

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit: Galatians 5:15-26

July 5, 2020

NOTE

Dear East Siders,

Thanks for seeking transformation through exploring the fruit of the Spirit together. We invite you to ask a few friends or your community group to engage with this new Fruit of the Spirit devotional daily, discuss the sermon Scripture weekly, and pray with our church daily at noonday prayer, all centered around the fruit of the Spirit. You can access resources for each week through the [website](#), your Redeemer account or the Sunday emails.

The weekly discussion guides will include a worship section (including music) to focus your attention on God, as well as discussion questions to guide interaction over the Bible passage and prayer topics. We recommend that virtual gatherings be restricted to no more than one hour to limit screen fatigue. If you need further guidance for your virtual discussion times, please reach out to the Community Group team at eastsidecg@redeemer.com or to us individually. We're praying for you and are here to support you!

In Christ,

The ES CG Directors and Interns

([Brandon Bennett](#), [Caitlin Kemp](#), [Hector Sanchez](#), [Kevin Fogarty](#), [Judson Bergman](#) and [Lyn Cook](#))

WORSHIP

Take a moment to remind yourself why you are still meeting together: *To grow as disciples of Jesus by cultivating our relationship with God and friendship with others.*

Listen to a song of worship: [Keith and Kristyn Getty: Holy Spirit Living Breath of God \(youtube\)](#)

Or **read** the following together:

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

INTRODUCTION

20 MINUTES

This summer the sermons and CG discussions will explore the Holy Spirit and the fruit produced by the Spirit in the life of a Christian. Every Christian receives the Spirit of God when united with Christ through faith. The purpose of the Spirit's work in a Christian's life is to transform his or her character into that of Jesus. As Romans 8:29 states, "he predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of his Son" until "we reach maturity, the fullness of Christ's stature" (Ephesians 4:13). Christians are destined to become like Jesus; however, the process is a gradual one, similar to the germination process. The Spirit grows Christ-like character through a process that may seem uneven or occur in "spurts," like a tree growing over time, rapidly in some seasons and slowly in others.

Christians are also commanded to be led by the Spirit and “filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Being filled or led by the Spirit is not a special gift to some; rather it is how we follow Jesus. It is like having the sail on a boat filled with wind, giving the boat power and direction. Similarly, a Christian can open themselves to the Spirit so that during stormy days or calm ones, they are propelled by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

SCRIPTURE

20 MINUTES

Read the following Scripture together. Then invite the group to respond through the questions below.

Galatians 5:16-26 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

1. Describe what you see about the Holy Spirit in this passage. What does the Holy Spirit do in a Christian's life (v. 16, 18, 25)?
2. The Spirit is in conflict with the sinful nature. How can a Christian be led by the Spirit rather than the sinful nature (v. 16, 18, 24-25)? What has this looked like in your life?
3. All the fruits of the Spirit grow together at the same time. Therefore, if fruits are not all growing in some measure, then the fruit is not Spirit-produced but rather a byproduct of personality. (For example, if someone is welcoming (gentle) but not at all bold (faithful), it is a personality trait not a fruit.) Yet, often people are strong in some of these characteristics yet weak in others. How do you see this in your own life and character? In what areas would you like to grow?
4. Take turns reading aloud the definitions of the fruit of the Spirit below. Which do you think would be especially good news for our culture and your friends or neighbors to experience right now?
 - ▶ **Love:** Happy to meet others' needs rather than your own.
 - ▶ **Joy:** Delight in God for the beauty and worth of who he is.
 - ▶ **Peace:** Confidence and rest in the wisdom of God over your own.
 - ▶ **Patience:** Ability to suffer trouble (situational or relational) without blowing up or giving up.

- ▶ **Kindness:** Compassion that offers true friendship not just help.
- ▶ **Goodness/Integrity:** Honesty, transparency. Being the same in all situations.
- ▶ **Faithfulness:** Loyalty and courage. Being principle-driven, utterly reliable, and true to one's word.
- ▶ **Gentleness/Humility:** Self-forgetfulness.
- ▶ **Self-control:** Ability to choose the important over the urgent thing.

FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER

25 MINUTES

- ▶ Pray for racial divisions and systemic injustice to be made right in our nation. May God embolden us to listen, repent, learn and act in solidarity with racial minorities.
- ▶ Pray to embody the fruit of the Spirit and convey the beauty of the gospel everywhere we go.
- ▶ Pray for those who do not know the hope of Christ by using the prayer below.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the good news of his salvation, that the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works. Especially...

[members of the group name particular people].

For the honor of your name.

GOING FURTHER THIS WEEK

- ▶ Ask someone who knows you well: "How have I become kinder, more patient, more self-controlled, etc. than I was two years ago?" "Have you seen this growth in my relationships with people different than myself?"
- ▶ Use the [weekly devotion guide](#) to go deeper on the topic of the Holy Spirit.

▶ Want to continue meditating on Scripture throughout the week? Consider using the Redeemer Devotional daily email: redeemer.com/devotional and Virtual Noonday prayer: eastside.redeemer.com/prayer