

Faith, Fruit, and Finish Line

#3297 26 0719A

1 NIV Galatians 5:22 “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness; 23 gentleness and self-control.*”

2 The evidence of spiritual fruit is having **love** in our heart toward people; maintaining a **forgiving** attitude toward all; and **treating** people as

3 NLT Matthew 7:12 “*Do for others what you would like them to do for you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.*”

4 This attitude change from the *old* to the *new* is—**From Dark to Different**—and produces *Fruits of the Spirit*. This Christlike attitude should be *noticed* by others—and we should see the Spirit’s presence ourselves by our improved attitude.

5 **Love**—the basis of all the other virtues—“*we love the brethren;*” **2 Joy**—knowing our debt is paid we want to sing and thank God; **3 Peace**—making peace makes us a child of God; Matthew 5:9.

6 **Patience**—is seriously lacking in a **Dark** world so we want to be **Different**; **5 Kindness**—Jesus told the man wanting *eternal life* Luke 10:37

“*Go and do likewise.*” **6 Goodness**—doing what is right because God Micah 6:8 “*Has shown you what is good*”.

7 **Faithfulness**—being reliable and honest in that which is least or in that which is much Luke 16:10.

8 **8 Gentleness**—is so different and so needed in a world of violence and brutality; **9 Self-control**—because the world is out of control

9 We want to see evidence of the Holy Spirit controlling our life because of serious consequences for *not* seeing that evidence.

10 We try to bring *peace* between family members; show *patience* with the children; stay *pure* in thought; treat *others* in a right way; and showing *kindness* whenever possible.

11 Jesus is the *source* of our new *spiritual life* of *spiritual fruit*. NKJV John 15:1-2 “*I am the true vine, My Father is the vinedresser.*”

12 *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*”

13 We allow God to cut away wrong attitudes; to remove worldly desires; asking Him to take sarcastic words from our lips; delivering us from deliberately upsetting people.

14 We can be *free* from such words or ways by asking for the Spirit’s control.

15 Spiritual fruit is bringing *calm* to potential arguments; being *patient* when delays happen; being *kind* when no one else is; and being *polite* when we are corrected.

16 NLT Galatians 5:24 “*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.*”

17 Throughout the Gospels we are warned that words alone are not enough; a transformed heart must be backed by actions.

18 People are ultimately known by their deeds, as a tree is known by its fruit. The fig tree Luke 13 that produced no figs for 3 years shows the danger of complacency and not repenting.

19 Every day we read the Bible and if the words are sown on *good* soil—a *willing* heart—we “*Bring forth fruit*” AV Mark 4:20.

20 To *escape* the *wrath of God* that is coming on a wicked world, Jesus said everyone will have to AV Matthew 3:8 “*Bear fruits worthy of repentance; Let your lives prove your change of heart.*”

21 Satan is evil and deceitful beyond anything we could imagine—it is a *serious battle* with a *vicious enemy*.

22 Jesus warns repeatedly about our seeing spiritual *fruit*—by meeting difficult situations, tough trials, and temptations we encounter as *He* told us to meet them.

23 Prayer is the *key*—then Jesus *takes* each request and *presents them* to the Father. The apostle did “*Not cease to pray*”—asking AV Colossians 1:9 “*that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*”

24 When we *know* God by *reading* the Bible—we should see spiritual fruit Colossians 1:10 “*That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleas-*”

ing, being **fruitful** in every good work, and **increasing** in the knowledge of God.”

25 The *Word of God* tests our *attitude to God*—and to others. It will separate the **true** from the *false*; and the **right** from the *wrong*.

26 AV John 5:29 “*They that have done good to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil to the resurrection of damnation.*”

27 Unscriptural *attitudes* are not allowed by God—we ask Him every day to reveal any hidden sins or wrong ways in our heart.

28 Our *trusting* God in faith is having freedom from wrong attitudes, habits, and behavior. Jesus *paid* a huge price for this freedom—so. Are we showing our appreciation for His paying off our debt?

29 Bitter feelings and resentment can be *hidden* in our heart, but God can *reveal* them and help us get *rid* of them.

30 Jeremiah 17:10 “*I the LORD search the heart, I try [test NKJV] the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*”

31 All *our doings* should be motivated by love—Romans 12:9 “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.*”

32 Being right with God goes beyond *looking* religious. Matthew 5:20 NIV “*Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the*

teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

33 They *looked* religious on the *outside* but had *wrong* attitudes on the *inside*.

34 Jesus had to *reprove* them—they needed serious *repentance* and definite *change*—they were *not* what they wanted people to *think* they were.

35 NKJV Matthew 15:7 “*Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.’*”

36 We can *talk* religion, but we have to follow through by *living* it. Jesus said it would be *well* for the *faithful* and *obedient*, but *dreadful* for the *unfaithful* and *rebellious*.

37 The unfaithful are Matthew 24:51 NIV *assigned a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*”

38 *Fruits of the Spirit* are the results of the *faith* we have in *Jesus*. He told us that if we have *resentment* toward anyone to—

39 Matthew 5:24 NLT “*Leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*”

40 Any *revenge* or *resentment* in us must be *removed*, *erased*, and *forgiven*—by *repenting* and then *giving* the matter over to God, Who—

41 John 4:9 “*Showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him*”—free from resent-

ment; free from bitter feelings; and free from worldly desires.

42 The NT goes further than the OT—Matthew 5:43-45 NKJV “*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’*”

43 But *I say* to you, *love* your *enemies*, *bless* those who *curse* you, *do good* to those who *hate* you, and *pray for* those who *spitefully use* you and *persecute* you, that you may be *sons of your Father in heaven.*”

44 At the beginning of life, we would never *love* our *enemies*; never *pray* for our *persecutors*—and only God can *enable* us to *love*, to *pray* for, and *do good* for our *enemies*—by His giving us the gift of His Spirit.

45 When God *inspires* us to *pray* for those who hurt us, we join His family—Matthew 5:45 “*that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*”

46 It is natural and easy to love those who love us—sinners are nice to sinners—but a follower of Jesus is to be *friendly*, *cordial*, and *forgiving* to those who *hurt* them; *wrong* them; or even *despise* them.

47 The Spirit of God enables us to be *rid* of *resentment* and to *pray* for *enemies*—that is living the message—**Faith, Fruit, and Finish Line!**

†††

www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 143
Cheltenham, PA 19012
#3297 26 0719A