

55 Bible Verses on The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5 and the character only the Spirit can grow

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Paul lists nine qualities in Galatians 5 — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control — and calls them fruit, singular. Not fruits, as if you could pick and choose which ones to grow. One connected cluster, produced by one Spirit, meant to ripen together over time.

Fruit is not manufactured. A branch does not strain to produce apples through sheer effort — it stays connected to the vine, and the fruit follows. These qualities are not achieved by willpower alone. They grow.

These fifty-five verses walk through each of the nine fruits, along with what it means to bear fruit at all — a holistic guide to the character the Spirit forms in anyone who stays close to the vine.

What It Means to Bear Fruit

Before the nine qualities themselves, Scripture explains where fruit actually comes from.

Galatians 5:22–23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Fruit, singular — one connected cluster, not nine separate achievements.

John 15:4–5

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself... neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches.”

A branch does not strain to produce fruit. It stays connected, and fruit follows.

Matthew 7:16–17

“You will know them by their fruits... every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.”

Fruit is evidence, not performance.

John 15:8

“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

Fruit-bearing is tied to what glorifies God.

Psalm 1:3

“He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season.”

In its season — fruit has its own timing.

Love

The first fruit named, and the one every other virtue is measured against.

1 Corinthians 13:4–7

“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Fifteen descriptions of love, and every one is an action.

John 13:34–35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you... by this all will know that you are My disciples.”

Love becomes the visible evidence of belonging to Christ.

1 John 4:7–8

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God... God is love.”

Love is described here as who God is.

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Demonstrates — love proven at the cross before it was earned.

1 Peter 4:8

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.”

Above all things — every other fruit rests on this one.

Joy

Not dependent on circumstances — a fruit that can survive weather a mood could not.

Nehemiah 8:10

“Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Joy named here as strength itself.

Psalms 16:11

“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Fullness of joy is located in His presence.

John 15:11

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

His joy, remaining in you.

Romans 15:13

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.”

Fill you — joy given from outside.

Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

Paul writes this from prison.

Peace

A fruit that governs rather than merely visits.

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.”

This peace does not depend on circumstances lining up first.

Philippians 4:6–7

“Be anxious for nothing... and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds.”

Guard — a military term. This peace stands watch.

Isaiah 26:3

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

Perfect peace is tied to where the mind is fixed.

Colossians 3:15

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Rule — peace is meant to govern.

Romans 12:18

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Peace as fruit reaches outward, into how you treat others.

Longsuffering (Patience)

The fruit most tested by other people.

Ephesians 4:2

“With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.”

Longsuffering — literally, long-tempered.

Colossians 3:12–13

“Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another.”

Put on — deliberately chosen each day.

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise... but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish.”

God’s own longsuffering is the pattern.

Romans 2:4

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

Longsuffering is a form of goodness, not weakness.

Psalms 37:7

“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him.”

Rest and patience are paired here.

Kindness

Not merely niceness, but deliberate, active goodwill.

Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.”

Kindness and forgiveness rarely survive long apart.

Titus 3:4–5

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared... according to His mercy He saved us.”

God’s kindness is the reason salvation appeared at all.

Proverbs 11:17

“The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.”

Kindness is good for the giver too.

Luke 6:35

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return... He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”

God’s own kindness reaches those who haven’t earned it.

Colossians 3:12

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.”

A quiet strength, not a performance.

Goodness

Moral excellence with hands and feet.

Psalms 23:6

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

Goodness described as following, actively pursuing.

Galatians 6:10

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

As we have opportunity — goodness looks for chances to act.

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Good works already prepared, waiting for you.

Romans 15:14

“I myself am confident concerning you... that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge.”

Full of goodness — something that overflows to others.

3 John 1:11

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God.”

Imitate — goodness is learned, in part, by example.

Faithfulness

Steadiness over time — the fruit that shows most clearly in the long run.

Lamentations 3:22–23

“Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

God’s own faithfulness is the pattern this fruit reflects.

1 Corinthians 4:2

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

Faithful, not flashy.

Proverbs 3:3–4

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.”

Bind and write — worn close and remembered deliberately.

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

His faithfulness does not depend on ours.

Deuteronomy 7:9

“Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations.”

A thousand generations — far beyond a single lifetime.

Gentleness (Meekness)

Strength under control, not weakness.

Matthew 11:29

“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Gentleness was not a limitation on His power, but a choice within it.

Philippians 4:5

“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.”

Known to all men — meant to be visible.

1 Peter 3:15

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

Even conviction is meant to be held with gentleness.

Titus 3:2

“To speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”

All humility, to all men.

Galatians 6:1

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.”

Restoration, not condemnation.

Self-Control

The last fruit named, and often the one most tested by ordinary daily life.

1 Corinthians 9:25

“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things... but we for an imperishable crown.”

Temperate in all things — discipline applied broadly.

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

A sound mind — self-control named as a specific gift.

Proverbs 25:28

“Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.”

Self-control is the wall that keeps a city from being overrun.

2 Peter 1:5–6

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue... to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance.”

A deliberate sequence, building on what comes before.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Active alertness, not passive restraint.

Bearing Lasting Fruit

The point was never a single good season. It's fruit that remains.

John 15:16

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain.”

Should remain — the goal was never a single harvest.

Colossians 1:10

“That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Increasing — fruitfulness is expected to grow.

Philippians 1:11

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

The source of the fruit is named again, clearly.

Galatians 5:25

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

Living in the Spirit is a fact. Walking is the daily practice.

Psalms 92:12–14

“Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish... they shall still bear fruit in old age.”

Fruit in old age — not reserved for a single vigorous season.

Fifty-five verses — from a branch abiding in the vine to fruit that still grows in old age — all describing the same nine-fold cluster: **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Not manufactured by willpower, but grown by staying close to the Vine, over time, one season at a time.**

You do not have to force this fruit into existence. You only have to stay connected to the One who grows it.

A CLOSING PRAYER

*Spirit of God, grow Your fruit in me —
not all at once, not by my own straining,
but the way a branch grows fruit: by staying close.
Where I am impatient, grow longsuffering.
Where I am harsh, grow gentleness.
Where I am scattered, grow self-control.
Keep me abiding, and let the fruit follow.*

Amen.