

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

love

Mt. 22:37

Love the Lord your God...

Mt. 22:39

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Mt. 5:44

Love your enemies...

joy

I Th. 5:16

Be **joyful** always

Pp. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: **Rejoice!**

Ro. 14:17

For the kingdom of God is... **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

peace

I Pt. 3:11

...seek **peace** and pursue it.

Ro. 12:18

If it is possible,... live at **peace** with everyone.

Eph. 4:3

Make every effort to keep... the bond of **peace**.

patience

Eph. 4:2

...be **patient**, bearing with one another in love.

Col. 3:12

...clothe yourselves with... **patience**.

I Th. 5:14

...be **patient** with everyone.

kindness

Eph. 4:32

Be **kind** and compassionate to one another.

Col. 3:12

...clothe yourselves with compassion, **kindness**,...

I Th. 5:15

...always try to be **kind** to each other and everyone else.

goodness

II Pt. 1:5

...make every effort to add to your faith **goodness**;

Ps. 34:14

Turn from evil and **do good**;

Ps. 37:3

Trust in the LORD and **do good**;

faithfulness

Pr. 3:3

Let love and **faithfulness** never leave you;

Rev. 2:10

"Be **faithful**, even to the point of death, → crown of life."

I Co. 4:2

...those who have been given a trust must prove **faithful**.

gentleness

Eph. 4:2

Be completely humble and **gentle**;

Pp. 4:5

Let your **gentleness** be evident to all.

Col. 3:12

...clothe yourselves with... **gentleness** and patience.

self-control

I Pt. 5:8

Be **self-controlled** and alert.

I Pt. 4:7

be clear minded and **self-controlled** so that you can pray.

I Th. 5:6

...let us be alert and **self-controlled**.

As we can see from the chart above, the nine fruit of the Spirit are also qualities that we are commanded by the Lord to have in our lives. This leaves some people wondering **who** causes this fruit to grow in us. Does **God** do the work by His Spirit? Or do **we** do the work as an act of obedience?

The truth is that we need to cooperate with God. There is a part that belongs to God and there is a part that belongs to us. We cannot do God's part and He will not do our part. We are responsible to have the desire, the vision, and the passion to change from who we are to who God wants us to be. God's part is to change us. He responds to our desire, vision, and passion by doing the work that only He can do. Just as mud is incapable of cleaning itself, we humans, who by nature are sinful, are incapable of changing ourselves to be more Christlike (John 15:5). The good news is that God will always do His part with great faithfulness, tenderness, and power as we ask Him and let Him.

This arrangement also does away with both pride and laziness. If everything depended upon us, we would fall to the sin of pride at our accomplishments. Similarly, if everything depended upon God, we could sit back lazily and expect God to transform us with no effort on our part. But neither of these are valid because both we and the Lord have a part to play. As we do our part and trust in God's great faithfulness to do His part, we will grow wonderfully in all nine of these qualities, and others as well.