

**Galatians 5:16-25 The Harvest Time; Proof At The End Of The Growing Season;
The Fruit Of The Spirit. An Introduction. 6/16/2024**

TEXT: Galatians 5: 16-25 READ

Galatians 5:16 “But I say walk in the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

Fruit comes at the end of a season. You cannot just read the list and go after it. Something else comes first,,,

QUESTION: How do you walk in the Spirit; align yourself with the Spirit’s urgings and direction? How do we keep in the same steps as the Spirit?

Ex. Hunting rabbits in the snow in North Texas. “Step where I step so we make less noise.”

We saw his military training come through. It was so synchronized; like we were one unit of 4 people. (My dad and three of us brothers.)

1. Lean on your identity in Christ. Do not doubt it! II Corinthians 5: 17

2. Repent (change your mind) about any attempts you are making to live out of the old nature; the old “natural” reaction to things. Continue to admit, “I cannot do this in my old nature!”

3. Surrender with all humility. Romans 12: 1-2/ I Peter 5:5-6

Now you will see fruit. You will not see fruit before this. By doing this you stay in the domain of the power of the Holy Spirit working through your new nature. You learn to stop many of the deeds of the flesh before they start, or make quick corrections.

Ex. **Pro football coach.** “They beat us last time because we gave them time to set up. We have to break up the play before it forms.” (This is what we are doing right now!)

This is not a complete list of either the vices or the fruits. Romans 1: 29-31/ Mark 7:22/

1 Corinthians 13/ Colossians 3:12/ II Peter 1: 5-9

A pagan moralist would regard this list of vices as bad. But they make the mistake of thinking that man is basically good. Man left to his own self-correction can be truly good, they believe.

Humanism says man is the center of all things, not God, even if there is one.

Ex. "How Shall We Then Live" Francis Schaeffer P. 68, 71

In contrast, Paul considers the old nature damaged beyond all repair. Romans 7 and 8/
Philippians 3:7-14

You need a new nature to work out of for real transformations to take place.

The Galatians were being told that the right rituals and rules would give them a new life, but both the Old Testament and the New Testament testify that this is impossible. Even this list can become a mechanical attempt that will fail.

This incomplete list (5:23 "such things") is really a resume of One person; JESUS CHRIST!

Colossians 1:27/ 2:2 How will you do that with a list?

Ex. **Colossians 2:23**

Ex. **Augustine 300 A.D.** "The best men and the worst men I have ever met , lived in a monastery."

John 6:63 " It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and are life."

Only the Holy Spirit has the power to overcome the deeds of the flesh!

You cannot muscle your way through to live a new life in Christ. It is given to you by asking for this new life. It is a free gift to be received, not worked for. Once you receive salvation then you will have two natures. The new can eventually overcome the old by daily doing what we have said before on page 1.

NOTES: