

TITLE AND NUMBER: 86. The fruit of the Spirit



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Galatians 5:22-25

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

LOOKING FURTHER: Galatians 5:16-18; Luke 11:9-13; Ephesians 1:13-14

What does this Bible passage tell us?

Jesus – Emmanuel – came to earth as “God with us.” After He returned to heaven, He sent us the Holy Spirit, who is God in us.

These verses are a promise, not a commandment. When we receive the Holy Spirit, He changes the way we react. If you touch something hot, you will shout “ouch” – or maybe something stronger! That is an immediate, instinctive and natural reaction. If someone does something not very nice to us, our immediate, instinctive human reaction may be to be angry, or to get revenge. When we have the Holy Spirit in us, He will enable us to grow and learn to react instead with peace, kindness, self-control, or one of the other qualities listed in this passage.

Paul tells us that there is no law against the fruit of the Spirit. We are all too familiar with laws and rules, and the consequences of breaking them. If we show the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, we can never be accused of breaking any laws. Instead, people will ask, “What is it with them? Why do they behave like that?” This is our witness to what God does in our lives.

Strictly Come Dancing is one of the most popular TV programmes. When two people dance together, they have to keep in step – listen to the music and make their moves in time to its rhythm. Keeping in step makes the difference between beauty and chaos.

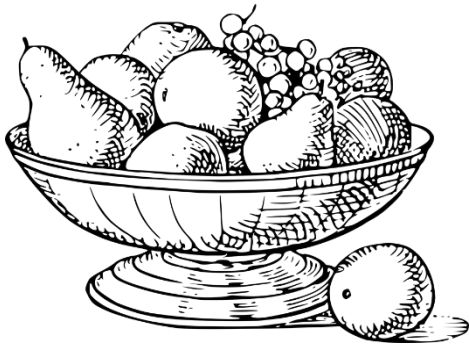
When we become Christians, we invite Jesus to live in us by the Holy Spirit; we follow His lead to keep in step with Him and to react to every situation with the fruit of the Spirit.

Reflections:

- In Luke 11:9-13, Jesus promises that God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and fill your life with His fruit.
- Ephesians 1:13-14 tells us that we receive the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of all God’s promises. Is there a particular promise you would like to see come true for you now? Ask the Holy Spirit to give it to you.
- What particular aspect of the fruit of the Spirit might you show today? Pray about this. Then tomorrow, look back and see what happened.



Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

