

The Gospel Reaped

Chapter 3

Audio Lesson: New Testament #57



Objective: To understand the difference between sowing with the seeds of the flesh and sowing with the fruit of the Spirit in the garden of your life.



The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 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. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

– Galatians 5:19-23

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

– Galatians 6:7-10

In chapter 5 of Galatians, Paul comes to what I believe is the heart of this letter. Paul tells us that those who are followers of Christ can live by the Spirit of God and not gratify the desires of our sinful nature. The old sinful nature is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit is contrary to sinful desires. Paul contrasted the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. Both the flesh and the Spirit are at war inside a believer. We can either sow the seeds of the flesh in our lives, or we can sow the seeds of the Spirit. The works of the flesh are easy to identify, and so is the fruit of the Spirit. We can find the first three fruit by looking inside ourselves: love, joy, and peace. The next three fruit of the Spirit show our relationships to others: patience, kindness, and goodness. We display the last three in how we relate to God: faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Make a commitment to Jesus Christ and surrender to Him. When you become a follower of Christ, you will be dead to the world so that the things of the world are dead to you. We can choose to walk in the flesh or live and walk in the Spirit. Christians are to walk in victory. Fruit of the Spirit is what is normal for those who are filled with the Spirit.

1. True or False? Paul's letter to the Galatians focused on the Gospel.
2. True or False? When we sow seeds of the flesh, we grow good fruit.
3. True or False? You have to obey the Law of God to become a new creation, to be born again.
4. True or False? It is possible for non-Christians to love others like God does.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. When you become a Christian, what happens to your flesh nature or natural man? (Choose all that apply)
- It is cast out.
 - It is still present.
 - It is at war with your spiritual nature.
 - It is still in control.
6. Who has the fruit of the Spirit?
- No one can have these spiritual fruit
 - Christians who are growing in the Lord
 - Only certain Christians
 - Non-Christians who are good people
7. Which is not a fruit of the Spirit?
- Peace
 - Joy
 - Patience
 - Hospitality
8. How can you practice kindness?
- By treating everyone as if they were part of your family
 - By being as good as you can be
 - By focusing on yourself
 - By treating others like they treat you
9. How does a faithful person live? (Choose all that apply)
- He is dependable.
 - He keeps his word.
 - He has less faith than other Christians.
 - He is focused on what is best for himself.

10. Which question should you ask when you feel impatient with someone?
- a. How can I make this person give me what I want?
 - b. How can I change the person who is annoying me?
 - c. How can I make myself feel better?
 - d. What can I do to become more patient?

11. Which trait does not describe a gentle person?
- a. Tender
 - b. Considerate
 - c. Cruel
 - d. Soothing

12. Which of these does not show self-control?
- a. Being patient with others
 - b. Using words that encourage others
 - c. Getting jealous of someone else
 - d. Staying calm rather than getting angry

13. In the list below, circle the fruit of the Spirit that is growing in your life. Would your family and friends agree with you? Now put a check mark beside the fruit that you do not see in your life.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| Love | Joy |
| Peace | Patience |
| Kindness | Goodness |
| Faithfulness | Gentleness |
| Self-control | |



In Galatians 6:7-8 we read, *“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will harvest destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will harvest eternal life.”* What are you planting in the garden of your life? Remember that when you plant something, you always harvest what you planted and more than you planted. What will you plant to please the Spirit this week? How can you continue to plant good things in your life to please God?



Praise God for His Spirit who came to live inside you when you were converted. Thank Him for the fruit of the Spirit, and ask God to grow more fruit in your life. Ask God to help you stop sowing seeds of the flesh and sow more seeds to please the Spirit of God.



Going Deeper

1. When you look in, how can you relate to and apply these three fruit of the Spirit: love, joy and peace? _____

2. When you look around, how can you relate to and apply these three fruit of the Spirit: patience, kindness and goodness? _____

3. When you look up, how can you relate to and apply these three fruit of the Spirit: faithfulness, meekness and self-control? _____

4. How can you relate to and apply the reality that these nine qualities are called “the *fruit* of the Spirit?” and not “the fruits of the Spirit?” _____

5. How would you respond to a non-believer who may ask this question: “Do you not think that each of these spiritual qualities—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control—all sound good, but they don’t make good sense and don’t apply in today’s world?” _____

6. How can you personally apply what verse 7 of chapter 6, as well as the last verses of chapter 6, tell us about the difference between creation and corruption in the life of a believer? _____

7. What do the first five verses of chapter 6 teach us about the importance of caring for one another? (Compare these verses with Matthew 5: 21-24) _____
