



The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

in Paul's Letter to the Galatians



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Introduction

Have you ever noticed that the gifts of the Holy Spirit receive a lot more attention than the fruit of the Spirit?¹ R.C. Sproul makes this observation as to the possible reason why: “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are fascinating and exciting. To be a gifted person is to receive accolades from our fellows for our performance abilities. For these reasons and perhaps others, the gifts of the Spirit receive far more attention in our culture than the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit seems to be doomed to obscurity, hidden in the shadow of the more preferred gifts.”² The fantastical nature of the gifts of the Spirit in which we appear to have power and glory makes them much more appealing. The gifts become even more appealing when compared to the everyday struggle of cultivating the fruit of the Spirit through the arduous process of abiding in Christ through the means of grace. This fruit comes not ultimately from our efforts and works which we’re drawn to because of our love for recognition and control. Instead, the fruit of the Spirit comes as a gift of God’s grace. As J.V. Fesko writes, “Because we are declared righteous in God’s sight, on account of the imputed righteousness of Christ, we receive the promised Holy Spirit – the indwelling power and presence of the fruit-producing Spirit.”³ However, the quality of the fruit is affected by what we ingest with our heart, soul, and mind as well as the environments in which we place ourselves and what we do to and through our bodies. John W. Sanderson describes this truth in this way: “The Christian is a new creature, a branch on the vine; yet he is responsible for taking an active part in the producing of fruit. The Bible knows nothing of wild fruit in the area of Christian sanctification.”⁴ Too many lack appreciation for and a willingness to submit to the long, slow, sure process of the formation of our character into the image of Christ as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit. Too many want control over the means by which we are formed into the image of God. In fact, this has been our problem from the beginning in Eden when our first parents decided to take their process of formation into their own hands. Our hope is that the Holy Spirit will use this sermon series to mature us in the fruit of the Spirit for the glory of God and the life of the world.

¹ See **Appendix A** for a short essay on the differences between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit and the importance of these differences for how we live in union with Christ.

² R.C. Sproul, *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit* (Christian Focus: Scotland, 2014 reprint), 133.

³ J.V. Fesko, *The Fruit of the Spirit is...* (Carlisle: EP Books, 2011), 57.

⁴ John W. Sanderson, *The Fruit of the Spirit: A Study Guide* (Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 1985), 60.

Fortunately for us, we prove time and again to be terrible arbiters of our own sanctification and maturation apart from the Holy Spirit. We would never intentionally put ourselves through the suffering necessary to become more Christ-like. What our sanctification does require is the ongoing process of putting to death anything within our desires and passions that doesn't reflect Christ via the Holy Spirit's conviction. We also have to positively keep up with and live in the Holy Spirit whose only concern is to exalt and reveal Christ in and through our lives through the fruit produced from abiding in Him.⁵ Paul clearly understood and lived out this process as evidenced throughout his letters. In Galatians, he frequently describes the Christian life in cruciform terms (cf. **Galatians 2:20-21, 3:13-14, 5:24, and 6:14**). He declares in **5:24** that the fruit of the Spirit comes as a result of our passions and desires in the flesh having been crucified in Christ. The command to walk in step with the Spirit along with his admonition from **Colossians 3:5** to continually put to death our earthly passions suggest that this crucifying will be an ongoing, painful process. As Christopher J.H. Wright notes, "The cross is not just a means by which we are saved, but also the model for how we are to live."⁶ No banners will be unfurled for living the cruciform life. In fact, as Paul experienced on numerous occasions, this kind of life will result in persecution and suffering for Christ. According to **Galatians 6:12**, those who were seeking to lead the Galatians astray (referred to as Judaizers) were doing so out of a powerful desire to avoid suffering persecution for the cross of Christ. They preferred external religious displays that they could control and be positively known for instead of the arduous internal transformation in Christ as evidenced in the external character of love and humility born of the Holy Spirit. Sanderson captures the difference well when he writes, "The error of the Judaizers was that they didn't really know what the Old Testament taught. They thought that Christian character was produced by habitual obedience to rules and ceremonies. Paul said that holiness is something which God plants within (His children), a seed which develops and blossoms under proper care."⁷ The fruit of the Spirit cannot be forced or coerced, but it must be desired and cultivated so as to become more like Christ as God's redeemed image bearers.

Critical to our understanding of and desire for the fruit of the Spirit is our recognition that it has been displayed by both God the Father and Jesus the Son in their redemptive

⁵ Remember our sermon series on the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John from this time last year. Jesus made it very clear that the Holy Spirit's primary work was to exalt and reveal Him. This is the foundational truth to understanding and discerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit. See the Introduction from the devotional for that series for more information at <https://www.csmedia1.com/christcommunitycobb.org/the-holy-spirit-in-john-devotional.pdf>. Note that Jesus' discussion of our abiding in Him as the vine and bearing fruit by God of which love is the clearest manifestation occurs in **John 15** between His explanations of the Holy Spirit in **Chapters 14 and 16**.

⁶ Christopher J.H. Wright, *Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness* (Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2017), 31.

⁷ Sanderson, 21.

character toward us.⁸ God the Father, as we will see through our Calls to Worship, displays love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control throughout His redemptive pursuit of His people.⁹ Thus, the fruit of the Spirit serves to be the natural outworking of our becoming a redeemed heir of God who bears His image in the world. We reveal His glorious identity by displaying His attributes as we live out our lives as He indwells us. Wright describes this reality when he writes, “So what Paul is saying with his list of beautiful qualities is this: these are the qualities that God himself will produce in a person’s everyday, ordinary human life because the life of God himself is at work within them. The life of God (by his Spirit) will bear fruit in the tree of a person’s life, simply because that is what God is like and this is what God produces.”¹⁰ Jesus the Son, as we will see in our Assurances of Pardons, also manifests the various aspects of the fruit of the Spirit in His redemptive work to reconcile us to God the Father.¹¹ As Sanderson posits, “It will not escape our notice that the fruit of the Spirit is, after all has been said, a description of Jesus Christ. Who truly loves, has real joy, peace, patience, and the rest, but the Son of Man?”¹² Given that Christ is the incarnated image of the invisible God and we are being transformed into His image, then we will reflect His character in and through our lives as we go about as His ambassadors of reconciliation. Wright expounds further, “...the Spirit of God which is the Spirit of Christ, will make the qualities of life of Christ grow in a person’s life, so that they become more like Christ – which is God’s desire for all his children.”¹³ We display the fruit of the Spirit in our lives because that fruit was first displayed by God the Father and Jesus the Son toward us for our eternal salvation. This is foundational to our understanding, desiring, and cultivating the fruit of the Spirit.

The other foundational truth for our understanding, desiring, and cultivating the fruit of the Spirit is that it is singular as opposed to plural. This means that the descriptions of the fruit are not optional according to preference, personality, or experience.¹⁴ How the fruit is displayed in various circumstances will be affected by our personalities and experiences but

⁸ See **Appendix B** for definitions of the fruit of the Spirit in God and Christ.

⁹ See **Appendix C** for how God displays the fruit of the Spirit according the various Call to Worship Scriptures.

¹⁰ Wright, 21-22.

¹¹ See **Appendix C** for how Jesus displays the fruit of the Spirit according the various Assurance of Pardon Scriptures.

¹² Sanderson, 34.

¹³ Wright, 22.

¹⁴ This becomes particularly important given our fascination with personality profiles such as the Enneagram, DISC, and the like to try to explain who we are and why we do what we do. The fruit of the Spirit DO NOT function in the same way nor are they trumped or stifled by your particular profile.

cannot serve as an excuse for not loving God and our neighbors as ourselves. As Jonathan Edwards describes with conviction, “If love is the sum of Christianity, surely those things which overthrow love are exceedingly unbecoming Christians. An envious Christian, a malicious Christian, a cold and hard-hearted Christian is the greatest absurdity and contradiction. It is as if one should speak of dark brightness, or false truth!”¹⁵

Love, in fact, serves as the uniting principle for the various descriptions in the fruit of the Spirit. Each of the descriptions following after love serves as a particular way in which we are to love God and our neighbors as ourselves.¹⁶ Paul declares in **Galatians 5:14** that “the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” before calling for God’s people to walk by the Spirit as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit. He simply recalls the words of Jesus who summed up the law in the love for God along with its natural outworking in love for neighbor as ourselves in **Matthew 22:34-40** and **Luke 10:25-37**. Michael Horton helpfully suggests why love uniquely proves critical to our Christian lives: “What endures into eternity is love. There will be no need for faith once we behold the reality. No more promise and trust. We will no longer be dependent on hearing the word and seeing the sacraments ratify the promise visibly. And hope will give way to full sight, to realization. After all of this, into eternity there will be love. The apostles are absolutely convinced...that love is the ultimate goal of the vertical relation to God and the horizontal communion of saints. Love is the ultimate bond.”¹⁷ Paul also declares love the highest lived ethic and character quality in **1 Corinthians 13** in which he shows the gifts of the Spirit and accomplishments of humanity to be meaningless and destructive without love. He uses much of the same language from the examples in the fruit of the Spirit in his definition of love in that same chapter. As Jonathan Edwards observes, “Our subject (**1 Corinthians 13:1-3**, love in particular) exhorts us to seek the spirit of love, to grow in it more and more, and very much to abound in the works of love. If love is so great a thing in Christianity, so essential and distinguishing, yea, the very sum of all Christian virtue, then surely those that profess themselves Christians should live in love, and abound in works of love; for no works are so becoming as those of love. If you call yourself a Christian, where are your works of love?”¹⁸ Our works of love as displayed through joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control should be evident in our worship and devotion to God which should lead to our love for our neighbor as ourselves as beloved

¹⁵ Jonathan Edwards, *Charity and Its Fruits: Living in Light of God’s Love*, ed. by Kyle Strobel (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012), 55.

¹⁶See **Appendix C** for how we are to live out the various examples of the fruit of the Spirit according to the various sermon passages. Also, see **Appendix D** for definitions of the various examples of love in the fruit of the Spirit.

¹⁷ Michael Horton, *Rediscovering the Holy Spirit: God’s Perfecting Presence in Creation, Redemption, and Everyday Life* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017), 223-224.

¹⁸ Edwards, 55-56.

children of God.¹⁹ As we recognize that we were once enemies of God destructively displaying the works of the flesh and yet He made us alive in Christ because of His love for us, we can love our neighbors toward that same end despite their enmity toward God and us His people.²⁰ Sanderson encourages us to remember that "...the call to evangelistic service of any sort is not based on the attractiveness of people as they now are, but on the anticipated attractiveness when they are renewed by the Spirit of God."²¹ Praise God that we can love in this way by joining His redemptive mission to enlarge the family, because He first loved us!²²

As we begin this sermon series on the fruit of the Holy Spirit, I pray that we would begin with the firm foundation of God's love for us as most profoundly displayed in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We cannot display the fruit of the Spirit in our love for God if we don't know that He first loved us. Nor can we exemplify the fruit of the Spirit in our love for our neighbors if we don't love ourselves as the beloved children of God made worthy of the heavenly blessings in Christ alone by grace alone through faith alone. May we have an appreciation for and be willing to submit to the long, slow, sure process of the formation of our character into the image of Christ as evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit. May we trust God to form our character into the kind of person that glorifies Him for the sake of our friends, families, neighbors, and co-workers. As Wright reminds us, "(Galatians 5:22-23) is not a list of virtues, matching the list of vices just listed in as "acts of the flesh." ...What Paul is talking about here is Christian *character*....(The fruit of the Spirit does) not focus on what kind of *performance* we can achieve, but what kind of *person* we are. Fruit takes time. Character takes time – a lifetime, in fact."²³ Join us as we diligently strive to mature in the fruit of the Spirit with the means of grace supplied by the Lord for our benefit and for the life of the world.

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from various **Psalms** in which we'll see the fruit of the Spirit displayed in the attributes and actions of God toward us His people. We will respond together to God's Call to Worship each week with a prayer from **Galatians 5:16-25** as we seek the Holy Spirit's help in cultivating His fruit in our lives. The assurances of pardon will come from various examples of Jesus in the New Testament that display the fruit of the Spirit towards us through His person and work. We have a new element in our liturgy beginning with this series in which we will respond together to the assurance of pardon with a prayer from **Galatians 2:20** to anchor us in who we

¹⁹ Paul gives several tangible out-workings of the fruit of the Spirit in **Galatians 6:1-10**.

²⁰ Cf. **Ephesians 2:1-10**.

²¹ Sanderson, 169.

²² Cf. **1 John 4:7-21**.

²³ Wright, 21, 22.

are in Christ.²⁴ The sermon texts for each example of the fruit of the Spirit will come from various places in **the New Testament** after being bookended by sermons from **Galatians 5:16-26** and **6:1-10**. Our benedictory blessings each week will come from **Galatians 6:14-18** to remind us of the blessed ongoing power of the crucifixion of Christ to enable us to walk in newness of life for the glory of God and the life of the world. The goal of these various elements is to show us that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is born of our abiding in Christ and from the faithful work of God the Father in our lives for the eternal good of those in our spheres of influence.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the various aspects of the Church. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries, church plants, and missional ministries that we support at CCC through Faith Promise and Local Missions. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday for the Holy Spirit to cultivate our heart for and draw people to worship. On Sunday, the Lord's Day Sabbath, we will pray for the means of grace to facilitate the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek to for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

Soli Deo Gloria!

²⁴ I'm grateful for Chris Blackman, our current pastoral ministry intern, introducing this idea to me in an exercise in which he planned out a sample liturgy for worship in the church he will lead in the future.

Sermon Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Call to Worship</i>	<i>Assurance of Pardon</i>	<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Sacrament</i>
<i>Sunday, 4/26:</i> Galatians 5:16-26	Psalm 1	John 15:1-11	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 5/3:</i> Luke 10:25-37	Psalm 25	John 15:12-17	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 5/10:</i> Luke 15:1-7	Psalm 16	John 16:16-24	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 5/17:</i> Romans 12:9-21	Psalm 29	John 16:25-33	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 5/24:</i> James 5:7-11	Psalm 40	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 5/31:</i> Luke 6:27-36	Psalm 145	Titus 3:3-7	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 6/7:</i> Luke 6:43-45	Psalm 34	Hebrews 6:13-20	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 6/14:</i> Luke 19:11-27	Psalm 57	Hebrews 2:14-18	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 6/28:</i> 2 Timothy 2:22-26	Psalm 103	Matthew 11:25-30	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 7/5:</i> 1 Corinthians 9:19-27	Psalm 85	Hebrews 4:14-16	Galatians 6:14-18	
<i>Sunday, 7/12:</i> Galatians 6:1-11	Psalm 126	1 Corinthians 15:35-49	Galatians 6:14-18	

Weekly Congregational Response

Abba Father,

Help us to walk by Your Holy Spirit, and not gratify the desires of the flesh. Make evident the works of the flesh in our lives that we may not dishonor You. We have been warned that those who live according to the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God. Guide us to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against which there is no law. Remind us as those who belong to Jesus Christ that the flesh has been crucified with its passions and desires. In union with Christ and through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are free to love You with all our heart, soul, and mind and our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Amen

Prayer from Galatians 5:16-25

Weekly
Prayerⁱⁿ Response^{to}
the Assurance^{of} Pardon

We have been crucified with Christ.

We no longer live but it is Christ who lives in us.

And the life we now live in our flesh

we live by faith in the Son of God, who loves us and gave himself for us.

Amen.

from Galatians 2:20

Weekly Benediction

Boast only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to us, and us to the world. May the peace and mercy of Christ be upon us as we walk by this rule. Go in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that resides within you in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen

from Galatians 6:14-18

The Week of April 26th

Galatians 5:16-26

Monday, 4/20: Psalm 1: What do you most delight in from the law of the Lord (think in reference to the Great Commandment as summative of the law from **Luke10:25-37**)?

Tuesday, 4/21: John 15:1-11: What are you doing to intentionally abide in Christ throughout your day? What fruit is being born from your abiding in Christ?

Wednesday, 4/22: Pray for Grace Potter as she serves with RUF at KSU that she would help college students to walk by and keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

Thursday, 4/23: Galatians 5:16-26: Are you spending more of your time and energy working for your flesh or bearing fruit walking by the Holy Spirit in union with Christ?

Friday, 4/24: Galatians 6:14-18: Reflect on the redemptive privilege you've been given to boast in the fruit of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Saturday, 4/25: Pray for the Holy Spirit to bear His fruit in our lives for the glory of God and joy of our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Sunday, 4/26: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help us to live in and keep in step with the Holy Spirit for the life of the world.

The Week of May 3rd

Love: Luke 10:25-37

Monday, 4/27: Psalm 25: Meditate on God's steadfast love toward you. Give thanks for His forgiveness of your sins and transgressions.

Tuesday, 4/28: John 15:12-17: How did Christ most clearly declare His love for us? What impact should this have on how we live?

Wednesday, 4/29: Pray for Jim Whittle with ELI that the Holy Spirit would bear much fruit from his efforts to train church planters and leaders in the love of God in Christ.

Thursday, 4/30: Luke 10:25-37: What are the tangible ways in which you express your love for God? For your neighbor beginning with your nearest neighbors in your own home?

Friday, 5/1: Galatians 6:14-18: Consider the ways in which God's love for the world was displayed in the cross of Christ. Who do you love by sharing this truth with them?

Saturday, 5/2: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw people to worship tomorrow who need to hear of God's love for them in the finished work of Christ.

Sunday, 5/3: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to stir our affections to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves.

The Week of May 10th

Joy: Luke 15:1-7

Monday, 5/4: Psalm 16: Consider the fact that God takes joy in your presence in His kingdom as His child. How should this shape your devotional life and worship?

Tuesday, 5/5: John 16:16-24: What brings Christ joy? How did this affect His ability to endure and suffer?

Wednesday, 5/6: Pray for the Mills with MTW in Thailand that the Holy Spirit would grant them the fruit of joy in seeing many come to Christ.

Thursday, 5/7: Luke 15:1-7: Who would you love to throw a party for when they are eternally found by Christ? What are you doing to prepare for this party?

Friday, 5/8: Galatians 6:14-18: Reflect on and share with someone else the joy that you have in your salvation through the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Saturday, 5/9: Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant us the opportunity to rejoice at the salvation of one of our children, family members, neighbors, co-workers, and/or enemies.

Sunday, 5/10: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to reveal even greater depths of joy for our salvation in Christ and for the ongoing redemptive work of God for the life of the world.

The Week of May 17th

Peace: Romans 12:9-21

Monday, 5/11: Psalm 29: Give thanks to God, the all-mighty Creator, for pursuing peace with you, the rebellious created. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name.

Tuesday, 5/12: John 16:25-33: What are the various ways in which you have peace in Christ? How does this affect how you live?

Wednesday, 5/13: Pray for Mwamba Johnson with VCM that the Holy Spirit would foster peace among his leaders and the students so they can share the Gospel of Jesus on campus.

Thursday, 5/14: Romans 12:9-21: How important is ongoing reconciliation and peace between image bearers to the ministry of the church in the world? What are you doing to pursue and maintain peace in the local church for the life of the world?

Friday, 5/15: Galatians 6:14-18: Give thanks for the ways in which your belief in the Gospel of Christ is growing and bringing greater joy and peace in your life.

Saturday, 5/16: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw people to worship tomorrow who need to make peace with God in Christ.

Sunday, 5/17: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to convict us of where we are not at peace with one another and grant us the strength to pursue reconciliation.

The Week of May 24th

Patience: James 5:7-11

Monday, 5/18: Psalm 40: Meditate on God's patience with you in your weakness and enmity toward Him. Give thanks for the Lord taking thought for and delivering you in Christ.

Tuesday, 5/19: 1 Timothy 1:12-17: What are some ways in which Jesus has used your weakness to display His perfect patience as an example to others He's drawing to Himself?

Wednesday, 5/20: Pray for First Care Women's Clinic that the Holy Spirit would help them to be patient with the weaknesses and hostilities of the clients who don't yet believe in Christ as Savior.

Thursday, 5/21: James 5:7-11: What opportunities has the Lord entrusted to you to grow in Christ-likeness and participate in His redemptive mission through patience?

Friday, 5/22: Galatians 6:14-18: How did God uniquely display His patience toward you in the crucifixion of Christ?

Saturday, 5/23: Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant us opportunities to display Christ's perfect patience in our union with Him for the life of the world.

Sunday, 5/24: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help us grow in patience toward those who oppose the Church and the Word of God.

The Week of May 31st

Kindness: Luke 6:27-36

Monday, 5/25: Psalm 145: How did God lead you to repentance in His kindness? Share this story with someone this week.

Tuesday, 5/26: Titus 3:3-7: Give thanks for the goodness and loving kindness of God who saved you in Christ according to His own mercy even though you were His enemy.

Wednesday, 5/27: Pray for the local churches in our area to persevere in displaying kindness in Christ towards those struggling under the weight of shame and guilt.

Thursday, 5/28: Luke 6:27-36: What is the purpose of Christ's command for you to love and be kind to our enemies? Who really is your enemy?

Friday, 5/29: Galatians 6:14-18: Meditate on the blessed kindness of God in placing the fullness of your shame and guilt as well as His wrath toward your sin on Christ on the cross.

Saturday, 5/30: Pray for the Holy Spirit to draw people to worship to experience the kindness of God that leads to repentance.

Sunday, 5/31: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to strengthen our ability to be kind to those at enmity with us in Christ's name.

The Week of June 7th

Goodness: Luke 6:43-45

Monday, 6/1: Psalm 34: How has the Lord been good to you?

Tuesday, 6/2: Hebrews 6:13-20: Consider how Christ serves eternally as our High Priest as a sure and steadfast anchor for our souls. Give thanks for His unchanging goodness on our behalf.

Wednesday, 6/3: Pray for the Sawyers serving in Kenya that the Holy Spirit would use their goodness towards those in Masai Mara to draw people to a saving faith in Christ.

Thursday, 6/4: Luke 6:43-45: What does your speech reveal about what is going on in your heart? Do your words and actions match your good confession in Christ?

Friday, 6/5: Galatians 6:14-18: What are the ways in which God displayed His goodness toward you in the crucifixion of Christ?

Saturday, 6/6: Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring people to worship who need to taste and see that the Lord is good in Christ.

Sunday, 6/7: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help us to remain steadfast in our integrity and repent of where we are inconsistent.

The Week of June 14th

Faithfulness: Luke 19:11-27

Monday, 6/8: Psalm 57: What aspects of God's faithfulness cause you to give thanks and sing praises in the gathered assembly?

Tuesday, 6/9: Hebrews 2:14-18: Meditate on Christ's endurance in living a sinless life though tempted by sin and suffering so that He could serve as our faithful High Priest.

Wednesday, 6/10: Pray for the Larsens with NEXT that the Holy Spirit would help them to remain faithful with the gifts and opportunities that God has provided for them world-wide.

Thursday, 6/11: Luke 19:11-27: What has the Lord entrusted to you as a faithful steward? What risks are you taking to grow what He has given you for His glory?

Friday, 6/12: Galatians 6:14-18: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be faithful in walking as a new creation in the peace and mercy of God in Christ.

Saturday, 6/13: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use your faithfulness in Christ to those in your spheres of influence to draw them to God as their Abba Father.

Sunday, 6/14: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to strengthen us to remain faithful in loving God and our neighbors as ambassadors of reconciliation.

The Week of June 28th

Gentleness: 2 Timothy 2:22-26

Monday, 6/22: Psalm 103: How have you experienced the gentleness of God amidst your frailty, weakness, and doubt?

Tuesday, 6/23: Matthew 11:25-30: Give thanks to Jesus for being gentle and inviting you to rest from your labor to prove your worth and being heavy laden with shame and guilt.

Wednesday, 6/24: Pray for the Stocks with MTW in SE Asia that the Holy Spirit would help them continue to bear with the struggles of others in gentleness as a reflection of Christ.

Thursday, 6/25: 2 Timothy 2:22-26: What is the purpose of being gentle in the opportunities that we have to correct others?

Friday, 6/26: Galatians 6:14-18: Meditate on how the crucifixion of Christ evidences God's gentleness towards us as His children.

Saturday, 6/27: Pray for the Holy Spirit to entrust to us opportunities to be gentle to those in our spheres of influence in hopes that God would grant repentance and restoration.

Sunday, 6/28: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to cultivate greater gentleness in us toward each other for the life of the world.

The Week of July 5th

Self-Control 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Monday, 6/29: Psalm 85: Praise God for restraining His anger and wrath toward our sin so that we would be saved. Pray for the same for those you know who don't know Him.

Tuesday, 6/30: Hebrews 4:14-16: What are the ways that you have benefitted from the self-control of Christ to remain sinless under great duress and suffering?

Wednesday, 7/1: Pray for Dave Lindberg and Immanuel Church in New Jersey that the Holy Spirit would protect their church plant from the earthly desires that could compromise their work both internally and externally.

Thursday, 7/2: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27: What are the ways in which you discipline yourself and your desires so as to protect and share your union with Christ as His disciple?

Friday, 7/3: Galatians 6:14-18: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see what's most important and worthy of priority in your life so that you might walk in God's blessed presence.

Saturday, 7/4: Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare us for worship tomorrow tendering our hearts to His conviction concerning our competing desires and passions.

Sunday, 7/5: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to discipline our bodies and desires so as to prove worthy of the calling to which we've been called in Christ.

The Week of July 12th

Galatians 6:1-11

Monday, 7/6: Psalm 126: What have you sown in tears that you have reaped or look forward to reaping with shouts of joy?

Tuesday, 7/7: 1 Corinthians 15:35-49: Meditate on the death and resurrection of Christ in which He has sown the perishable in death to raise to newness of life the imperishable in the resurrection. Give thanks for bearing the image of the Man of heaven in resurrected power.

Wednesday, 7/8: Pray for Byron Johnson with Vision 9:38 that the Holy Spirit would help him not grow weary in doing good for the glory of God through sending missionaries.

Thursday, 7/9: Galatians 6:1-11: What have you sown in the Holy Spirit in the last few months that you have already begun to reap the fruit from now?

Friday, 7/10: Galatians 6:14-18: Give thanks to the Lord for blessing you with peace and mercy as a new creation in Christ who keeps step with the Holy Spirit .

Saturday, 7/11: Pray for the opportunity to help restore in a spirit of gentleness someone in your spheres of influence who has mercifully been caught in any transgression.

Sunday, 7/12: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to form us into a people who bear one another's burdens without growing weary and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Appendix A:

The Fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit

As pointed out in the Introduction to this devotional, the gifts of the Spirit often receive more attention than the fruit of the Spirit. There are several reasons why this is a significant error. The first is that the gifts can be displayed by those who have not been redeemed by faith. In the Old Testament in **Numbers 22-24**, we read of Balaam prophesying the true words of the Lord though he was desperately self-serving and wicked. Even Balaam's donkey serves as a prophet! We also read of Saul prophesying in **1 Samuel 10** though the Spirit of the Lord would later depart from him. In the New Testament in **Acts 19:11-20**, we encounter Jewish exorcists who cast out demons even though the sons of Sceva discover it to be a more serious business than they had bargained for! **2 Thessalonians 2** describes the man of lawlessness appointed by Satan coming with power and false signs and wonders. Thus, the powerful display of supernatural gifts does not equate to the redeeming presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit. It is dangerous for us to use the supernatural gifts as the primary litmus of either orthodoxy or orthopraxy in Christ. The fruit of the Spirit as manifested in the transformed character of one in union with Christ proves to be the only accurate evidence of the residence and work of the Spirit. As Timothy Keller wisely notes, "We tend to see gifts as the sign of the Spirit's work in someone. But the Bible never does. Judas and King Saul were used by the Spirit to prophesy, do miracles, and so on...but they did not have Spirit-renewed hearts. To be truly led by the Spirit is to grow "the fruit of the Spirit" (v. 22). Gifts may or may not operate out of a grace-changed heart; but the fruit-growth of the Spirit can only happen in a child of God. The only test that the Spirit has really indwelt you as a child of God is the growth in the fruit of the Spirit."²⁵

Secondly, the gifts of the Spirit are only valuable where the fruit of the Spirit serves as the foundational motivation and drive. Paul makes this very clear in **1 Corinthians 13**. In fact, he argues in **1 Corinthians 14** that the gifts of the Spirit should be limited where it would be unloving to display them. Sinclair Ferguson writes, "For without love, and the humility which accompanies it (**Rom. 12:3; 1 Cor. 4:7**), the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is thwarted (**1 Cor. 13:1-3**). They are given through the Spirit of Christ to equip believers to serve one another in

²⁵ Timothy Keller, *Galatians for You* (The Good Book Company: Charlotte, 2013), 152.

the body of Christ and thus to set on display the unity of the church in the context of its diversity, and vice versa. For this, love is essential.”²⁶ Unless the fruit of the Spirit is present and active, then the gifts of the Spirit will be noxious and harmful to those in our spheres of influence.

The third critical difference is that the gifts of the Spirit are varied among the body parts of Christ as well as being intermittent. Those who have particular gifts don’t control where and when they come into play. They don’t become inherent to the person and are often seasonal or situational being distributed and invoked according to the will of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit ought to be displayed in every believer in their progressive sanctification so that the world will clearly know who we are for their eternal good. “...the fruit of the Spirit is not like the gifts of the Spirit, which are distributed among God’s people, some to some people, others to other people, all within the body of Christ (**1 Cor 12:4-11**). The fruit of the Spirit grows all together within a Christian’s life, with a unity, wholeness, and balance. All the pieces of the one fruit work together and strengthen each other.”²⁷ Thus, our focus ought to be on growing in love as the more excellent way for the glory of God and the life of the world!

May we display a biblical focus on the greater work of the Holy Spirit in the display of His fruit in our lives! May our display of the gifts of the Spirit where He allows exalt Christ alone and evidence our love for our neighbors for their eternal good!

²⁶ Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit: Contours of Christian Theology* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 209.

²⁷ Wright, 156.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
as Defined by God in Christ

-Love: Because **God** chose to pursue, redeem, and bless us in the sacrifice of **Christ** and gift of the **Holy Spirit** based not on what we deserved but according to His grace alone, we cultivate our relationship with God for His glory and pursue relationships with our neighbors in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

-Joy: Because **God** desires and takes pleasure in our salvation in the redemption of **Christ** and outworking of the **Holy Spirit** in our lives, we desire and take pleasure in our salvation and the outworking of the Holy Spirit in the lives of our neighbors as evidence of salvation.

-Peace: Because **God** reconciled us to Himself through the finished work of **Jesus Christ** as sealed in the **Holy Spirit**, we dwell securely in the presence of God and swiftly and persistently pursue reconciliation with our neighbors in the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

-Patience: Because **God** was longsuffering with our enmity with Him granting us mercy through the crucifixion of **Christ**, we suffer the enmity of our neighbors persevering to keep the Gospel before them until the transformation of the **Holy Spirit** brings forth the fruit of repentance in Christ according to the kindness of God.

-Kindness: Because **God** loves to give good gifts to His children and has lavishly given us access as heirs in **Christ** to all of the heavenly blessings, we selflessly and generously seek to bless God in worship and obedience as well as provide for the needs of our neighbors in the wisdom of the **Holy Spirit**.

-Goodness: Because **God** is unchanging in His character and commitment to our eternal benefit in **Christ's** atoning work on our behalf, we strive in the strength of the **Holy Spirit** to maintain our integrity and do what is right biblically even if costly to us for the glory God and the greater good of our neighbors.

-Faithfulness: Because **God** is to be trusted to fulfill His promises to His people through the person and work of **Christ**, we seek to hallow God's name in the vows we've made in His name and to prove trustworthy and true to our commitments to our neighbors in the sustaining work of the **Holy Spirit**.

-Gentleness: Because **God** continues to bear with us in our weakness and ignorance knowing that the work that He has begun in us will be brought to full fruition at the return of **Christ**, we approach our Abba Father in humility and hope while tenderly bearing with the weakness and doubts of our neighbors in whom Christ is at work in the **Holy Spirit**.

-Self-Control: Because **God** has satisfied His wrath in **Christ's** body given for us and disciplines us in love, we cultivate our hearts and minds for worship and discipleship through the regular use of the means of grace and train our desires and thoughts so as to esteem our neighbors as greater than ourselves in the guidance of the **Holy Spirit**.

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
in the Liturgical Elements

The Fruit of the Spirit	Displayed by God in the Call to Worship	Displayed by Jesus Christ in the Assurance of Pardon	Displayed by Us in the Holy Spirit in the Sermon Text
Love	Psalm 25: God's steadfast love as displayed in the forgiveness of our sins	John 15:12-17: Jesus lays down His life for us in love so that our sins would be forgiven	Luke 10:25-37: Love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves with no expectations in return
Joy	Psalm 16: God takes joy in our presence	John 16:16-24: Jesus takes great joy in our redemption and the promised reunion at His return	Luke 15:1-7: We should desire, pursue, and rejoice when the lost are found
Peace	Psalm 29: God pursues reconciliation and peace with His people	John 16:25-33: Jesus makes peace possible for us through His victory on the cross	Romans 12:9-21: We should actively pursue peace with both friend and foe for the glory of God
Patience	Psalm 40: God is patient with us in our weakness	1 Timothy 1:12-17: Jesus reveals His perfect patience in using our weakness to display His glory	James 5:7-11: We should be patient with God's timing and the weakness of others
Kindness	Psalm 145: God is kind in preserving the weak and merciful in forgiving us	Titus 3:3-7: Jesus saves us when we were God's enemies according to the loving kindness of God	Luke 6:27-36: We are to show mercy and kindness to our enemies providing whatever they need with no expectations in return
Goodness	Psalm 34: God is consistently good to us in his provision and preservation	Hebrews 6:13-20: Jesus is good to us as our unchanging High Priest that serves as a sure and steadfast anchor for our souls	Luke 6:43-45: Our actions should be consistent with our professed beliefs and confessions
Faithfulness	Psalm 57: God is faithful to keep all of His redemptive promises	Hebrews 2:14-18: Jesus remained faithful to our salvation though tempted in the flesh by sin	Luke 19:11-27: We must be faithful with the gifts and opportunities that the Lord provides for us for His glory
Gentleness	Psalm 103: God is gentle to us in our frailty	Matthew 11:25-30: Jesus gently offers us rest in our burdens and weariness	2 Timothy 2:22-26: We must be gentle with the failings of our neighbors so that they may be restored
Self-Control	Psalm 85: God's anger and wrath are restrained for the salvation of His people	Hebrews 4:14-16: Jesus was sinless though he suffered so that we could draw near the throne of grace in His atoning work on our behalf	1 Corinthians 9:19-27: We are to discipline ourselves as disciples for both worship and mission to the glory of God

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit
as Expressions of Love

-Joy: We love God for and rejoice over our salvation and love our neighbors by desiring that they join us in the great family of God and rejoice when they respond to the Holy Spirit's call.

-Peace: We love God by dwelling securely in His presence and love our neighbors by swiftly and persistently pursuing reconciliation in the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

-Patience: We love God by waiting expectantly for His redemptive provision and love our neighbors by suffering their enmity and persevering to keep the Gospel before them until their transformation in the Holy Spirit.

-Kindness: We love God by selflessly and generously seeking to bless Him in worship and obedience and love our neighbors by providing for their needs in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

-Goodness: We love God and our neighbors by striving in the strength of the Holy Spirit to maintain our integrity and do what is right biblically even if costly to us.

-Faithfulness: We love God by seeking to hallow God's name in the vows we've made in His name and love our neighbors by proving to be trustworthy and true to our commitments,

-Gentleness: We love God by approaching our Abba Father in humility and hope and love our neighbor by tenderly bearing with their weaknesses and doubts in which Christ is at work in the Holy Spirit.

-Self-Control: We love God by cultivating our hearts and minds for worship and discipleship through the regular use of the means of grace and love our neighbors by training our desires and thoughts so as to esteem them as greater than ourselves.