

FRUIT of the Spirit

Prayer for the Fruits of the Spirit

O Bounteous Spirit, we ask you to bring forth in our lives your fruits: the fruit of love, so we may love you above all things and all others for your sake; the fruit of joy, that we may find our delight in your service; the fruit of peace, that we may be pardoned through your mercy and find our rest in your love; the fruit of long-suffering, so that we may bear with patience all afflictions; the fruit of gentleness, that we may subdue all anger and take calmly and sweetly all trials and provocations; the fruit of meekness, that we may forgive freely all who hurt us and endure with patience all burdens that are laid upon us; the fruit of temperance, that we may restrain all desires and bring them into the subjugation of your holy will. Amen.

Welcome

Introductions

Ground Rules

Overview:

- **Fruit** – Biblical reference: “*evidence of what is within*” –If what is inside a person is good, then the fruits of that person will be good. But if what’s inside is rotten, then the fruit of that person’s life will be bad. Any person who receives Jesus and has Christ living within will bear good fruit –“*the fruit of righteousness*” (Philippians 1:11) as God shines forth in our lives.

- **Fruit of the Spirit** – described throughout Scripture as “*gracious habits*” which the Holy Spirit produces in the Christian. (Galatians 5:22-23). Apostle Paul lists these “*gracious habits*” –love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

- **We long to cultivate these habits** –How can we make it happen?
 - No DIY Project
 - Fruit of the Spirit can be produced in our lives the same way that it was produced in Jesus – Yield to God and allow His Spirit to work in us as we walk through life.
 - All nine fruits stand together –like a string of Christmas lights: one string many lights, when plugged in all light up together. However, if one bulb goes out the entire string goes out. Not one of them can be missing –all must be evident to be God’s fruit.

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Understanding the Call to *“Walk by the Spirit”*

“And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh, with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:24-25). What does the phrase *“walk by the Spirit”* mean? What does walking by the Spirit look like in your life? (Discuss)

Understanding *“Abiding in Christ”*

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. (John 15:4)

What does it mean to abide in Christ? What are some of the results that happen in our lives from abiding in Christ?

In our discussion of the Fruit of the Spirit, we will carefully take apart each fruit of the Spirit, see how they all work together to present a whole. We will talk about how as women of faith we can enjoy a closer walk with God and how we bear much fruit as we surrender our lives to God.

Practical Steps Keeping in *“Constant Contact”* with Jesus

1. Spend Time in God’s Word
2. Spend Time in Prayer
3. Obey God’s Commands
4. Renew Our Commitment to Christ

Prayer of Re-Commitment

Jesus, I know that in the past I asked you into my life. I thought at that time that I was your child but my life hasn’t shown the fruit of my belief. As I again hear you call, I want to make a real commitment to you as Lord and Master of my life.