

# SHARING THE GOSPEL - STEP 1 PREPARATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

## CHAPTER 7 – THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

"Fruit of the Spirit" are characteristics acquired during growth and maturity in Jesus Christ. It is a scriptural term that sums up the nine visible attributes of a faithful Christian life. The apostle Paul listed these nine characteristics in [Galatians 5:22-23](#): *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law."*



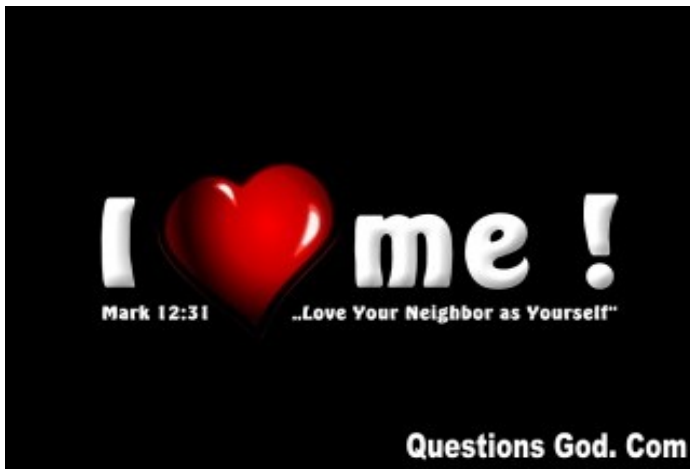
#### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

**IMPORTANT:** This experience and journey of the Fruit of the Spirit working and operating in our lives happen when individuals invite Jesus Christ into their hearts.

The Bible says we receive assistance from the Spirit when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. As a result of that help, we can

progressively mature to become more like Jesus, revealing the nine crucial characteristics and attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives.

Regarding soul-winning (evangelism) and the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)), here is a summary below of a **fruitful witness for Christ**.



## 1. LOVE – (A LOVING WITNESS)

It's no coincidence that love is the first fruit detailed in Galatians chapter five. Jesus claimed the two best rules are to love God and love each other ([Mark 12:30 -31](#)).

When we love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, just as we love our neighbors as ourselves, we reveal and demonstrate to the lost that we belong to Jesus.

Luke 6:27 says, "[Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.](#)" In other words, love the "unloving." (See [Luke 6:32-42](#).) Loving someone does not only include those who love you in return and treat you well.

**Critical:** Until you understand that God loves you and how much He loves you, it will undoubtedly be challenging to love God and love others. When we encounter God, we experience His love and truth. His love is uncontainable, and He changes us from the inside out. We need to allow His miraculous love to work in and through us.

Like any love connection, love means setting aside time for God in prayer and reading the Bible. In today's culture, we use the word "love" very loosely ("*I love the way you are dressed*" or "*I love hamburgers.*") Because of the way we use the word "love" in our daily lives, it can be challenging to determine what kind of love Jesus talked about in the Bible. What does it look like to love God with everything we have?

Love isn't merely something to talk about. When we love God, we can love others. Jesus instructed us to reveal our love by sharing God's love with others through acts of service. Do you know somebody who is complex and challenging to love? Will it be easy? **No!** As God's children, we must abide in Christ's Spirit by talking (prayer), listening, and reading God's Word daily to love others. ([Pause and Reflect!](#))



## 2. JOY – (A JOYFUL WITNESS) ([Acts 5:41](#))

One of the essential keys to being joyful is understanding why we express joy. Does your joy (happiness) come from the world: money, jobs, relationships, or possessions? Or are you delighted in the Lord for who He is?

When sharing our faith, we need the joy of the Lord, even if people resist or reject us. In [Acts 5:41](#), the Apostles suffered disgrace, yet

they still rejoiced in the Lord. In [Acts 13:49-52](#), Paul and Barnabas were persecuted and expelled from that area because of sharing the Gospel. In verse 52, their reaction: *"And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit."* It is easy to rejoice when things are going our way. It's an entirely different story when life is hard. Jesus's followers are called to always express joy, not merely when life is good. We must rejoice in the Lord even in tough times.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* (Philippians 4:4).

Is your concentration on the troubles of this world or the everlasting joy we have in Jesus? If you focus and fixate on the negatives, redirect your thoughts and focus on Jesus and His promises. The progressive Christian remains joyful and confident, recognizing that Christ will ultimately win.



### 3. PEACE (A PEACEFUL WITNESS)

"Peace," as with "love," is often abstract and difficult to define. The Hebrew word for "peace" is "Shalom." The root of "Shalom" is "Shalam" and literally means "to make whole."

"peace" is often used in context with "restitution." For an easy example: someone stole your watch. Realizing your watch was stolen, a friend gives you a new one to "make you whole" by

filling that void of not having your watch. Not that possessing a wristwatch or any other material possession makes you a complete person; it is just an illustration of what "restitution" means. It is giving back or filling the void that was lost or absent. (Pause and Reflect!)

Real peace comes from God; He is the one who gives us everything we need to be whole and complete. There's absolutely nothing else like the "peace" He offers us. He alone fills every void; we are made complete in Him. In Him, we can find rest and peace.

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33). Jesus said those words two thousand years earlier, yet they're still implied for us today. Does your peace come from relying on Jesus, who truly makes you "whole" and "complete," or do you depend on worldly possessions or experiences to make you feel at peace? This world is filled with stress and anxiety, and you lose your sense of completeness and restfulness when you are caught up with the desires of this world. When you share your faith with others, rest in His peace. Focus on Him, not yourself or worldly things.

"Patience is a tree,  
it's root is bitter but  
it's fruit is sweet."



#### 4. PATIENCE - FORBEARANCE (A PATIENT WITNESS)

Residing in this hectic world causes us anxiety and irritation. However, impatience isn't something we should sweep aside as a small problem. If you discover you are getting annoyed at, intolerant, or worried about particular individuals, envision how much more those conflicting feelings can be put to rest while we are waiting on the Lord.

Do you believe you have what it requires to be a patient person? *Patience means developing a connection and sharing your faith, even if there is no apparent immediate outcome while waiting for God to soften your and their hearts.* ([Ephesians 4:2](#); [Romans 2:6-7](#)).

*Patience* (forbearance) is essential in all our lives when dealing with family, neighbors, friends, at work, soul-winning, and simple tasks like driving a vehicle. Check what the Bible states concerning persistence and why you can't establish this characteristic yourself. It is essential to ask God for help.

God helps us develop even more incredible *patience* than we ever imagined. God will not run out of *patience* with you despite the number of times you mess up; thus, let us not give up on others.



#### 5. KINDNESS (A KIND WITNESS)

Philippians 2:3-4: "*...value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.*"

*Kindness* means more than just being friendly. It requires effort and a genuine concern for others. God can help you become an individual who is *kind* and has the desire to be of service to others.

*Kindness* is talking tenderly to convince individuals to believe in Christ by avoiding and staying clear of arguing over God or His Word ([Romans 2:4](#)). God can help you become a *kind* person who truly values others. With the assistance of the Holy Spirit, you can personify the attributes of a *kind* individual in everyday life and in sharing the Gospel. *Kindness* will help you become a triumphant witness for Christ. When you yield your life to Christ, your old ways disappear when you become more like Jesus.

Talk to folks you meet each day and make an extra effort to look for opportunities to show [kindness](#) and follow through each time. Take note of just how it affects you as well as others. Living in the Spirit of kindness consistently takes an extraordinary level of humility.

## **6. GOODNESS (BEING A GOOD WITNESS)** ([Psalm 103:8](#); ([Psalm 31:19](#))).

God calls us to love every person, including our enemies, when sharing the "Good News." The Bible states that [God's grace and mercy only make goodness possible](#). It is not only a moral behavior but an excellence of character. *Goodness enables one's life, house, and possessions to assist others in coming to Christ.* To practice [goodness](#), you should initially understand what God considers "good."

Romans 12:9 says, *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."*

The spiritual fruit of [goodness](#) helps us accomplish [good](#) things; it helps us be good in the highest sense of the word. [Goodness](#), after all, is the heart and soul of God's nature.



## **7 . FAITHFULNESS (A FAITHFUL WITNESS)**

[Faithfulness](#) can undoubtedly be a daunting and challenging trait to possess. [Faithfulness](#) happens when coming from a source of trust and loyalty.

Hebrews 11:1 says, *"Now faith is a confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

As Christians, we must be [faithful](#) to God in sharing the Gospel with those we meet.

*Being [faithful](#) takes determination, consistency, and focus on telling others about Christ. A [faithful](#) witness does not give up. They hang in there with persistence. ([2 Timothy 1:13](#)).*

Exactly how do we develop and flourish in our faithfulness? First, seek to be [faithful](#) to Him daily by obeying His commands and having and growing a personal relationship with Christ. But the challenge is how to show your [faithfulness](#) to God. Spend time in prayer, and ask God to clearly show you so that He can grow your [faith](#) and devotion in spreading the Gospel. What areas in your life get in the way of your [faithfulness](#)?



## 8. GENTLENESS (WITNESSING WITH GENTLENESS) ([1 Peter 3:15](#)).

**Gentleness** is a firm, steady control with a **gentle** touch. It is a caring, compassionate, and tender-hearted approach toward other people's weaknesses and issues.

A **gentle** and kind person speaks truthfulness but, in doing so, safeguards his tone and manner so the truth can be well received. Even after thoroughly pointing out the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus Christ defined a spirit of **gentleness**. He showed how He honestly felt about even those who opposed

Him.

***Gentleness** is finding opportunities to honor those you are attempting to reach for Christ and being generous, understanding, charitable, compassionate, caring, and thoughtful towards those without Christ. Philippians 4:5 says, "[Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.](#)"*



## 9. SELF-CONTROL - SELF-DISCIPLINE (THE WITNESS OF BEING SET APART)

**Self-control** is the discipline, practice, and control of putting off the impulse or satisfaction for a more unique and significant purpose or goal.

Whenever we practice and apply **self-control**, we say "no" for a more meaningful "yes" in sharing the Gospel. We are exchanging something in the here and now for something more effective in the future.

Why is this last fruit of the Spirit crucial in governing our decisions, especially in demonstrating the other fruits? Of everything we have to guide in this life, our **self** is often our most significant challenge, with numerous everyday temptations and disappointments. Possessing **self-control** in the home, workplace, and traveling can be challenging.

With the Holy Spirit's help, we learn how to manage our ideas, feelings, words, emotions, and actions to be effective and efficient witnesses.



What determines your way of life? Is it the fruit of the Spirit or something altogether different? Let's look at the opposites of the Fruit of the Spirit listed in Paul's letter to the Galatians in chapter [5:22-23](#):

**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

**FRUIT OF THE FLESH**

- Dislike / Not Caring
- Discouragement
- Stress / Worry
- Impatience
- Rudeness
- Wickedness
- Unfaithfulness
- Hardness
- No Self-Restraint

**Are you applying the truths of the Fruit of the Spirit in your life?**

- Which one is your best trait?
- Which one is your weakest?
- Which aspect of the above would God have you concentrate on today?

We are sent forth to bear much fruit; that is only possible when we stay firmly attached to Jesus, the vine ([Please read John 15:1-17](#)). These words of Jesus apply to us right up to this day. As we love and fear God and delight and hunger in having His Word prune us, we allow Christ's fullness to be revealed in us. More of His life will connect and touch those around us, bearing fruit. (*Pause and Reflect.*)

**The Fruit of the Spirit is a lifetime working process in our lives.**



## CONCLUSION

When people come to Jesus Christ, they receive Christ into their hearts. The Spirit of God comes and connects with the Spirit of the believer. This "*indwelling Spirit*" **reproduces** and **recreates** the life of Jesus in the follower's life. This experience of the "***Fruit of the Spirit***" operating in our lives happens when a person asks Jesus Christ into their heart.

Believers are called to abide in Christ and develop the same fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.) ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). We should each be known by the same Fruit of the Spirit.

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE is also for those who believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord of their lives in tomorrow's study guide. John the Baptist foretold, "*I baptize you with water, but He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*" (Mark 1:8).

## A Journey Of Chapter 7 Questions – The Fruit Of The Spirit

Embark on a journey of self-discovery, reflection, and personal growth. Explore your thoughts and emotions to understand yourself and your world better. By reflecting on these questions, we can expand our perspectives and uncover new insights to help us overcome any obstacle.

Please reflect and give thought to these questions from Chapter 7.



1. In which Bible book and verse do we find the list of nine spiritual traits?
2. List the nine Fruits of the Spirit?
3. Which fruit of the Spirit is the most important in the Bible?
4. Which one is your best trait? Which one is your weakest? And why?
5. Which Fruit of the Spirit would God have you concentrate on today?

## **Tomorrow's Study Guide**

### **CHAPTER 8**

#### **BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Please let us know if you said Yes to Jesus [here](#).

If you are undecided or have questions, please let us know [here](#).

Need to talk to a Christian - 24/7 Christian Chatline [here](#).

Need help to find a caring local church? Go [here](#).

If you are hurting or searching for life's answers, check out [Questions God. Com.](#)  
*"This is a safe place to contemplate one's life, spirituality, and relationship with God."*



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New Christian Guide  
Spiritual Maturity  
Gospel of John  
Sharing the Gospel

#### STEP 1. SHARING - PREPARATION TO DEVELOPMENT

Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Why Be A Soul Winner?
3. Right Motivation In Sharing
4. Courage In Sharing The Gospel
5. Prayer Is The Catalyst In Soul-Winning
6. The Holy Spirt & Our Responsibility
7. The Fruit Of The Holy Spirit
8. Baptism & The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

#### STEP 2. SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

9. ABC's Of Sharing
10. Presenting Your Testimony
11. Creating Your Story
12. Developing Your Testimony
13. Be Relatable - Build Relationships
14. Tips For Improving Your Testimony
15. Your Story Is God's Story

#### STEP 3. SHARING THE GOSPEL

Chapters:

16. What is the Gospel?
17. Sharing Using Gospel Tracts
18. Fear In Sharing
19. Sharing Using Romans Road
20. 3 Circles Methods 1 & 2
21. Sharing using 3 Circles Method 3
22. Sharing Using One-Verse Evangelism Part 1
23. One-Verse Evangelism Part 2 - The Closing
24. Creative Ways To Share The Gospel
25. 5 Methods Of Sharing Your Faith

#### STEP 4. THE FOLLOW-UP

26. Follow-Up Guide For New Christians
27. Follow-Up Guide For Soul-Winners
28. Follow-Up Action Sharing Plans To Do

# SHARING THE GOSPEL

## SHARING THE GOSPEL OUTLINE - 30-DAY STUDY GUIDE

Sharing our faith is among our urgent calls as followers of Jesus. Discover the heart of evangelism and exciting techniques you can utilize to help you reach others for Christ.

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