

June 8, 2008



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas**



**Lesson Leader:**

**James Haymon**

**Class Leaders:**

**Joe & Comella Liles**

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT - PART 1 GAL 5:22 - 6:10

In establishing that the virtues Paul lists in Galatians 5:22-23 are the fruit of the Spirit, not the product of the flesh, it is the activity of the Holy Spirit within a believer that produces this fruit. Now we must emphasize that the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces is always spiritual fruit. This truth is so obvious that it is often overlooked. It is important for us not to make that mistake. When speaking of virtue and character, most people content themselves with externals. They pay attention to the attitudes and actions discernible by others. These are certainly important matters and it is obvious that true Christian virtue and character will powerfully form our attitudes and actions. But the point to grasp is that Christian virtue and character are what Peter terms "the hidden man of the heart" (1 Peter 3:4).

*(1 Peter 3:4) 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. (NASU)*

This hidden man is the internal foundation for such outward manifestations as our attitudes and actions. As Christians we can never be satisfied with externals. The Lord looks on the heart and we feel the necessity of being "strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16).

*(Eph 3:16) 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (NIV)*

It is understandable for unregenerate people to be satisfied with mere behavior modifications, for that is as far as *man* can go. But the Holy Spirit goes deeper and deals with our inmost souls. His work is to change and fashion the deepest characteristics of the soul. Paul traces the commencement of this moral and spiritual revolution to the work of God by His Spirit in making the believer a new creation in Christ: "The new man. . . after [the likeness of] God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

*(Eph 4:24) 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (NIV)*

Paul further describes this moral and spiritual revolution as an ongoing, internal transformation in Romans 12:2.

*(Rom 12:2) 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)*

This is the fruit of the Spirit. Anything else is not. All that savors of self or of the world is not the product of the Holy Spirit. This simple observation, if they would only stop to consider it, would save many professing Christians from seriously sinful behavior. If they did so, when they contemplate obviously unscriptural actions or decisions they could not persuade themselves, as unfortunately many do, that they are acting under the leading of the Spirit. Any time we claim His leading we should remember that His fruit is spiritual, never carnal.

*(adapted from The Holy Spirit Produces Spiritual Fruit, from the book "The Fruit of the Spirit" by Alan Cairns)*

### God's Project: Effective Christians Who have been Set Free Studies in Galatians

Date	Lesson	Text
4/27	No Other Gospel	1:1-12
5/04	Salvation by Faith	2:15-3:5
5/11	Mother's Day Special	
5/18	Purpose of the Law	3:19-4:7
5/25	Purpose of Law Pt 2	3:19-4:7
6/01	Christian Freedom	5:1-15
6/8	Walking in the Spirit -1	5:22-6:10
6/15	Walking in the Spirit -2	5:22-6:10

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**

**"Bro. Bill"**

**will be teaching us**

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**VBS 2008**

**Outrigger Island**

Living God's

Unspeakable Truth

**June 16<sup>th</sup> thru June 20<sup>th</sup>**

**6:pm—8:30pm**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### *Walking in the Spirit through the Fruit of the Spirit (vs 22-23)*

The fruit of the Spirit is the harvest of virtues that is produced in the Spirit-filled life. While these characteristics are natural products of the Spirit, we must also actively cultivate them—each one is given as a command elsewhere in Scriptures. It is not enough to put aside the destructive works of the flesh; these must be replaced by something better.

1. *Love* is the primary Christian virtue. It does not count the cost or calculate the profit. Like God's own love, it is not restricted to recipients who are lovable. (1 Cor 13:4-8; 1 John 4:7-12; Rom 13:8-10)
2. *Joy* is our spontaneous, happy response to life in Christ. It is not dependent on our circumstances, but triumphs over them. (Hab 3:17-19; John 15:11; Phil 4:4)
3. *Peace* is more than the absence of war; it is the sense of well-being that comes from knowing we have all we need in Christ. A rough Hebrew equivalent is the well-known *shalom*. (Eph 2:13-14; Phil 4:7; John 14:27; John 16:33)
4. *Long-suffering* or *patience* is the ability to keep from losing our tempers with people. The Bible presents God Himself as long-suffering/patient (1 Peter 3:20; James 1:3-4; Ps 37:7; Ps 40:1).
5. *Gentleness*, or kindness, is the sweet disposition that wants to serve the needs of people. (Phil 4:5; Prov 15:1; Eph 4:1-2)
6. *Goodness* involves both correct morals and a generous heart—it is more active than gentleness. (Gal 6:9-10; Heb 13:16; Rom 12:21)
7. *Faith/faithfulness*, as used in this context, is not so much about faith in God or faithfulness to God as it is about integrity or faithfulness in our dealings with one another and in being reliable (1 Cor 4:2; Luke 16:10-12; Prov 28:20; Col 1:23).
8. *Meekness*, the world sometimes mistakes meekness (the NIV has *gentleness* here) for weakness. The Christian, following the example of Jesus Himself, is ready to yield his or her own rights for the good of others. Meekness involves holding oneself under control (Numbers 12:3; Matt 5:5; Titus 3:2; Eph 4:2)
9. *Temperance/self-control* is the ability of one's spirit to control one's flesh. It is not moderation in one's vices, but the kind of total self-control that is possible only when one is led by the Spirit. Law is designed to restrain evil, but there is no law or limitation on these virtues! When these are our pursuit, we are completely free. (Rom 6:12-14; 2 Tim 1:7; 1 Thess 5:8)

(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

These nine virtues form a complete harvest of the Spirit. "Love" is the greatest of gifts, the greatest of the commandments, and the chief identifying mark of Christians. Love is the foundation for all the fruit of the Spirit. The Greek word is *agape* and means a self-sacrificing love as was demonstrated by Christ (cf. John 3:16). "Joy" comes from within and is not to be confused with happiness, which usually depends on what happens. We can experience joy even when we are suffering. Persecution could not drive joy from the early Christians (Acts 8:8; 13:52; 15:3). "Peace" is the result of our reconciliation with God (Rom. 5:1). It is not just the absence of strife, as when a war ends. This inner peace comes from God's Spirit (of. Phil. 4:7). "Longsuffering," or patience, is a quality that most of us wish we had more of. Both circumstances and people test our patience. "Gentleness" is the opposite of anger and is translated "kindness" elsewhere (Col. 3:12; Titus 3:4). "Goodness" is a disposition to do good to others (cf. Gal. 6:10). "Faith" could be translated "faithfulness." It is to be trustworthy, both as a believer and in our various relationships. "Meekness" is not weakness. Both Moses and Jesus are described as meek, but neither was weak. This word was used of wild horses that had been taught to obey. It is strength under control. "Temperance" is more than abstinence from alcohol. The word means self-control and can be applied to all areas of our lives.

(adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

### *Walking in the Spirit by crucifying the flesh (vs 24)*

- Crucify the flesh by crucifying the old self (Rom 6:6)
- Crucify the flesh by clothing myself with Jesus (Rom 13:14)
- Crucify the flesh by crucifying the world to me (Gal 6:14)
- Crucify the flesh by Jesus living through me (Gal 2:20)

### *Walking in the Spirit by living in the Spirit (vs 25-26)*

- The five rules of the spiritual walk (1 Peter 5:5-9)
- My spiritual walk is reflected in my lifestyle (Ephes. 2:2)