

(II Timothy 2:25; I Peter 3:15; for meekness in Jesus, compare Matthew 11:29 with Matthew 23; Mark 3:5; in Paul, compare II Corinthians 10:1 with 10:4-6; Galatians 1:9; in Moses, compare Numbers 12:3 with Exodus 32:19,20);

9. Temperance—having control or mastery over one's own desires and passions, including faithfulness to one's marriage vows; also purity, chastity (I Corinthians 7:9; 9:25; Titus 1:8; 2:5);

Paul's final comment on the fruit of the Spirit indicates that there are no restrictions to the lifestyle indicated here. Christians can—in fact, ought—to practice these virtues over and over again; they will never discover a law prohibiting them from living according to these principles. In other words you, can not be arrested for any of these according to our now laws of this country.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22,23

Contrasted to the works of the flesh is a single-minded lifestyle called “the fruit of the Spirit.” This is produced in God's children as they allow the Spirit to so direct and influence their lives that they destroy the power of sin, especially the works of the flesh, and walk in fellowship with God.

Romans 8:5-14—*Led by the Spirit*. The Holy Spirit dwells (lives) within the child of God in order to lead him or her to think, speak, and act according to God's Word.

(1) He leads primarily by promptings (triggering; provoking) that—

- (a) Are inward urgings (pushes) to do God's will and put to death the sinful deeds of the body (sin wants to get-back control of our lives; Romans 8:13; Philippians 2:13; Titus 2:11,12);
- (b) Are always in agreement with Scripture (I Corinthians 2:12,13; cf. II Peter 1:20,21);
- (c) are intended to give direction in life (Luke 4:1; Acts 10:19,20; 16:6,7);
- (d) Are opposed to the sinful desires of the believer's natural likings, preferences; or tendencies (Galatians 5:17,18; I Peter 2:11);
- (e) Are concerned with the guilt of sin, Christ's standard of righteousness (right standing with God), and God's judgment against evil (John 16:8-11);

- (f) Exhort the believer to keep-on-going in the faith and warn him concerning falling away from their personal faith in Christ (Romans 13; Hebrews 3:7-14);
 - (g) Become weaker the longer the believer resists obeying the Spirit's prompting (Romans 1:28; Ephesians 4:17-19,30,31; I Thessalonians 5:19);
 - (h) results in spiritual death when rejected (vv. 6,13);
 - (i) Results in spiritual life and peace when obeyed (Romans 8:6,10,11, 13; Galatians 5:22,23).
- (2) The Spirit's prompting comes by —
- (a) Reading God's Word (John 14:26; 15:7,26; 16:13; II Timothy 3:16,17);
 - (b) Praying fervently (Romans 8:26; Acts 13:2,3);
 - (c) Listening to godly preaching and teaching (II Timothy 4:1,2; Hebrews 13:7,17);
 - (d) Getting in the Spirit (exercising the manifestations of the Spirit; see I Corinthians 12:7-10; 14:6);
 - (e) And heeding the counsel of Christian parents and trustworthy spiritual leaders (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20).

The Fruit of the Spirit includes:

1. Love (Greek, *agape*) — a caring and seeking for the highest good of another person without motive for personal gain (Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 13; Ephesians 5:2; Colossians 3:14);
2. Joy — the feeling of gladness based on the love,

- grace, blessings, promises, and nearness of God that belong to those who believe in Christ (Psalm 119:16; II Corinthians 6:10; 12:9; Philippians 1:4; I Peter 1:8);
3. Peace — the quietness of heart and mind based on the knowledge that all is well between the believer and his or her heavenly Father (Romans 15:33; Philippians 4:7; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20);
 4. Longsuffering — endurance, patience, being slow to anger or despair (Ephesians 4:2; II Timothy 3:10; Hebrews 12:1);
 5. Gentleness — not wanting to hurt someone or give him or her pain (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; I Peter 2:3);
 6. Goodness — zeal for truth and righteousness and hatred of evil; it can be expressed in acts of kindness (Luke 7:37-50) or in rebuking and correcting evil (Matthew 21:12,13);
 7. Faith — faithfulness, firm and unswerving loyalty and adherence (devotion, obedience) to a person to whom one is united by promise, commitment, trustworthiness, and honesty (Matthew 23:23; Romans 3:3; I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 2:2; 4:7; Titus 2:10);
 8. Meekness — restraint (self-discipline) coupled with strength and courage; it describes a person who can be angry when anger is needed and humbly submissive when submission is needed