

**“The Fruitful Father”**  
**Galatians 5:22-23**  
**Fathers Day June 18, 2017**

**God Places Great Importance Upon Fathers! Fathers are God’s Spiritual Representatives in the Home/Society! Matthew 6:9 – God is called our Father, and God has given that earthly role to Earthly Fathers.**

**Modeling before the family godly character, love, and God’s care.**

**Dad, our children are watching our Actions and Attitudes.**

**“Men, on this Father’s Day, we too are under siege, being lied to!” Society advocates a freedom apart from Jesus which is actually bondage!**

**Hedonism** – “Pleasure is the chief end of man.”

**Holy Spirit** – Is mentioned **7X** in **Galatians 5**.

**Thought Of Our Passage:** True Freedom Comes Through Faith In Jesus Christ, But Continued Freedom Comes Through Surrender To The Holy Spirit.

**Paul Identifies 9 Characteristics of The Fruitful Believer:**

Galatians 5:22

But Paul shows a contrast. Galatians 5:19-21 Is “The Works of the Flesh.”

**Contrasting between the Flesh versus the Spirit:**

**Works of the Flesh** – Have their source in the old nature.

**Fruit of the Spirit** – Fruit has its source in the Holy Spirit.

**Works of the Flesh** – Flesh shows what a man can do.

**Fruit of the Spirit** – What God can do through a man.

Galatians 5:22-23 – Paul speaks about “The Fruit Of The Spirit”; the fruit singular not plural. The Holy Spirit produces one fruit; this fruit has 9 facets or qualities.

“of the Spirit” – is John 15:5.

**There seems to be 3 Categories for these 9 Characteristics of fruit:**

**1. Attitude God-ward** – “love, joy, peace,”

“love,” – A Christian’s first love is God. “joy,” – His chief joy in God.

“peace,” – His deepest peace comes from God.

2. **Attitude Man-ward** – “patience,” – is longsuffering towards those who aggravate or persecute us. “kindness,” – this is a disposition goodness, words and deeds.
3. **Attitude Self-ward** – “faithfulness,” – this speaks of the reliability of a Christian man. “gentleness,” – speaks of meekness, which Christ exhibited. “self-control” – self-mastery; speaks of faithfulness and gentleness.

### **Attitude Towards God –**

1. **Love** – Greek “Agape” – “it is a divine love that comes from God and cannot be experienced apart from God; it is a deliberate choice to love, not based on performance or feelings.” A Christian’s first love is God, that is the source of love. 1 John 4:8

A true child of God is to manifest this same love: Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:19-21.

Fathers, a relationship with God and yielding to the Holy Spirit will allow us to experience this fruit.

2. **Joy** – His chief joy in God. Now when we speak of joy, we are not implying that it is the absence of trials. Hebrews 12:2

James 1:2 – “Consider” (count); This word comes as an accounting term. It means “to evaluate”; it is an honest assessment of the figure. It is looking at the hardship from a heavenly or spiritual perspective (That is producing something of value).

**God wants us to respond with out minds not our emotions.**

Hebrews 12:11

**Our Values Determine Our Evaluation.**

**If I am living for Comfort, my trials will upset me.**

**If I am living for Godly Character, honoring God, then I can enlist my trials.**

Colossians 3:23

3. **Peace** – His deepest peace comes from God. **Peace** – “inner calmness of emotions and thoughts which rests on the assurance that God is too good to be unkind and too wise to make mistakes”

Peace With God – Romans 5:1

Peace Of God – Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15

### **Attitude Man-ward –**

- 4. Patience** – literally “wrath that is put far away”; is longsuffering towards those who aggravate or persecute us.

Colossians 3:13

**Fathers, only by yielding to the Holy Spirit can we be long fused.**

- 5. Kindness** – “grace in action”; it is the act of kindness toward your enemies.

God demonstrates this towards sinners. Titus 3:4-5

**Patience holds back vengeance, gentleness bestows mercy. This is positive, it is actions towards others.**

- 6. Goodness** – “uprightness of the soul that hates evil and refrains from doing it.”

Romans 3:12

### **Attitude Self-ward –**

- 7. Faithfulness** – “loyalty, the character of one who can be relied on, of one who keeps his promises.” It is the belief and faith in God that shows in behavior.

When a person loves God, he believes His promises.

1 Corinthians 13:7

When a person believes God, he will be faithful to Him. Titus 2:10

Romans 10:17

**Fathers, our words and actions reveal our faith in Jesus Christ.**

Galatians 5:23

- 8. Gentleness – (Meekness)** Meekness is not weakness! “It is great power under control.” Moses, Paul, Jesus were all meek!

Gentleness – Opposite of Defiance – Matthew 5:5

**9. Self-control – temperance** – “mature steadfastness of restraining passions and appetites, not easily influenced by the world, the flesh and the devil.”

1 Corinthians 9:25; Romans 7:18

“is no law” – there is no need to curb the actions of a person that is Spirit-led.

**Application:**

1. God’s Man Lives To Honor God And Enlist His Trials To Grow In Godly Character. If I Am Living For Comfort, My Trials Will Upset Me.
2. True Freedom Comes Through Faith In Jesus Christ, But Continued Freedom Comes Through Surrender To The Holy Spirit.
3. Faithfulness – “loyalty, the character of one who can be relied on, of one who keeps his promises.” Fathers, Our Words And Actions Reveal Our Faith In Jesus Christ.

**John R.W. Stott** said, “It is not enough to yield passively to the Spirit’s control; we must also walk actively in the Spirit’s way. Only so will the fruit of the Spirit appear.”