



WEEK 11

1ST SEMESTER · FOUNDATION & IDENTITY

The Harvest of the Heart

The Fruit of the Spirit

SPIRITUAL THEME

The Fruit of the Spirit

PERSONAL THEME

Character shaped by the Holy Spirit – visible & real

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Spiritual Theme: The Fruit of the Spirit

Personal Theme: Character Shaped by the Holy Spirit – Visible & Real

Scripture Focus: Galatians 5:16–26; John 15:8; Matthew 7:15–20

1. Introduction: The Tree and Its Identity

In the villages of Uganda, everyone knows how to identify a tree. You do not look at the height of the tree or the shape of the leaves to be sure—you look at the **fruit**. If it produces mangoes, it is a mango tree. If it produces thorns, it is a bush.

Jesus said, "*By their fruit you will recognize them*" (Matthew 7:16). A leader can have a loud voice and a big Bible, but if his life is full of anger, greed, and pride, he is not being led by the Spirit of God. Today, we study how the Holy Spirit changes us from the inside out so that our "fruit" matches our "title."

We are not just trying to be "better people"; we are participating in a supernatural growth process.

2. Biblical Teaching: The Supernatural Harvest (Galatians 5:16–26)

A. The Great Conflict: Flesh vs. Spirit (Verses 16–17)

Paul reveals that every Christian is a "battlefield." Even after we are born again, the old nature (the Flesh) tries to regain control.

- **The Nature of the Flesh (*Sarx*):** This is not just our physical body, but our "fallen human nature." It is hard-wired for rebellion. Paul lists the "works of the flesh" in **Galatians 5:19–21**, including sexual immorality, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, and fits of rage.
- **The Nature of the Spirit (*Pneuma*):** This is the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. He is holy, humble, and seeks only the glory of Christ (**John 16:14**).
- **The Strategy for Victory (Verse 16):** "*So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*"
- **Fact:** The word "Walk" (*peripateō*) is in the present tense. It means a continuous, step-by-step journey. You don't defeat the flesh in one day; you defeat it every time you choose to listen to the Spirit's voice instead of your own temper.
- **Starving the Flesh:** As leaders, we must follow **Romans 13:14**: "*Make no provision for the flesh.*" If you know that certain movies, certain conversations, or certain places make you angry or lustful, you must "starve" those desires by staying away from them.

B. The Single Fruit of the Spirit (Verse 22)

- **The Text:** "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*"

- **The Singular Nature (Karpos):** In Greek, Paul uses the singular word for "Fruit."
- **The Deep Meaning:** Imagine an orange. It has many slices, but it is still one orange. You cannot say, "I am a very 'loving' pastor, but I have no 'self-control' with money." If the Holy Spirit is truly in charge, He will bring **all** these slices of character into your life.
- **The Christ-Connection:** This list is actually a description of Jesus Christ. To have the "Fruit of the Spirit" simply means to have the character of Jesus being lived out through your body (**Galatians 2:20**).
- **Love as the Foundation:** Some commentators suggest that "Love" is the fruit, and the other eight are just descriptions of what that love looks like in action.
- Joy is love rejoicing.
- Peace is love resting.
- Patience is love waiting.
- Self-control is love protecting the heart.

C. The Law and the Spirit: "Against such things there is no law" (Verse 23)

This is a deep theological point that Paul uses to show the freedom of the Gospel.

- **The Purpose of Law:** Laws are created to set boundaries and prevent harm. In **1 Timothy 1:9**, Paul says, "*Law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels.*" You have a law against theft because people steal.
- **The Unlimited Growth:** Paul is saying that the Spirit-led life fulfills what the Law required all along (**Romans 8:4**) – the Law has no charge against such a life. You don't need a law telling you "Don't be too kind" or "Don't be too faithful."
- **The Deep Fact for Students:** In your ministry, you can never "over-do" the fruit of the Spirit. You can never love your congregation "too much" with godly love. You can never be "too gentle" with a broken person. While the world tells you to be "tough" to be a leader, God says there is no limit to how much like Jesus you can become.
- **The End of Self-Effort:** This also means we no longer obey in order to *earn* God's acceptance. We are already accepted in Christ. Instead, we obey because the Spirit gives us new desires, and the Spirit produces in us the behavior that the Law was trying to produce all along (**Romans 8:3-4**). Notice that Paul still gives commands in this same chapter: "*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh*" (Galatians 5:24) and "*let us keep in step with the Spirit*" (Galatians 5:25). Grace does not remove our obedience; it gives us the power for it.

Key Scripture Cross-References for this Section:

- **John 15:4-5:** The branch must "abide" to produce fruit. We are the branches; He is the Vine.
- **Matthew 7:17:** "*Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.*" Your character reveals your root.

- **Ephesians 5:9:** "For the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth."
- **Philippians 1:11:** Our fruit is "the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."

3. Personal Theme: Character That is Visible & Real

Character is what a man is in the dark, but the *fruit* is what people see in the light. For a leader, this must be "visible and real."

1. The Power of "Gentleness" (*Prautēs*)

In many cultures, a "leader" is expected to be harsh to show his power. But the Greek word means meekness, gentleness (see Jesus in Matthew 11:29) – not weakness, but **strength that does not need to crush others**. Many teachers describe it as "power under control."

- **Illustration:** It is like a powerful stallion (a strong horse) that has been tamed. He still has all the strength, but he uses it to serve his master.
- **Application:** A leader uses his authority to protect the weak, not to crush them.

2. The Power of "Self-Control" (*Enkrateia*)

This is the "wall" around the city. A man without self-control is like a city with no walls (Proverbs 25:28)—anything can get in and destroy him.

- **Visible Reality:** Can you control your appetite? Your sexual desires? Your temper when someone insults you? Your use of money? If the Spirit is leading you, **you** are the master of your body, not your body the master of you.

3. The Power of "Forbearance" (Patience)

In ministry, people will be slow to learn, they will be ungrateful, and they will make mistakes.

- **The Test:** Do you lose your temper and shout at your workers or your family? Or do you have the "long-suffering" patience of Christ?

4. Deep Theological Fact: The Source of the Growth

How does the fruit grow? It is not by "trying harder" in our own strength.

- **Fact:** You cannot "manufacture" fruit. A branch doesn't sweat to grow a mango. It simply **abides** in the tree (John 15:5). The life comes from the Vine, not from the branch.
- **The "Passive-Active" Life:** Our job is to stay close to Jesus (Prayer, Word, Fellowship). As we stay close, the "Sap" of the Holy Spirit flows into us, and the fruit grows. But abiding is not idleness. The Spirit produces the fruit, and He does it *through* our active dependence: we choose, we flee temptation, we pray, we obey. Paul says, "Work out your salvation with fear and

trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (Philippians 2:12-13). God works – and we walk with Him. So if your life is lacking joy, don't try to "make" joy by yourself; get closer to the Source of Joy, and then take the next step of obedience He shows you!

5. Practical Application for Bible School Students

1. **The "Home Inspection":** The first place the Fruit of the Spirit should be visible is in your home. Ask yourself: *"Am I more kind to my church members than I am to my wife?"* If so, you are acting in the flesh.
2. **The "Conflict Test":** When someone disagrees with you in a village meeting, do you respond with "Gentleness" (Spirit) or with "Self-Defense" (Flesh)?
3. **The "Consistency" Check:** Character is built in the small, boring moments of life. Being "Faithful" in small duties in the Bible School is proof that the Spirit is at work in you.

6. Discussion Questions for the Students

1. **Gifts vs. Fruit:** Why is it dangerous to follow a leader who has great "Gifts" (like powerful preaching) but has no "Fruit" (like self-control or kindness)?
2. **The Cultural Challenge:** Which of the nine qualities is the most difficult for a man to show in your specific culture? (Example: Is "Gentleness" seen as weakness?)
3. **The Pruning Process:** How does God "prune" us (John 15:2) to help us grow more fruit? Can you share a difficult time that actually made you more patient or loving?
4. **Practical Step:** Look at the list in Galatians 5:22-23. Which one is the "thinnest" or weakest in your life right now? How can you specifically "abide" in Jesus this week to see that fruit grow?