

FRUIT – MORE FRUIT – MUCH FRUIT

Write out the second part of *Jn 15:2*: “.....and every branch_____

_____ more fruit”

Meditate on this and write down what it means: _____

Notice that in the context of fruit-bearing, if we **abide in the Vine (Jesus)** we will bear **much fruit**, (*Jn 15:5*). What does this mean?

Note that the last part of *Jn 15:5* literally says: “....for severed from Me you can do nothing.”

YOU’VE BEEN “ORDAINED” – (See King James Version)

Write out *Jn 15:16*: _____

Andrew Murray writes: “The branch has but one object for which it exists, one purpose to which it is entirely given up, - to bear the fruit the vine wishes to bring forth. And so the believer has but one reason for his being a branch – that the Heavenly Vine may through Him bring forth His fruit.”

No 21

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Twenty-one: The Fruit of the Spirit

Most of us are aware of the gap that exists between what God expects of us, and what we actually are. One function of the Holy Spirit is to narrow that gap by progressively bringing our lives in conformity to the Lord Jesus Christ. John 15 describes Christians as “branches” whose purpose is to bring forth fruit.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DEFINED

Read *Gal 5:22,23* and study the following definitions of the fruit of the Spirit.

1. **Love** “Agape” – divine love. “A deliberate desire for the highest good of the one loved, which shows itself in sacrificial action for that person’s good.” This love is illustrated in *Jn 3:16; Jn 15:12,13*.
2. **Joy** “chara” – exuberant joy. To the Christian, joy is not merely an emotion; it is something independent of outward circumstances. *1Thes 1:6; Rom 14:17; Neh 8:10*. Our rejoicing is in the Word of God and the Spirit of God. *Jer 15:16; Eph 5:18,19*.
3. **Peace** “eirene” – The state of quietness, rest, harmony, order in the midst of turmoil. *Phil 4:7; Jn 14:27*. In the O.T., the Hebrew word is “shalom” and this has the meaning of wholeness and completeness as well as tranquillity. *Is 26:3*.

4. **Longsuffering** “makrothumia” – patience, tolerance with others; steadfastness of purpose and refusal to quit; pressing through to victory. *Eph 4:1,2; 1Pet 3:20 Heb 6:12.*

5. **Gentleness** “chrestotes” – kindness. The ability to treat others in a way they can handle. God is kind towards us. The Greek word suggests the qualities that are looked for in a good servant. *Tit 3:4; Eph 2:7; Col 3:12.*

6. **Goodness** “agathosune” – the state of being kind, good, virtuous, benevolent, generous and God-like in conduct. *Ex 34:6; Ps 23:6; Eph 5:9; Rom 15:14.*

7. **Faith** “pistis” – There is probably a double meaning intended here, for the word can mean “faith” a firmly implanted confidence in what God says; it can also mean “faithfulness” in the sense of the Christian’s attitude towards both God and man. *1Cor 1:9; 1Cor 4:2; 1Thes 5:24.*

8. **Meekness** “prautes” – the ability to be patient in suffering and respond in the Spirit and not in the flesh. *2Tim 2:25; Col 3:12; Tit 3:2.*

9. **Temperance** “enkrateia” – self control in the area of natural appetites and passions, particularly with regard to sex. *1Cor 9:25; Tit 1:8; 2Pet 1:6.*

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT OR WORKS OF THE FLESH?

In *Gal 5:19-23*, Paul contrasts the **old life** with the **new life**. The old life was lived according to the “self” principle in man; the new life is a progressive development of the above qualities by the Holy Spirit. Notice that in contrast to the **fruit of the Spirit**, the works of the flesh include: sexual sins, filthy mind, indecent living, worship of false gods, witchcraft, hatred, quarreling, jealousy, anger, fighting, wrong

divisions, envy, murder, drunkenness, merry-making. (From a modern translation.)

THE CHARACTER OF JESUS

It is obvious that these fruit of the Spirit are really a summary of the character of Jesus. So, to become like Jesus is to have the fruit of the Spirit manifested in our lives. Read *Rom 8:29* and notice what God wants to do in us!

FRUIT IS AN EVIDENCE OF DEATH

Write out *Jn 12:24*: _____

A person who is really dead to sin (study 5) will be progressively developing in the area of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

THE SOURCE OF THE FRUIT

What is the source of the fruit? *Jn 15:4* _____

 Consider *Eph 3:17-19* in the light of this.

FAILURE TO BEAR FRUIT

Read *Jn 15:2, Lk 13:7-9* What do these verses tell us about the branch (Christian) who fails to bear fruit? _____

WE ARE IDENTIFIED BY THE FRUIT WE BEAR

Read *Mat 12:33; Mat 7:16-20*. Summarise the teaching of Jesus on this point: _____

 Relate this to our witnessing for Christ: _____
