

Fruits of the Spirit

† **Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

These fruits of the Spirit are both fruits and blessings. As you enjoy the love of God, you are blessed by the comfort it gives, and share it readily with those who need it as much as you do. That love gives you the joy of salvation, and makes it possible to feel the true peace from God that passes understanding.

You become patient with others and interact as only believers can. While your levels of self-control, gentleness, and kindness, goodness, and faithfulness are always tainted by sin, yet you have the Spirit with you to move you closer to Christ, so that when there are failures you turn in repentance to Jesus, knowing he loves you. When you fail to live up to these examples of spiritual fruits, nevertheless, Jesus has purified your deeds by becoming your substitute. You do indeed produce much fruit.

Those who are unbelievers, who don't have faith in Jesus as their Savior, are apart from Jesus. They cannot please God, even when they are doing something nice, humanly speaking. Their words and actions are not centered in love for God. They bear no fruit from the vine of Jesus. They only produce the filthy rags written about in Isaiah 64:6.

While staying connected to Jesus the vine, you will always produce fruit of the Spirit. It isn't about fame, honor, wealth or in any way being recognized by those around you. The fruits of the Spirit aren't about you at all. It is all about God, and glorifying him. For you to be bearing the fruit is about your personal ministry of serving God. Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.