**The Roll of a Woman in The Church**

 **The Roll of The Woman in The Church Is to Build Character!**
Let us Talk About the Fruit of The Spirit Which Builds Our Character.

The Fruit of the Spirit is listed in Galatians 5: 13-26



These qualities make up the Fruit. There are not nine different fruit it is a nine-part Fruit. The Fruit is like an orange, and inside the orange, there are numerous slices. So, imagine that each slice of the orange is one of the aspects of the Fruit of the Spirit.
The original Greek word for “Fruit” in Galatians 5 is Karoos, and one definition means

 **“a result of something.”**
When the Fruit of the Spirit is displayed in our lives, it is a sign, or result, that we are being led by the Spirit of God. Just like the branches of a grapevine must be connected to the vine to bear grapes, the Fruit of the Spirit is evidence of being connected to Christ.
Why was the Fruit of the Spirit even mentioned? Because of the five verses preceding it. They mention sinful acts including sexual immorality, impurity, idolatry, hatred, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, and drunkenness.

You see, we have this thing called the flesh, and it is all our human desires. Our flesh wants things that prevent **God’s Holy Spirit** from leading us fully. Galatians 5:17 says, “the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary t

the flesh.” Bottom line: you can be led by the flesh, or you can be led by the Spirit of God, but you cannot be led by both—they are in constant conflict.
Probably the most beautiful part of the passage in verse 23 is that we are told there is “no law against them.” It would be true to say that we can exhibit the Fruit without any limits or restrictions. We can never show too much **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**Now, that is a goal to strive for!

Now let us separate the Fruit, of the Spirit and distinguish it from spiritual gifts, and learn how to fully live by the Spirit. As we grow in our understanding, we will recognize how the Fruit is manifested in our lives and the lives of others as well.

**Reflect: Share your Thoughts?**

Do you feel the war between your flesh and the Spirit? In what areas of your life do you feel it?

Galatians 5:17-23.

The fruit listed in Galatians 5 should not be confused with spiritual gifts that are mentioned in the Bible. Gifts such as leadership, wisdom, pastoring, encouragement, knowledge, and prophecy are given by the Spirit to build up believers.
The Fruit, however, is produced by the Spirit and is developed and displayed in us when we yield ourselves to God’s Spirit.
If we want to know how we are growing as Christ-followers, we should not focus on how gifted we are or how well we use our gifts.
No, it is the evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives that shows our spiritual maturity.
Not that our gifts are not valuable or vital they are. It is just that we can operate in our gifts while we are gratifying our flesh because they are beyond us.
Exhibiting the Fruit of the Spirit is a manifestation of a transformed life by the power of God.
It is not uncommon to see men and women operate in their spiritual gifts but then immediately act sinfully.
Why? Because God will use whomever He wants, whenever He wants, and however He wants. Maybe you have seen someone preach the most powerful sermon at a church or conference only to see them spew hatred to others later. Or perhaps a person may give generously of their time to impact those less fortunate but then turn around and be incredibly impatient and rude with their children.
The converse is also true. There are people all over the world who are continually exhibiting the Fruit of the Spirit in their daily lives. They may be serving behind the scenes, visiting someone in the hospital, or offering their time by just being with a friend in need. Their contribution to building up believers may not be flashy, but their character is deep because they have chosen to deny their flesh and walk in the Fruit of the Spirit.
The gifts receive far more attention and accolades than the quiet, almost hidden Fruit of the Spirit. Yet, it does not take tremendous effort to operate in our gifts.
The Fruit, on the other hand, involves the difficult task of dying to self every day.

The Fruit may not be shouting for attention but rest assured, we always know when the Fruit is present in our lives and when it is not.

**Reflect: What are your thoughts?**
Do you feel that it is easier for you to live out your spiritual gifts than walk in the Fruit of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23
Ephesians 4:11-13
1Peter4:10

**let us focus on love, joy, and peace.**
**Love:** is the selfless, giving, devoted love of God and others. It is an active display and compels us to put others' needs above our own. Love honors others and celebrates truth no matter how difficult it is to hear it. It gives of self even when it does not feel like it. Love does not allow feelings to dictate its choices. Love is hopeful, persevering, and trusting. Loving people keep hatred, apathy, and self-preservation far from them.

**Joy:** is a deep and enduring state of our soul that no circumstance, event, or human can steal away from us. It is delighting in God and choosing to rejoice in all things. Because our circumstances do not rule us, our mood swings are nonexistent. This does not mean we are always in a “good mood”, but we can remain in an unexplainable place of contentment. Joyful people do not allow misery, sorrow, sadness, or despair to rule their thoughts or guide their actions.

**Peace :**  is a deep well of confidence that God is who He is and that He will do what He says He will do. Peace comes from resting in the promises of God. It is choosing to work with others for a common goal instead of insisting on our way. Peace is often unexplainable and incomprehensible, but we know when we have it and know when we do not. Peaceful people do not go to war with their actions or words for they know that brings no relief to any situation.

**Reflect: What are your thoughts?**
Does anything about the descriptions of love, joy, or peace encourage or challenge you?

Romans 8:6
1Corinthians 13:4-7
Philippians 4:4

**Let us Look at Patience, Kindness, and Goodness.**
**Patience:** is waiting without complaining. Robin Meadows
Patience is exhibiting calmness during the midst of stressful situations. It’s showing empathy toward others when they are not doing things to our standard. Patience is produced when we support the growth of others as they are on their journey in life. It’s not getting easily disgruntled when a delay occurs that won’t matter in 10 years, let alone 10 days. Patient people do not become easily annoyed, agitated, nor do they show intolerance.

**Kindness:**is being genuinely kind to anyone and everyone. It assumes that all people deserve kindness no matter the differences, viewpoints, or cultures. Kindness celebrates others and serves when there is a need. It looks out for the well-being of others and shows compassion when needed. It assists others and shows courtesy and benevolence to anyone. Kind people do not display animosity, ill will, or envy toward others.

**Goodness:** is truly desiring to help others. It does not approach or entertain sin. Goodness does the right thing and challenges other people to do the same, even if the conversation is uncomfortable. It is decent, honest, moral, honorable, virtuous, and full of integrity. Good people do not just do the right thing; they make things right.

**Reflect: lest talk about it?**
Does anything about the descriptions of patience, kindness, or goodness encourage or challenge you?

Psalm 37:7
Proverbs 11:17
James 3:13

**Let us look at Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.**

Here is the paradox of Christian living. We must give up control of ourselves to gain self-control.

**Faithfulness:** is being dependable in our relationship with God and others. It is choosing to be true to our word and following through with our promises. Faithfulness possesses constancy, devotedness, fidelity, and steadfastness: in all its interactions. It is being reliable in a world that is not. Faithful people are not disloyal nor are they flippant with their commitments.

**Gentleness :**is allowing God to deal with others so that we do not have to take matters into our own hands. It has been said that gentleness is the grace of the soul. Gentleness includes being calm, serene, and tranquil. Being gentle does not mean someone is weak. Quite the opposite—it takes great strength to be gentle when the flesh wants the opposite. Gentle people are not harsh, nor are they calloused.

**Self-Control:** is being able to keep oneself in check. It’s not letting our circumstances cause us to lose control. Self-control exhibits moderation, temperance, and discipline. It is choosing, under significant pressure, to chase after the important instead of the urgent. Self-controlled people show restraint and are not impulsive.

**Reflect: let us talk about It?**

Does anything about the descriptions of faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control encourage or challenge you?

2Corinthians 5:7
Philippians 4:5
1Thessalonians 4:3-4

The Holy Spirit has no experience with being impatient, hateful, or rude. That is the language of our flesh. The Fruit will be the byproduct of a life surrendered to the Spirit of God. But we are not called to focus on the Fruit; we are called to focus on God’s Spirit.
Simple enough, right?
Too often, we do not see growth in ourselves and say things like, “I’m just an impatient person,” or, “I just can’t get along with certain people.” No, the truth of the matter is that when we have that mindset, we are just choosing to walk in the flesh. In our human existence, we are the opposite of the Fruit of the Spirit.
Seeking God and asking Him to help us grow in exhibiting His Fruit will challenge us because we are choosing to deny our flesh and feed our spirit instead. We will start being placed in situations that allow the Holy Spirit to develop His fruit within us.
Every problem is a character-building opportunity.” It is no joke to withhold from our flesh what it wants. Because…
Our flesh wants to get even, but the Spirit calls us to love and extend kindness.
Our flesh wants to entertain sinful thoughts, but the Spirit calls us to walk in self-control.
Our flesh wants to dictate with moodiness, but the Spirit calls us to walk in joy and peace.
What if, going forward, we truly lived out Romans 13:14 that tells us to clothe ourselves with Jesus and to not even think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh? Every day we put on Jesus, obey the Spirit’s leading, and ignore our flesh. It’s all about where we look and what we look for for satisfaction.
As we give the Spirit more control of our lives, He begins to work inside and through us what only He can to shape us and grow us to look like Jesus.
We are being transformed and when we do, we can see our growth as we go through life following Jesus.
Instead of avoiding change, our prayer should be, “God, do in me whatever you need to do so that I will exhibit your Fruit.” We must quit running from growth and thinking we cannot change. We can change because we have the power of the Holy Spirit propelling us toward it. The Fruit of the Spirit becomes part of us when we walk in obedience to the Spirit.

**Reflect: let us talk about It?**

**Do you tend to make excuses for the character traits in your life that are hard to achieve, or do you work hard to overcome those deficiencies?**
**Think of one excuse about yourself that you just keep using and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to grow in this area.**

**Meditate on the Word daily!
Ask the Holy Spirit to help you!
Ask God for an extra measure of the Holy Spirit.**