

From The Inside Out

BUT THE FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another." (Galatians 5:22-26)

The Holy Spirit is vital to the Christian life. It is impossible to achieve this level of Christlikeness on our own. We need divine intervention to live as God expects. That's why He sent believers the Helper, whose job is to produce Christlike character in us.

The heavenly Father knows that His children need support. That's why Jesus, before returning to heaven, ordered the disciples to put their missionary work on hold until the Holy Spirit arrived (Luke 24:49).

When the Spirit enters a believer's life, it immediately sets about the work of producing spiritual fruit. This is the outward expression of a transformed heart. When we yield to God's nurturing hand, our actions and attitudes become more loving, more joyful, more kind, more gentle, and so forth. He reaps a harvest of service from our life—good works that grow our faith and expand His kingdom. The Holy Spirit transforms the believer from the inside out.

For the Holy Spirit to bring forth Christlike character, we can't be passive bystanders. Our part is to meditate on God's Word so we can learn about His character and apply His principles. Then, we must make wise decisions each day that allow the Spirit to develop godliness in our life.

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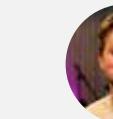
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