

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 09, 2021

Theme: The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit **Topic:** The Holy Spirit helps us bear spiritual fruit

Main Text: Galatians 5: 16-26

Key verse: Galatians 5: 22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The liberty believers have in Christ has always been a major challenge for many – for believers and unbelievers alike. Some have feared that this liberty could become an excuse for some to surrender to the dictates of the sinful nature. And that is a valid concern. Apostle Paul shared this concern and so warned *“My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love.”* (Galatians 5:13 CEV). Though we receive the Holy Spirit when we heard the gospel and believed (Galatians 3:2), yet, what goes on in the Body of Christ – the jostling for position, the backbiting, etc., are clear evidence that serving each other in love is easier said than done.

1. **Read Romans 7:15-18, 23; Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Peter 2:11. (a) What makes living the Christian life difficult? (b) How does this align with 2 Corinthians 5:17? (c) According to Matthew 7:15-20; Galatians 5:6,16, what is the solution to all the destructive behaviors among believers?**

When we become born again, God gives us a new nature and fills us with His Holy Spirit. Thus, the Holy Spirit sets us free from the law of sin and death. (2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 6:22; 8:2-3). Ironically, though freed from the law of sin and death, we still have our sinful nature to contend with. This sinful (fallen) nature, has desires, which at best originate from sin and are stained by sin. (Genesis 6:5). Apart from its sinful inclination, the human nature is also limited both intellectually and morally (Romans 7:18). Furthermore, Scripture states categorically that *“The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”* (Galatians 5:17 NLT). That which is flesh is incapable of knowing God apart from special revelation and the redemption that removes the barrier of sin (1Corinthians 2:14).

2. **Read Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5 (a) What are some of the proofs of the presence of the sinful nature in us? (b) What result(s) can one expect who follows the desires of the sinful nature? (c) How does your answer in 2a & b above highlight the importance of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23?**

The capacity of the sinful nature for evil is beyond imagination. But thank God for giving us His Holy Spirit, whose fruit not only heals the sinful nature, but also the only way to set the sinful nature to become spiritual. But on our own, we cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit must produce His fruit in us. Again, from our passage and other Scriptures, the fruit of the Spirit cannot be wished into a man. Nor can it be ‘decreed’ in. Rather, we are to stop certain things and start doing some others. One example is the command to *“walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance] ...”* (Galatians 5:16a AMP). So, for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit, we must live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, etc.. Thankfully, our Lord Jesus Christ gave us a clue to how the fruit of the Spirit comes about when He said *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”* (John 6:63 NKJV). The written word of God is the agent by which the Spirit causes believers to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

3. **(a) According to John 15:8; Galatians 5:23b, what is the advantage of having the fruit of the Spirit? (b) According to Psalm 1; John 15:4-7, Galatians 6:8, what are we to do to bear the fruit of the Spirit? (c) Let participants share an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit they feel they need to manifest more and what they will do about manifesting that aspect of the fruit of the Spirit?**

Prayer: *Our heavenly Father, thank You for Your Holy Spirit who dwells in me to produce the fruit I need to live for You. Help me to abide in Christ and in His word so that the fruit of the Spirit will manifest in me in increasing measure. In Jesus name. Amen.*