

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

*Study this lesson carefully before answering the questions.*



Love Joy Peace Goodness  
 Longsuffering Meekness  
 Gentleness Faith Temperance

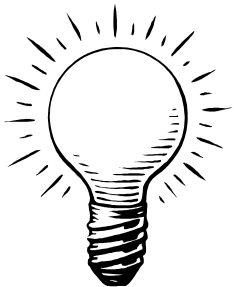
"I am the vine...without me ye can do nothing"

The Lord Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." He said this to show how closely we, who are saved, are joined to Him. A vine and a branch are one. The same life that goes through the main part of the vine also flows into the branches. This life of the vine in the branches makes them bear fruit. The life of Christ in us makes us bear special fruit. The Bible calls this "**The Fruit of the Spirit.**" Galatians 5:22, 23 says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."

#### A. HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN BEAR FRUIT?

How does a branch bear fruit? Does it fuss and worry about whether or not it is connected to the vine? Does it struggle and try to catch the sunshine and air that make the leaves green and the fruit delicious? No, it simply abides in or stays on the vine. The life from the vine feeds the branch so that it bears fruit. The business of the branch is to **abide in the vine**. The vine does the rest.

**We should abide in Christ.** To abide means to stay. We are joined to Christ and should let nothing keep His life from flowing freely into ours. We are to keep in close fellowship with Him and not let anything break that fellowship. Can a broken branch of a vine or tree bear fruit? No, it cannot.



Neither can a Christian who is not abiding in Christ bear fruit. Abiding in Christ is like an electric light bulb and socket. If the bulb stays or abides in the socket, where the power is, it will give light. If it gets loose, the power cannot get through to it. A Christian's power to bear the fruit of the Spirit is cut off when he allows sin to separate Him from Christ's power. Like the broken branch, he is still joined to Christ but is unable to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Like the light bulb that was loose but still in its socket, he is still held by Christ, as far as salvation is concerned, but is not staying close enough to the Lord to have His power for daily Christian living. He is still a child of God but is no longer living or abiding close to Him.

No doubt you have seen an automobile that would not go because something had cut off the power. Sometimes water is in the spark plugs or one wire is crossed with another wire. The car will not move. However, as soon as the wire, or whatever it is that is causing the trouble, is fixed, the power returns and the car is useful again. It is sin that causes trouble in the Christian's life. He has **no power** to live for God. As soon as the **sin** is removed by confession and cleansing (see last month's lesson) he again has the power of Christ. He begins to love as he should and begins to have the joy of the Lord in his life. Are you a Christian without power because of sin in your life? If so, get back into fellowship with the Lord Jesus so you can bear the fruit of the Spirit for Him.



If you are in a school bus in the morning, it takes you to school no matter how small or big, weak or strong you are. Do you ever have to push the bus? Of course you don't. All you have to do is abide in or stay in it and you get to school. On the bus you do anything good you want to do. You still get to school whether you talk or write or study. It is the same in the life of a believer. He just lives! As he goes about his daily work, he should abide in Christ, the Vine. He can then bear the fruit of the Spirit as easily as you can get to school on a bus. Abiding in Christ makes it possible for a Christian's thoughts, words and actions to be good. The more he lets Christ live through him, the more of the **fruit of the Spirit** will be seen in him. This is how Christ works when you let Him keep **sin** out of your life. Your part is to give your whole life over to Christ and then **He** will do the rest (Ephesians 2:10).

**B. GOOD—BETTER—BEST**

Mail order catalogs often show something with three prices. We will suppose it is a suit. Under the first picture of the suit we read "**Good**, \$75.50." The next one shows the same style of suit but a little better quality and reads, "**Better**, \$95.50." The last picture reads "**Best**, \$125.50," for it is still better quality. The Bible describes fruit bearing in a Christian as "**Fruit**," "**More Fruit**," and "**Much Fruit**." (Gospel of John 15:2, 5.) After a person is saved he usually begins bearing **fruit**. As he studies and obeys his Bible he bears **more fruit**. He becomes more gentle, kind, loving, patient, and unselfish. One camper said, "I don't fly off the handle like I used to." Then as a Christian's life is given more to God, he bears **much fruit**. He wants to see lost souls saved and the Lord is able to use him in many ways. Surely you want to do the **very best** for your Master. Live at all times very close to the Lord. **Abide** in Him. Enjoy Him and be filled with His Spirit and His power. You cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit by your self. It is Christ within you who causes the fruit to grow.



Fruit



More Fruit



Much Fruit

**Last month's puzzle answer: DOVE**