

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

ALTAR WORKERS TRAINING

LESSON 5 Part A: The Acts of the Sinful Nature and the Fruit of the Spirit

(Gal. 5:16-26—Focus Primarily on Vv. 19-23)

In communicating to those that he was addressing, Paul strongly urged them not to squander their freedom in Christ to merely satisfy the desires of the flesh. Some Bible teachers call this “*license*,” as having a permit to sin. In this situation it means that there are those who have decided that because we are justified by our faith in Jesus Christ, there is no need for us to constrain any of our sinful desires. In this situation it means that we can do whatever comes naturally. However, in Gal. 5:16-18, Paul has made it specifically clear that God has called us to a holy life and to use our freedom to serve each other in love under the power of the Holy Spirit.

According to Paul, we are to see the imperativeness of allowing God to be in control of our thoughts, words and actions and not to be led by the flesh and its carnal/depraved disposition. (See also Rom. 6:1-17; Gal. 5:13-14; 1 Peter 2:16-17). Here is God’s admonition and glorious promise: **If our way of life is controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will not be controlled by the desires of the sinful nature.** (Gal. 5:16 (note above); Rom. 8:1-17, 13:14; Col. 3:5; 1 Peter 2:11; etc.).

As observed in the caption for our lesson, we are discussing the contrast between the flesh and the Spirit. In **Gal. 5:19-23** Paul describes more fully what **results** when anyone gives themselves up to the flesh in contrast to those walking in the Spirit. As observed in **Vv. 19-21**, Paul gives us **some** of the outcome of the flesh while in **Vv. 22-23** he makes us aware of what is the outcome of being led by the Holy Spirit.

There are two differences in Paul’s description of the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. The differences are discussed using two groups.

1. **The source of the first group is the flesh.**
 - (a) The flesh depends on **its own strength** to accomplish its work. Not only is the flesh **self-sourced**, it is **self-centered**, mark with consequences of sin and rebellion against God.
 - (b) By its very source the flesh cannot do anything moral before God. The flesh does not have the **power** to produce righteousness and love, neither does it have any **resolve** to produce righteousness and love.

2. **The source of the second group is the Spirit.**

- (a) The Spirit of truth (John 14:17; 16:13), the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13), the Spirit of love (Rom. 5:5; Gal. 5:22) **is the source of the second group.**
- (b) The Holy Spirit works to accomplish His goals; He is in us and is greater than us (1 Cor. 3:16).
- (c) The Holy Spirit, being God, works in unison with the Trinity (1 John 5:7) and He lifts up Jesus Christ and the Father (John 16:13-15; 17:11) and glorifies God, the Father, in all things. As a result of Him (The Holy Spirit) abiding in us, He enables us to be pleasing to the Father (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10).

We have two sources and it is for us to decide which to yield to!!

- 1. Paul describes the first group as works of the flesh. **Works is plural** and speaks of a number of different things going on at the same time.
 - (a) It is a kind of **chaotic mayhem of activity** that is self-generated and uncontrolled, with each activity seeking to please **self**.
 - (b) Works also disconnects us from the heart of genuine God-like love and from human concern, and points to the cold, brutal, self-serving activities noted in Gal. 5:19-21.
- 2. Paul describes the second group with the word fruit.
 - (a) **Fruit is singular** and speaks of unity, order, co-operation and fullness.
 - (b) Fruit pictures a **long term ongoing process** which requires **intimate connection and the flow of life** from the vine to branch, to fruit (John 15:1-8).
 - (c) Fruit pictures **slow and steady maturity** unto fullness, attractiveness, and what is able to nourish others (John 7:37-39; Col. 1:9-12; Eph. 4:13-15).

Beloved! We have two processes; the question is: **“Which source do you want to work in you?”** (Deut. 30:19-20; 1 Kings 18:21).

A Quote from Life Application Study Bible (LASB)

“Our Wrong Desires Versus The Fruit Of The Spirit.”

The will of the Holy Spirit is in constant opposition to our sinful desires. The two are on opposite sides of the spiritual battle.

<i>Our wrong desires are</i>	<i>The fruit of the Spirit is</i>
<i>Evil</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>Destruction</i>	<i>Productive</i>
<i>Easy to ignite</i>	<i>Difficult to ignite</i>
<i>Difficult to stifle</i>	<i>Easy to stifle</i>
<i>Self-centered</i>	<i>Self-giving</i>
<i>Oppressive and possessive</i>	<i>Liberating and nurturing</i>
<i>Decadent (See below for definition ... insert mine)</i>	<i>Uplifting</i>
<i>Sinful</i>	<i>Holy</i>
<i>Deadly</i>	<i>Abundant life</i>

(**“Decadent”**: some synonyms: degenerate, unprincipled, wanton, indulgent, hedonistic, etc.)

No passage in the Bible draws clearer contrast between the lifestyle of the Spirit-filled believer and that of the person controlled by the sinful nature than Gal. 5:16-26. Paul not only discusses general lifestyle differences by emphasizing that the Spirit and the sinful nature are at war with each other, but he also includes a specific list of both the sinful acts of the sinful nature and the fruit of the Spirit.

A. The ACTS OF THE SINFUL NATURE Gal. 5:19-21

Being “in the flesh” or “to be carnally minded” are terms for the sinful (human) nature with its corrupt desires. The sinful nature remains within Christians after their conversion and is a deadly enemy (Rom. 8:6-8; Gal. 5:17, 21). Therefore, this sinful nature must be resisted and put to death continually through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:4-14).

In making a listing **of the works of the flesh**, Paul listed seventeen items, as noted in the KJV, NKJV, and some other translation while some translations have noted fifteen (some have combined “*adultery and fornication under one caption while omitting “murders”, etc. We will stay with the list of seventeen*). It should also be noted that Paul could easily have made a longer list but the intended message has been effectively communicated. **The message in this listing is: “The works of the flesh is hostility against God!” (Rom. 8:7-9).**

The seventeen items listed can be divided into four groups and obviously we wouldn’t be able to discuss them in details. My prayer is that you will be benefitted by what is shared . . . to the glory of God!!

1. The first group focuses on **“Sexual Misconduct.”**

Sexual Misconduct properly describes the society in which we live today and we do not have time to go in details for you to agree with this statement, the facts are very much obvious. We are now at a point where even so-called professed believers are habitually engaged in this immoral way of living; as one preacher said some time ago: “*If you knew what was happening in some churches all the hairs on your head would stand up straight!!*” (Eph. 5:12). Sexual Misconduct is a work of the flesh and has nothing to do with the Genuine Church of the Living God! Victory over such lifestyle is found in Jesus Christ!!

(a) **Adultery**: that is sexual activity or intercourse outside of the marriage union. It comes from the word ***pornography*** comes from the root ***porneia*** and thus sexual immorality may include taking pleasure in pornographic pictures, films or writings, etc. Let us not forget Christ’s warning about looking at a woman (even a woman looks at a man, whichever way) **His caution is looking lustfully results in adultery!!** (Ex. 20:14; Matt. 5:31-32; 1 Cor.5:1).

- (b) **Fornication:** that is, sexual sins, evil deeds and vices (moral depravity, corruption, etc.), including thoughts and desires of the heart (*also noted above*). Too many regard delayed gratification as obsolete ... which leads to gross sins, etc. (Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5).
- (c) **Uncleanness and Lasciviousness:** (*These are combined by most scholars and we are looking at lewdness, lustfulness or pleasures, etc.*). The work of the flesh here is sensuality; **following one's passions and desires to the point of having no shame or public decency.** (2 Cor. 12:21; Col. 3:5; 1 Peter 4:3; Jude 1:4).

2. The second group focuses on "False Worship."

Idolatry is not limited to worship of images, statues, pictures, etc. or the worship of heavenly bodies, the sun, moon, and stars or demons and angels, men and animals. Idolatry involving anything placed above God this can be self, family members, possessions, one's abilities, success, etc. Anything that takes the place of God in our lives is idolatry!

Note the following quote on witchcraft:

*"Witchcraft is the Greek word "pharmakea" from which we get our word pharmacy, a mixer of drugs. . . . Witchcraft is the use of potions, incantations, charms and superstitions to control circumstances or future outcomes. . . . In the OT **rebellion** is equated with the sin of witchcraft. . . . Witchcraft is a trust in powers that are in opposition to trust in God. . . . Do you follow your daily horoscope even for fun or have your palm read or go to a fortune teller?"* (1 Chron. 10:13; Lev. 19:31; Rev. 21:8).

- (a) **Idolatry:** that is, worship of spirit or graven images; **trusting in** person, institution or thing as having **equal or greater** authority than God and His Word. (Isa. 44:9-20; Col. 3:5; 1 John 5:21). (Note our introduction above on the subject).
- (b) **Witchcraft:** that is, sorcery, Spiritism, black magic, worship of demons and use of drugs to produce spiritual experiences, (Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:18; Deut. 22:18; Rev. 9:21; 18:23). (Note our introduction above on the subject).

3. The third group focuses on "Broken Relationships."

Broken relationship can be a source of many negative emotions. Christians understand the futility of allowing solely their emotions to guide them; they understand the danger of acting like an emotionally immature person; they understand the danger of giving place to any behavior that is a demonstration of being controlled by the flesh. (Gal. 5:16-20).

Whenever there is a manifestation of anger, contentions, hostility, they demonstrate a focus on self, and power and possession and satisfaction which Paul says is "**selfish ambitions.**" (Phil. 2:3-4 . . . NB v. 3—KJV uses "**vain glory**" . . . NKJV uses "**selfish ambition**"). The flesh often tries to rally support for its selfish ambitions and as a result it results in **dissension** and **factious**; the clique spirits generally results in divisions and splits as it tries to gain support for its own selfish gains.

- (a) **Hatred (hostility):** that is, intense, hostile intentions and acts; extreme dislike or enmity (Lev. 19:17; Eph. 4:31; Titus 3:5; 1 John 2:9-11; 3:15).
- (b) **Variance:** that is, contention, quarreling, antagonism (*hostility, arousing dislike*); **a struggle for superiority.** (Prov. 16:28; Rom. 1:29; 1 Cor. 1:11, 33; 2 Cor. 12:20).
- (c) **Emulations:** that is, jealousy, resentfulness, envy of another's success. (Gen. 37:4, 11; Prov. 6:34; Prov. 27:4; 1 Cor. 3:3).
Note the following quotes on jealousy
"Jealousy is a form of hatred built upon insecurity." (Author unknown)
*"The answer for the sin of envy and jealousy is to **find our contentment in God.**"*
 (Jeremy Taylor)
- (d) **Wrath:** that is, outburst of wrath, outburst of anger, resentfulness, envy of another's success. (Gen.4:3-7; Psa. 37:8; Col. 3:8; James 1:20).
- (e) **Strife:** that is un-righteously seeking power or position; getting what one's desire no matter what! (Prov. 17:14; Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 3:3; 2 Cor. 12:20; Phil. 1:16; James 4:1-3).
- (f) **Seditious:** that is, dissensions, sedition, dis-union, division, discord, separation, schism, heresies, tearing apart. **It introduces divisive teachings not supported by God's Word.** (Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:9-11; 2 Peter 2, NB Vv. 1-3; 2 John 1:10-11).
- (g) **Heresies:** that is, **division within the congregation into exclusive groups or cliques that destroy the unity of the church** (1 Cor.3:1-17; 11:19).
Explaining the Greek definition, Key Word Study Bible, notes:
". . . a party (group, alliance, etc.), disunion, heresy, ... to choose; to select. In the NT, a chosen way of life: a sect, school, party (Acts 5:17; 15:5; 24:5, 14; 28:22); implication, discord, dissension (1 Cor. 11:19; Gal. 5:20; 2 Peter 2:1)."
- (h) **Envy:** that is, resentful dislike of another person who has something one desires. (Prov. 14:30; 24:1; 2 Peter 2:1; James 3:14-16).
- (i) **Murders:** (*I should note that some sources have omitted "murders" from this listing; however, since it is listed in the KJV as well as other leading translations we will not omit it. **Providing the Lord is laying some very strong thoughts on my mind . . . please understand as I obey God's leading!***).

The word "**murders**" means homicide, slaughter, destroy, slay, etc. "*It is the act of unlawfully killing a human being with premeditated malice, by a person of sound mind. . . .*" (KJV Dictionary). The Bible distinguishes between "killing" someone and what is "murder." **Killing** someone may have been unintentional but **murder** is intentional premeditated act of taking the life of a human being, illegally. (Ex. 20:13; 21:12; Deut. 5:17; etc.). (Matt. 5:21-26; Rom. 13:9; 1 John 3:11-12; Rev. 21:8).

Note carefully Matt. 5:21-24 . . . also Matt. 5:38-48; James 4:2.

The source of murder comes from the heart (*mind, the core of an individual's character*) where **hate** and **anger** are festered by **Satan**. **If we have these evil traits in our hearts, we are fostering the spirit of murder. Thought precedes**

murder. If we hate someone, we break the sixth commandment (**“You must not murder”** Ex. 20:13 NKJV). **Killing** is a terrible sin, but likewise **anger** is a great sin because it violates God’s command to love. **Anger** in this case (Matt. 5:21-22) refers to a seething, brooding bitterness against someone. It is a dangerous emotion that always threatens to leap out of control, leading to violence, emotional hurt, increased mental stress, and spiritual damage.

Read again Matt. 5:22 note these words: **“angry” . . . “Raca” . . . “fool.”** Jesus is not speaking of a righteous anger at injustice or holy indignation (comp. John 2:13-17) but is condemning the vindictive anger that would unjustly desire the death of another. **“Raca”** is a term of contempt and probably means **“empty headed fool.”** To call a person a **“godless fool”** in anger and contempt may indicate a heart attitude that places one **“in danger of hell fire”** (Matt. 5:22).

James 4:1 Amplified Bible

“What LEADS to strife (discord and feuds) and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members?”

See also: Psa. 37:8; Prov. 14:29; Eph. 4:26, 31; Col. 3:8, 15; James 1:19-20; 1 Peter 2:1.

4. **The fourth group focuses on “Lack of Soberness.”**

Through the years we have heard users of alcohol defend its use by making quotes from the Bible. A proper study of this subject would help and the defenders of the use of alcoholic drinks discover that there is a difference between fermented and unfermented drink. At this time, it should be realized that there were methods during the Bible days of preventing fruits and juices from fermenting, for example: (a) *“Boiling the juice and reducing it to a syrup that could later be diluted with water.* (b) *Boil the juice with a minimum evaporation and then immediately seal it with beeswax in airtight jars.* (c) *etc.* These and other methods prevented fruits and juices from fermenting, and as a result they were able to have non-alcoholic wine (grape juice) throughout the year.

While so many advocate for the use of alcoholic drinks, noting that Christ turned water into wine (John 2:1-11) and He used wine at the Last Supper (Luke 22:17-38); we do not have any of the Gospel writers noting use of **“fermented, intoxicated wine.”** In regards to the Last Supper note how the writers described the wine used: **“fruit of the vine” (see Matt. 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18).** Also note on the cross they gave Christ a **“vinegar wine with some dulling effect” (Matt. 27:34; Mark 15:23),** but He did not drink it; because Jews did not use **“fermented wine!”**

Irrespective of anyone's determination to continue using and advocating for the continued use of alcoholic drinks, it is still inconsistent with the Word of God!!

Drunken sprees and unrestrained partying are forbidden in Scriptures!

Gal. 5:21 Amplified Bible

"... drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

(a) **Drunkenness:** that is, intoxication, inebriation (impaired, wasted, etc.); a state in which a person is overcome or overpowered with spirituous liquors, so that his reason is disordered, and he reels or staggers in walking. **Put it simple:**

"impairing one's mental or physical control by alcoholic drink." (Prov. 23:20, 31; Isa. 5:11; Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:10).

(b) **Revellings:** that is, to take pleasure or wallow; to revel in success; to take part in noisy festivities; to make merry; wild parties; etc. In essence it is excessive feasting and revelry; a party spirit involving alcohol, drugs, sex and acts of similar nature. (Rom 13:13-14; 1 Peter 4:3; 2 Tim. 3:1-4; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; James 4:4).

Note also in Gal. 5:21 at the end of the listing of the Works of the Flesh Paul says:

(a) *"... and such like ..."* (KJV) (b) *"... and the like ..."* (NKJV) (c) *"... and other sins like these ..."* (LASB). As noted above this list (Gal. 5:19-21) could have gone on and on but the message is clear: ***"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, . . . For to be carnally minded is death . . . So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*** Excerpts from Rom 8:5, 6 & 8 . . . NOW READ Vv. 1-17 (That is Rom. 8).

Paul's final comments about the acts of the sinful nature is stern and forceful; any so-called Christians who engaged in these types of activities shut themselves out of the kingdom of God, that is, they do not possess eternal salvation (**Gal. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:9**).

B. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT Gal. 5:22-26

Contrasted to the acts of the sinful nature is a singular-minded lifestyle called "the fruit of the Spirit." This is produced in God's children as they allow the Holy Spirit to so direct and influence their lives and destroy sin's power, especially the acts of the sinful nature, and walk in fellowship with God (Rom. 8:5-14; 2 Cor. 6:6; Eph. 4:2-3; Col. 3:12-15; 2 Peter 1:4-9).

The ***"Fruit of the Spirit"*** speaks of that which the Holy Spirit produces. It is not without design, evidently, that the apostle uses the word ***"Spirit"*** here as denoting that these things do not flow of our own nature. The verses enumerated are the proper ***"works"*** or result of the operations of the human heart; the virtues which he enumerates are produced by a foreign influence—the agency of the Holy Spirit. Hence Paul does not trace them to our own hearts, even when renewed. He says that they are to be regarded as proper result of the Spirit's operation on the soul.

We do not have time for a detailed presentation but allow me to make a few more comments. Observe that the word **“fruit”** is singular tense. This is an illustration that I learned many years ago: ***“the fruit of the Spirit’ as in Gal. 5:22-26 (NB Vv. 22-23) is like a grapefruit consisting of nine pegs. If one peg is missing the fruit is not complete. Also, while the fruit may have nine pegs (as with the Fruit of the Spirit) it is ONE FRUIT.”***

All the traits forming the “fruit of the Spirit” are ALL are essentially important. We cannot say that: “We have eight but lack one characteristic, (for example love) nevertheless, hope that with good intentions and with the help of God and we will live victoriously as designed by Him. Falling short but trusting that the Holy Spirit will help and we will by our determination continue in obedience and we will just as God intended, live accordingly, although one or more qualities of the fruit of the Spirit are missing!” **NO!! Beloved,** it does not work that way; if we testify of having the Baptism in the Holy Spirit then we should be experiencing all features of the Fruit of the Spirit . . . **ALL traits comes with the ONE FRUIT!!! ALL NEED TO BE IN PLACE!!! It is “The Fruit of the Spirit!”**

The initial evidence of receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues (Acts 2; etc.). **Some do make the mistake of overlooking the importance of the fruit of the Spirit, which ought to be evident in ALL children of God who are baptized in the Holy Spirit!!** At this time, we will avoid details but it is important to keep in mind that while Satan can imitate gifts he cannot imitate fruits (*when Moses did certain miracles, the Egyptian magicians did similar . . . for example see Ex.7:10-12, until they, Pharaoh’s magicians, could not keep up with the power of the True and Living God, for example see Ex. 8:18, also Vv. 20-24*). The Scriptures also speaks of: (a) One is known by their fruit (Matt. 7:15-20; Luke 6:39-45, NB Vv. 43-45). (b) Caution is necessary because Satan do manifest himself also as “...an angel of light...” – (2 Cor. 11:14 . . . Read 2 Cor. 11:1-15, NB Vv. 3, 13-15; Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 3:1-9, NB Vv. 1-3). (c) The necessity to “... test the spirits, whether they are of God ...” (1 John 4:1 . . . read Vv. 1-6). (d) We briefly discussed “The Baptism in the Holy Spirit” in Lesson 6, Part A and short comments were made in Lesson 2 Parts A, B, and C ... Altar Workers Lessons.

As Spirit Filled believers we are professing a lot and emphasis must be placed on moral character. We ought to see the value placed on the ***“fruit of the Spirit,”*** which directly relates to ethical and moral qualities. In our strength or by our own ability, this is an impossibility, that’s why the reference here is the ***“fruit of the Spirit.”*** He is the one who enables and equips us! Oh! Beloved! It is so important to be filled by Him, controlled by Him, (Eph. 5:18-21). **As noted several times before, “Fruit” is singular signifying that all nine characteristics are the normal result of a life of “the Spirit.”** These qualities stand in sharp contrast to the disruptive ***“works of the flesh.”*** ***They foster and build community spirit, togetherness, a united people under God and with one another!*** (1 Cor. 12:12-27; etc.).

As noted before, what we are discussing here is a singular-minded lifestyle called “The Fruit of the Spirit;” this is possible as God’s children allow the Holy Spirit to be in full control of their lives.

Acts 1:4, 4, 8 Amplified Bible

“. . . He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak. [John 14:16, 26; 15:26.] . . . For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit. . . . But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.”

The Fruit of the Spirit Includes:

1. **Love:** that is, charity, a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain! This we refer to as **“the selfless, sacrificial love, it is the love of God . . . the agape love.”** This love is the **motive and end product** of this whole list of godly virtues (Gal. 5:22-23) that results as **we continually yield to the Spirit’s influence and work in our lives. Beloved, this love is a choice of the will and love for everyone, sincerely . . . it is a choice to unconditionally seek the highest good of others (1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5:5-6).** *I have done some additional lessons on love covered in Lesson 7 Parts A, B, and C.* (Rom. 5:5-6; 12:9-21, NB Vv. 9-10; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:2; Col. 3:14; 1 Peter 1:22).
2. **Joy:** that is, the feeling of gladness based on the love, grace, blessings and promises and nearness of God that belongs to those who believe in Jesus Christ. **Joy is more than circumstantial happiness; it is an inner contentment that continues in all circumstances and is fed by our relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ** (see John 15:9-11). While the happiness of the world is temporal and not truly satisfying; the joy of the LORD is the very opposite producing joy, assurance, satisfaction, etc. that is lasting. (Nehemiah 8:10; Psa. 28:7) and not dependent on outward circumstances. (Psa. 119:16; 2 Cor. 6:10; Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; 1 Peter 1:8).
3. **Peace:** that is, harmony in all relationships; the rest of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his/her heavenly Father, resulting in freedom from the turmoil of anxiety. *Biblical peace is more than just the absence of conflict; it is **taking action to restore a broken situation.** It’s more than a state of inner tranquility; **it is a state of wholeness and completeness. Biblical peace is not something we can create on our own, it comes with the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!*** (Isa. 26:3; Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:7; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20-21)
4. **Longsuffering:** that is, endurance, patience, putting up with others, even when everyone else is severely tired . . . **it is being slow to anger or despair.** *The Greek word from which we get “longsuffering” conveys the meaning of “long-tempered” or “patient.” Contrary to popular view, a person who is longsuffering is NOT weak!*

- Instead, he/she is strong in character and bold in resisting rash reactions. We should all be grateful that God is the epitome of long-suffering love.* (Eph. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:10; Col. 1:11-12; Col. 3:12). (“epitome”: essence, model, etc.)
5. **Gentleness:** that is, kindness; not wanting to hurt anyone or cause them pain. **Gentleness, also translated “meekness,” does not mean weakness. Rather, it involves humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. The opposite of gentleness is: easily angered, pride, a desire for revenge, and self-aggrandizement (self-elevation, self-glorification, etc.). It takes a strong person to be gentle but such is possible when we are filled with the Holy Spirit!!** (Eph. 4:2, 32; 2 Tim. 3:10; Col. 1:11-12; Col. 3:12).
 6. **Goodness:** that is, zeal for truth and righteousness and hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of kindness (Luke 37:50) or in rebuking and correcting evil (Matt. 21:12-13). Goodness is a virtue and holiness in action. It results in a life characterized by deeds motivated by righteousness and a desire to be a blessing. It is a moral characteristic of a spirit filled life and it shows generosity to others. (Rom. 12:9; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 4:29-32; 2 Peter 1:5-7).
 7. **Faith:** that is, also translated as “faithfulness”; it is firm and unswerving loyal to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, there is trust and honesty. It is trustworthy and as someone states: **“It is a rare gem!” Faith describes much more than just believing a statement about God; it reveals a full reliance upon Him!** (Luke 16:10-12; 2 Thess. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:7; Titus 2:10).
 8. **Meekness:** that is, referring to **gentleness** another word that **expresses depth of character.** The Greek term describes someone who is submissive, teachable and considerate. He/she is gentle, restraint, coupled with strength and courage. **Gentleness** describes a person who can be angry when anger is needed and humble and submissive when submission is needed (2 Tim. 2:25; 1 Peter 3:15; for gentleness in Jesus, compare Matt. 11:29 with Matt. 23 and Mark 3:5; in Paul compare 2 Cor. 10:1 with 10:4-6 and Gal. 1:9; in Moses compare Num. 12:3 with Ex. 32:19-20. Meekness (gentleness) does not describe a **spineless softy** but rather a **person who has undergo God’s discipline and has put his strength under God’s control. Meekness is essential to character but will require brokenness and yielding to God!!** (see also Psa. 37:11; Isa. 29:19; Matt. 5:5; 1 Peter 3:4).
 9. **Temperance:** that is self-control, mastering one’s own desires and passions, including faithfulness to one’s marriage vows; victory over sinful desires are realized and in essence purity of life is realized. **In addition, note: Temperance comes from a Greek word meaning strength, not physical, but inward strength that helps us to make the best choices. This strength can only come from our daily dedication to obtaining and maintaining the fruit of the Spirit!!** (1 Cor. 7:7-9; 9:25; Titus 1:8; 2:5).

Paul writes, “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal. 5:24 NKJV). It is obvious that if the Christian has crucified the flesh along with its passions and desires, then the Christian **should no longer do the works of the flesh.** God has put to death the old man and rendered powerless the power of sin (Rom. 6:6) so Christians should

now serve God with his body by walking in the Spirit and developing and expressing the fruit of the Spirit. To carry out the works of the flesh is to walk contrary to what God has done in us in union with Christ and has gone back to the old sinful way of Adam. **Oh for the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit!!*** (Joel 2:28; Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4, 38; 19:1-6)

Paul's comment about the fruit of the Spirit indicates that there are no restrictions to the life style indicated here. Christians can—in fact, must—practice these virtues (Gal. 5:22-23) over and over again, they will not discover a law prohibiting them from living according to these principles.

Several hymns came to my mind but in my research I decided to use the following:

Breathe on Me by Edwin Hatch 1869-1952

Holy Spirit, breathe on me,
Until my heart is clean.
Let sunshine fill its innermost part,
With not a cloud between.

Holy Spirit, breathe on me;
My stubborn will subdue.
Teach me in words of living flame
What Christ would have me to do.

Holy Spirit, breathe on me;
Fill me with power divine.
Kindle a flame of love and zeal
Within this heart of mine.

Holy Spirit, breathe on me,
Till I am Thine own;
Until my will is lost in Thine,
To live for Thee alone.

Refrain

Breathe on me; breathe on me;
Holy Spirit, breathe on me.
Take Thou my heart; cleanse every part.
Holy Spirit, breathe on me.

Eph. 6:7 NKJV

“ . . . with goodwill doing service as to the Lord, and not to men, . . . ”

LESSON 5 Part A: Review Questions

1. (a) What term was used to describe the act of those who squander their spiritual freedom to satisfy the flesh? (b) Briefly explain what this term means.

2. Complete by choosing the correct answer:
“If our way of life is controlled by the Holy Spirit _____
by the desires of the sinful nature.

- (a) we will know unlimited joy
- (b) we may miss the pleasures
- (c) we will always be controlled
- (d) we will not be controlled

3. (a) In describing the “**work of the flesh** and **fruit of the Spirit**,” which two different groups Paul noted? (b) Briefly explain the essence of what is involved in each group.

8. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.
"Idolatry is limited to worship of images, statues, pictures, etc. . . . or other objects."

9. Complete the following:
"The flesh often (a) _____ to rally (b) _____ for its selfish (c) _____ and as a result it results in (d) _____ and (e) _____ the clique (f) _____ generally results in (g) _____ and (h) _____ as it tries to gain support for its own (i) _____ gains."

10. Briefly define (a) "**sedition**" (b) "**heresies.**" (Gal. 5:20 KJV).

11. (a) Define "**murderers.**" (Gal. 5:20). (b) How does the Bible distinguishes between "**killing**" and "**murder**"?

12. In our brief coverage of **Matt. 6:22-24**, note briefly, two important pointers discussed.

13. Some users of alcoholic drinks, uses Scriptures as defense for their act (*for example they may quote John 2:1-11; etc.*). Briefly state a logical and Scriptural response.; showing that Scriptures does not support drunkenness.

14. What does ***“Fruit of the Spirit”*** refers to? Gal. 5:22-26.

15. Explain what is meant by ***“Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.”*** Please be specific and give references.

16. Complete by choosing the correct answer.

“As Spirit Filled believers we are professing a lot and emphasis must be _____
_____.”

- (a) placed on personal effort.
- (b) placed on moral character.
- (c) placed on dominating others.
- (d) placed on church attendance.

17. Complete the following:

In reference to the “Spirit Filled” believer and emphasis on “Fruit of the Spirit, it was noted:

Fruit is singular signifying that all nine (a) _____ are the normal (b) _____ of a life ‘the (c) _____.’ These (d) _____ stand in sharp (e) _____ to the (f) _____ ‘works of the (g) _____.’ They (h) _____ and build (i) _____ spirit (j) _____; a united (k) _____ under God and with one another! (1 Cor. 12:12-27; etc.

18. Briefly define “love.” (Gal. 5:22)

19. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

“Joy is strictly circumstantial (presumed, etc.) happiness and a temporal external contentment.”

20. Briefly explain the following statement:

“Contrary to popular view, a person who is longsuffering is NOT weak.”

21. Complete the following:

“Meekness (gentleness) does not describe a (a) _____ softy but (b) _____ a person who has (c) _____ God’s (d) _____ and has his (e) _____ under (f) _____ (g) _____. Meekness is (h) _____ to character but will require (i) _____ to God (Psa. 37:11; Isa. 29:19; etc.).

22. Briefly define **“temperance.”** (Gal. 5:23 KJV).

LESSON 5 Part A: Answers for Review Questions

1. **Answer:**

- (a) The term used to describe the acts of those who squander their spiritual freedom to satisfy the flesh is ***“license.”***
- (b) It means that there are those who have decided that because we are justified by our faith in Jesus Christ, there is no need for us to constrain our sinful desires.
- For more information, see Page 1.

2. **Answer:**

Item (d) . . . we will not be controlled

Page 1

3. **Answer:**

- (a) The two different groups Paul mentioned are (1) ***The works of the flesh.*** (2) ***The fruit of the Spirit.***
- (b) The two groups defined.
- (1) ***The works of the flesh:*** the flesh depends on its own strength to accomplish its work. Etc.
- (2) ***The Fruit of the Spirit:*** The Spirit of truth (John 14:17; etc.), the Spirit of holiness (Rom. 15:16; etc.), the Spirit of love (Rom. 5:5; etc.) is the source of the second group.

For more information, see Pages 1-2.

4. **Answer:**

- (a) **Works of the flesh:** **works** is plural and speaks of a number of different things going on at the same time. Etc.
- (b) **Fruit of the Spirit:** **fruit** is singular and speaks of unity, order, co-operation and fullness. Etc.

For more information, see Page 2.

5. **Answer:**

Gal. 5:16-26 presents a straightforward contrast between the life of the Spirit Filled believer and that of the person controlled by the sinful nature.

For more information, see Page 3

6. **Answer:**

- (a) **The first group focuses on “Sexual Misconduct.”**
- (1) Adultery (2) Fornication (3) Uncleaness (4) Lasciviousness.
- (b) **The second group focuses on “False Worship.”**
- (1) Idolatry (2) witchcraft.
- (c) **The third group focuses on “Broken Relationship.”**

(1) Hatred (2) Variance (3) Emulations (4) Wrath (5) Strife (6) Sedition (7) Heresies
(8) Envy (9) Murders.

(d) **The fourth group focuses on “Lack of Soberness.”**

(1) Drunkenness (2) Reveling

For more information, see Pages 3-7.

7. **Answer:**

Adultery is sexual activity or intercourse outside of the marriage union. . . . Etc.

Gal. 5:19; Ex. 20:14; Matt. 5:31-32; etc.

For more information, see Page 3.

8. **Answer:**

(a) False.

(b) Idolatry is not limited to worship of images, statues, pictures, etc. Anything that takes the place of God or made equal to Him is idolatry.

For more information, see Page 4.

9. **Answer:**

(a) tries (b) support (c) ambitions (d) dissension (e) factions (f) spirits (g) divisions (h) splits (i) selfish.

Page 4

10. **Answer:**

(a) **“Sedition”** (Gal. 5:20 KJV): that is dissensions, dis-union, discord, separation, schism, heresies, tearing apart. It introduces divisive teachings not supported by God’s Word. (Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:9-11; etc.).

(b) **“Heresies”** (Gal. 5:20 KJV): that is division within the congregation into exclusive groups or cliques that destroy the unity of the church (1 Cor. 3:1-7; 11:19).

For more information, see Page 5.

11. **Answer:**

(a) The word **“murderers”** (Gal. 5:20), means homicide, slaughter, destroy, slay, etc. The act of unlawfully killing a human being with premeditated malice by a person of sound mind.

(b) The Bible distinguishes between **“killing”** someone and what is **“murder.”** Killing someone may have been unintentional but **murder** is intentional premeditated act of taking the life of a human being illegally. (Ex. 20:13; 21:12; etc.)

For more information, see Page 5.

12. **Answer:**

Students answers will vary, however, answers must remain within the text.

See Pages 5-6.

13. Answer:

During Bible days they had methods of preventing fruits from fermenting, and as a result they were able to have non-alcoholic wine (grape juice) throughout the year. Etc. For more information, see Pages 6-7.

14. Answer:

The **“Fruit of the Spirit”** speaks of that which the Holy Spirit produces. Etc. For more information, see Pages 7-10.

15. Answer:

(a) It is the first physical/ external sign (**“initial”**: means *beginning, earliest, starting*).

This does not negate the necessity of this most important experience!! (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:1-6).

(b) The empowerment also makes believers effective witnesses (Acts 1:8)

(c) Neither should we forget the **“Fruit of the Spirit”** . . . a natural/daily evidence in the life of the genuine **Spirit-filled believer** (Gal. 5:22-23).

Limited thoughts on been Spirit-filled was shared on Page 8, as well as briefly discussed in Lesson 2 Parts A, B and C.

16. Answer:

Item (b) . . . placed on moral character.

Page 8

17. Answer:

(a) characteristics (b) result (c) Spirit (d) qualities (e) contrast (f) disruptive (g) flesh (h) foster (i) community (j) togetherness (k) people.

Page 8

18. Answer:

Love is charity, a caring for and seeking the highest good of another person without personal gain! Etc.

For more information, see Page 9.

19. Answer:

(a) False.

(b) Joy is more than circumstantial happiness; it is an inner contentment that continues in all circumstances and is fed by our relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ (John 15:9-11).

Page 9

20. Answer:

A **“long-tempered”** or **“patient,”** etc. person is not a weakling, instead, he/she is strong in character and bold in resisting rash reactions. We should be grateful that God is epitome (essence, model, etc.) of **“longsuffering love.”** Eph. 4:2; etc.

For more information, see Pages 8-10.

21. **Answer:**

(a) spineless (b) rather (c) undergo (d) discipline (e) strength (f) God (h) control (i) brokenness (j) yielding.

Page 10

22. **Answer:**

“Temperance” is self-control, mastering one’s own desires and passions including faithfulness to one’s marriage vows; victory over sinful desires are realized and in essence purity of life.

For more information, see Page 10

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