

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH AND THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

BIBLE TEXT: Galatians 5:16-26; 6:1-10

LESSON 400 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22, 23)..

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Galatians 5:16-26

¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 6:1-10

¹ Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Works or Fruit?

1. The spiritual life is free from the works of the flesh, Galatians 5:16-18;

Romans 8:1-2

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Psalms 1:1-6

¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

⁴ The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

2. The works of the flesh will keep one out of Heaven, Galatians 5:19-21;

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Psalms 9:17

¹⁷ The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.

3. The unimpeachable fruit of the Spirit is the result of walking in the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-26;

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

² And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

⁸ Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease;

thou also be tempted.

² Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

³ For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

⁴ But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

⁵ For every man shall bear his own burden.

⁶ Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

¹⁰ As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

⁹ For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

¹⁰ But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

¹¹ When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

¹² For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

¹³ And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

II Sowing and Reaping

1. Seeds of gentleness, long-suffering, goodness and love, sown in meekness, temperance and faith, bring forth joy and peace, Galatians 6:1-5;

2 Peter 1:4-8

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Sharing is a Christian duty, Galatians 6:6, 10;

Matthew 10:40-42

⁴⁰ He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

⁴¹ He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Proverbs 19:17

¹⁷ He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

1 Corinthians 9:7-19

⁷ Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

⁸ Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

⁹ For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

¹⁰ Or saith he *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

¹¹ If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

¹² If others be partakers of *this* power over you, *are* not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

¹³ Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

¹⁴ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

¹⁵ But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for *it were* better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

¹⁶ For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

¹⁷ For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me.

¹⁸ What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I be free from all *men*, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

3. The harvest is inevitable, Galatians 6:7-9;

Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Matthew 16:25

²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 16:26

²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

NOTES:

Walk in the Spirit

When one is converted, he is born of the Spirit. But birth is only a beginning. Walking in the Spirit is necessary in order to maintain spiritual life. Jesus taught a way of self-denial. Paul testified that he kept his body under. Although salvation rids us of sin, and sanctification removes the Adamic nature, still we are human, and subject to temptation. Daily consecration is the answer to successfully walking in the Spirit. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). If we are led by the Spirit, we are overcomers. The works of the flesh are kept out.

Carnality

"The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). In the unsaved person there is a constant warfare between the conscience and the carnal mind. If one listens to the voice of conscience it leads him to repentance. Repentance is a change of mind and if conscientiously pursued leads to salvation, which removes the carnal mind.

The terms, Adamic, carnal, or sinful are synonymous when referring to the unsanctified heart. This carnal nature is given a deathblow and is held in subjection when one is saved. Before one is sanctified, this nature will at times try to assert itself. Through faith, prayer, and consecration an instantaneous experience of sanctification can be obtained. This experience is the complete destruction of the carnal nature.

The carnal mind is destroyed at salvation, the Adamic or carnal nature at sanctification, but this does not entirely end the conflict. Sanctified people can still be tempted; there is still a tempter from without. We are still human and there remains a self-life, which must be yielded to God. Every earthly desire and ambition must be subjected to the leading of the Spirit and consecrated to God. This is where self-denial, keeping our bodies under and dying daily, come in, which are necessary to spiritual life.

The Manifestation of Sin

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper" are the words of the Almighty. Adam, Achan, Ananias and Sapphira attempted it; in fact, from the beginning of time until the present day, men have tried to hide their sins. "The works of the flesh are manifest"; they crop up like weeds in a garden — ugly, undesirable, and hideous, but they are there. The works of the flesh are the result of an unregenerated heart. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9).

Without the blotting out of sin through the Blood of Jesus, the works of the flesh will be there and they will be manifest. "A good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (Luke 6:43-45).

Works of Flesh

Although divorce and remarriage while the first companion still lives is legal in civil courts, and is commonly practised, Jesus said, "Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her" (Mark 10:11). This sin is the first of a long list of the works of the flesh of which it is said, "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Fruit

There is a diversity of gifts of the Spirit. God may give to one the gift of prophecy and to another the gift of discerning of spirits, but the fruit of the Spirit is different. It is here portrayed as one fruit made up of the various elements such as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. For instance: an orange contains water, sugar, fibre, acid, iron and other elements, which are a part of the whole orange. A person who is born of the Spirit of God possesses a portion of all the elements of the fruit of the Spirit. As he goes deeper in Christ the purging process takes place in order that he may bring forth more fruit, but it is the same kind of fruit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. If one is lacking in any of these attributes, he is lacking in the Spirit of God. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link. We possess no more of the Spirit of God than is displayed in times of provocation. As Christians we must be constantly submitting ourselves to the chastening of God that we may be "pruned" as vines or trees, in order to produce "fruit."

Correction

If a man be overtaken in a fault it is the place of a spiritual person to correct him in a spirit of meekness. A man destitute of the Spirit might recognise the fault and try to correct it, but only aggravate the condition.

Seedtime and Harvest

God promised Noah right after the Flood: "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). Just that sure is the law of sowing and reaping. If we sow to the flesh we shall of the flesh reap corruption. This is true not only of the baser sins of life as mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21; but also in the case of the farmer who decided to tear down his barns and build greater ones. He lived for himself and was not rich toward God. (See Luke 12:16-21.) Many sinners who shun the grosser sins of life and work hard to better their position in the world are

still sowing to the flesh and neglecting their spiritual life. "All that is in the world, . . . is not of the Father" (I John 2:16). The material things of this life that men work so hard to obtain will pass away. Even this physical body, which men labour to preserve will go back to corruption. Only that which is spiritual shall remain. Won't you start today to spend more time sowing to the Spirit in order that you might of the Spirit reap life everlasting?

"Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Even though the benefits of sowing to the Spirit are not fully reaped today, the harvest is certain. Amid all the blight and corruption of this present world, who wants to store away much goods for many years? Is it not better to have our gold upon the streets of Heaven to enjoy than in a vault to corrupt? Is not fine linen, clean and white, more thrilling than moth-eaten purple? Wouldn't you rather have a mansion designed by the Architect of Creation than a house upon the earth? Sow to the Spirit and say with the Apostle Paul, "We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (**2 Corinthians 5:1** ¹ For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens).

QUESTIONS

1. How can one keep from fulfilling the lust of the flesh?
2. What did Jesus class as adultery?
3. Can one enter Heaven who manifests the works of the flesh?
4. What are the qualifications given for restoring a brother overtaken in a fault?
5. What happens when a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing?
6. How can a man prove his own work?
7. What is the harvest of one who sows to the flesh? To the Spirit?
8. What are we told to do if we have the opportunity? (Galatians 6:10).
9. How can one walk in the Spirit?
10. What have those who are Christ's done concerning the lusts of the flesh?