

June 15, 2008



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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



**Lesson Leader:**  
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**God's Project:**  
**Effective Christians**  
**Who have been Set Free**  
**Studies in Galatians**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Text</u>
4/27	No Other Gospel	1:1-12
5/04	Salvation by Faith	2:15-3:5
5/11	<i>Mother's Day Special</i>	
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
6/08	Walking in the Spirit -1	5:22-6:10
6/15	Walking in the Spirit-2	5:22-6:10

**A Very**  
**"Happy Birthday"**  
**To Camela Liles**  
**Yesterday - June 14th**  
**"May you have many more"**

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**June 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**"Bro. Bill"**  
**will be teaching us**

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT - PART 2 GAL 5:22 - 6:10

We are to carry our own loads, yet be quick to help others as well. And we are to do all this without pride or a spirit of competition. Yet this isn't really anything new since it echoes a sentiment God through the Old Testament prophet Micah (and popularized in a song by Stephen Curtis Chapman): "What does the Lord require of you?" In turn, this should cause us to ask, "What does the Lord want from me today?" The answer is, "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Today's lesson shows us how and why. The Christian life cannot be lived in isolation. God has always intended that his people be part of a community. In the New Testament context, that community is the church. All of us at one time or another have found ourselves disappointed in the behavior of others, even of those we believed were Christians. During such experiences, we may wish that we could become a hermit so that we could have no contact with people at all. Yet if we did that, we would soon find such a life boring and unsatisfying. Besides, the community of believers needs us, and we need the community. Today's lesson focuses on Paul's sensitivity to the church as a community and how the members are to function in relation to each other. Some may think of life in the Spirit as a totally inner experience or as something between "me and God." But life in the Spirit is intended to be lived out among human beings and in the body of Christ, his church. Perhaps we are sometimes like Linus, in the *Peanuts* comic strip, who declared, "I love mankind. It's people I can't stand!" But as followers of Jesus, we have to do more than tolerate each other. We must work together for the good of the greatest cause there is. This lesson begins with a look at a passage of Scripture familiar to many: Paul's description of the fruit of the Spirit. In fact, the Holy Spirit is a very prominent part of our lesson text. Notice that Paul's discussion of the fruit of the Spirit follows a rather dismal section of Scripture. In that section, Paul lists the "acts of the sinful nature." What an evil list it is! His list of vices includes immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, and orgies (Galatians 5:19-21). Paul then proceeds to describe the changes that the Holy Spirit brings into our lives. His concern is not just what the Holy Spirit does for us personally, but what he does for us in relationship to the community of faith, the church. Some note that Paul chose to refer to the *fruit* of the Spirit, not the *works* of the Spirit. Fruit serves as a better analogy, since it is what a tree was created to produce. The fruit is the tree's natural product. We were created by God to live holy lives; such holiness should proceed naturally from our lives. The metaphor of fruit-bearing is helpful for another reason. Fruit is a positive product. The virtues that make up the fruit of the Spirit are all positive virtues. This is significant, since so many people erroneously define Christianity in terms of negative qualities. In addition, fruit is not just to be seen and admired for its beauty; it is to be used. Fruit may be beautiful to the sight and pleasant to the taste, but most of all it should provide nourishment. That is what a Christian's testimony should offer to those with whom he or she is associated. Some commentators have called attention to the fact that Paul uses *fruit* (singular) not *fruits* (plural). Is there any significance to this? Perhaps. If the plural form were used, someone might treat these qualities as a kind of checklist ("I'm strong in this area, but weak in this one"). By use of the singular *fruit*, Paul is highlighting the fact that all of these qualities come from one source, the Holy Spirit. Christian growth is not a matter of "self-help" or "self-improvement"; it comes through allowing the Holy Spirit greater control of our lives.

(adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### WALKING IN THE SPIRIT BY BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS (GAL 6:1-5)

#### *Restoring the fallen (vs 1)*

A restoration from wandering from the truth (James 5:19-20)

A restoration from sin (1 John 5:16)

A restoration from doubting (Jude 22-23)

A restoration from grief caused by sin (2 Cor 2:5-8)

A restoration from idleness and weakness (1 Thess 5:14)

#### *Fulfilling the law of Christ by bearing the burden of others (vs 2)*

Bearing others failings (Rom 15:1-2)

Bearing with one another in love (Eph 4:2)

Bearing with one another through forgiveness (Col 3:13)

Bearing with one another as if sharing their suffering (Heb 13:1-3)

#### *Examining my own life and work (vs 3-4)*

Self-examination to see if we are in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)

Self-examination to consider our ways (Ps 119:59)

Self-examination that results in returning to the Lord (Lam 3:40)

Self-examination that judges our actions (1 Cor 11:31)

Self-examination to ensure we haven't fallen short of God's promises (Heb 4:1)

#### *Bearing our own load (vs 5)*

All souls belong to God and He judges on the individual level for individual sins (Ezek 18:1-4)

Each person will be responsible for what they have done (2 Cor 5:10)

Each person is accountable to God (Rom 14:12)

### WALKING IN THE SPIRIT BY SOWING IN THE SPIRIT (GAL 6:6-10)

#### *Sharing God's word (vs 6)*

Sharing the word so that it will bear fruit (Col 1:3-6)

Sharing the word so that a full understanding will be received (Philem 6)

Sharing the word in response to why we have the hope in God (1 Peter 3:15)

#### *Sowing godly spiritual fruit (vs 7-8)*

Sow righteousness and reap love (Hos 10:12)

God will judge based on what a person sows (Rom 2:6-8)

Sow sparingly and reap sparingly, sow generously and reap generously (2 Cor 9:6)

All sowing has one purpose in God (1 Cor 3:8)

#### *Doing good (vs 9-10)*

Doing good is clearly evident (1 Tim 5:25)

Doing good is showing integrity (Titus 2:7)

Doing good is profitable for everyone (Titus 3:8)

Doing good is being productive in my daily life (Titus 3:14)

Doing good is encouraging others to do good (Heb 10:24)

Doing good causes others to glorify God (1 Peter 2:12)

Doing good is building others up (Rom 15:2)

Doing good is sharing with others (Heb 13:16)

Realize that only God is good (Luke 18:19)