



## LIFEgroup HOMEwork

Week of May 9, 2010

### **The Spirit Who Produces Fruit**

Galatians 5:16-26

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There are unbelievable benefits that are available to everyone who chooses to be filled the Holy Spirit of God. The optimum word here is that these benefits are "available" to every believer.

Every believer can choose to reap what the works of the flesh produce, or live a life that enjoys the luscious fruit that the Spirit produces. Without the Spirit's work in a life, there is no choice to be made. This is the reason that we cannot expect unbelievers to produce anything other than what the sinful nature has to offer.

Fundamentally, we have to understand that there is a conflict within every believer between the sinful nature and the Holy Spirit of God. Everything the Spirit has to offer is available to every believer, and it is there for the taking. But it is possible for the believer to fall back to living the Christian life in the power of the flesh. Note Paul's warning in Galatians 3:3 (NIV). "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

#### **Sharing Question:**

Which is your favorite fruit tree and why?

**Getting Started Question:**

What was one truth, illustration or comment from the sermon on Sunday that was most memorable to you?

**Bible Study:**

We must be aware that there is no autopilot setting for remaining filled with the Spirit of God. It is a choice that must be made on a regular basis. Ephesians 5:18 literally says, "...be being filled with the Holy Spirit," speaking of the need for an ongoing filling. After all, there is only one way for a broken vessel to stay filled and that is by staying under the tap. Practically, how does one make sure of being "filled with the Holy Spirit?"

**Read Galatians 5:16.** Explain in your own words what it means to "live by the Spirit":

**Read Galatians 5:16-17.** If we live by the Spirit, what does Paul assure us will happen?

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**Read Galatians 5:18.** How is being led by the Spirit different than living under law?

**Read Galatians 5:19-21.** Paul says that the acts of the sinful nature are "evident." Why is it so easy to recognize the acts of the sinful nature?

Which of the following categories is the most destructive?

**Moral Sins** – sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery

**Worship Sins** – idolatry and witchcraft

**Relational Sins** – hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

What is the warning given to those whose lives are characterized by the *deeds of the flesh*?

How can Christians do a better job of helping one another to avoid the "acts of the sinful nature?"

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**Read Galatians 5:22-23.** Which of the following "fruits" is God cultivating in your life? Which seems to be more of a struggle?

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Goodness  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-control

**Read Galatians 5:25-26.** Paul assumes that even though all Christians live by the Spirit, we do not always keep in step with the Spirit. How is God asking you to keep in step with His Spirit right now?

Write a prayer asking for the Spirit's help in those areas where you feel out of step:

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



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