindness.  
**We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:2–4 ESV)**

**For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:3–7 ESV)**



## GALATIANS 5:22-24

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### FAITHFULNESS

1. Describe faithfulness.

2. How has God been faithful to you? Describe his faithfulness to you in your life?

3. What does it look like to be faithful to God?

**Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. (1 Peter 4:19 ESV)**

**Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:23 ESV)**

4. What does it look like to be faithful in marriage?

**Wives, too, must be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. (1 Timothy 3:11 CSB)**



5. What can make faithfulness to God difficult?

6. What can make faithfulness in marriage difficult?



#### TRANSFORMATION

1. What are ways that you are not showing faithfulness in your life in the various relationships you have?  
What is the reason why faithfulness is not be expressed?

2. What changes can you make in your life so that faithfulness will become a greater fruit in your life?

3. What can you do to encourage faithfulness in others?

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### GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL

1. Describe gentleness. Describe self-control. How do these compliment each other?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read the scriptures below and discuss the need for gentleness in the circumstances described.  
**Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. (Galatians 6:1 ESV)**

**And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (2 Timothy 2:24–26 ESV)**

Do the above scriptures help us understand how to gentle to each other if we are to be gentle with "opponents" and the wayward?

3. Consider the following scripture. Where is an important area to show self-control? Describe ways we can practice self-control in this area.

**For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. (1 Thessalonians 4:3–6 ESV)**

4. What can make gentleness and self-control difficult?

#### TRANSFORMATION

1. What are ways that you are not showing gentleness and self-control in your life in the various relationships you have? What is the reason why gentleness and self-control are not be expressed?
2. What changes can you make in your life so that gentleness and self-control will become a greater fruit in your life?
3. What can you do to encourage gentleness and self-control in others?

# THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



## SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville