



## \*Growing in the Spirit continues with truth and the rejection of sin.

*\*Galatians 5:7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.*

1. **You were running well.** What happened?

**Most Christians relate very well** to the fruit of the Spirit in the areas of Love, joy, and peace. These are introductory fruit that starts you on the journey of a spirit-filled life.

2. **Hindrances to the truth are everywhere.**

**Examine what is persuading you!** Is it culturally biased? Is your basis for truth rooted in the Word of God and the proper context while connected to the whole counsel of the scriptures?

Often the greatest hindrance is not staying surrendered to the Holy Spirit and His leadings.

## \*After being rooted in Love, understand now how the Spirit produces fruit.

*\*Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

1. **Fruit is a collective noun taking a singular verb:** Fruit is good for you; The tree bears fruit (not fruits). The plural fruits is used in talking about different types of fruit: oranges, mangoes, and other fruits.

**Let God's love mature in your heart and mind** and it will eventually manifest in all of its attributes.

2. **V:22 The Fruit is Love.** It's the light of God's Spirit shining through the prism of love giving off many different aspects of love.

## Longsuffering

*\*2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*\*Romans 2:3 Do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness (Kindness) of God leads you to repentance?*

1. **\*Longsuffering:** Being strong in the character of the Spirit with boldness to resist rash reactions.

**\*Longsuffering does not mean an eternal or unhealthy tolerance of wrong or sinful actions.**

Many think of the Spirit of Longsuffering as forbearance/patience. It's more than that as the Holy Spirit reveals its power to supernaturally transform you in a difficult area of your life. (Our Emotions)

2. **\*The reasoning behind it.** Because God gave a promise of a deeper work of transformation. Think of Longsuffering as an emotional oral procedure like receiving a crown on a tooth. The decay in your emotions and speech is removed but you needed more than a filling to keep the emotions and speech strong & healthy. A crown is put in this area.

The Holy Spirit gives you a spirit of gratitude that grows your ability to experience longsuffering.

3. **\*Strong warning:** **Romans 2:5** Don't take God's longsuffering or kindness for granted if you do it will produce a hard heart which will lead you ultimately to the day of wrath.

**The Holy Spirit stabilizes our emotions!** Those that reject the Spirit in this area will be more emotionally unstable.

Romans 2:3 says having a judgmental spirit toward others when we have the same sin in our life we won't escape God's wrath.

## **Kindness**

**\*Jeremiah 9:24 (NIV)** but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, (lovingkindness) justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

**\*Romans 2:3** Do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? **4** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness (Kindness) of God leads you to repentance?

1. **\*Kindness:** Selfless compassion, tenderness, and mercy especially when shown to our enemies and the needy.

**We are learning the way of love!** Love is patient and then it's kind.

2. **The reason behind it:** **Proverbs 21:21(ESV)** Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness (mercy) will find life, righteousness, and honor.

**Using our dental illustration again.** The procedure is still removing the decay of our flesh with a filling. But, is now the filling (of the Spirit) gives us an ability to respond in the fruit of kindness.

3. **\*Warning:** Kindness and mercy have a strong connection. **James 2:13** For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**As mercy triumphs over judgment,** it's because kindness shows it the way.

## **Goodness**

No one is good except God. Jesus' words to the rich young Ruler

**\*Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1. **Goodness:** This is a special ingredient to God's holiness. The Holy Spirit brings holy goodness to your mouth and life.

**Our dental illustration is goodness is every day removing the plaque of this world's build up.**

2. **The reason behind it.** Is for our transformation and the ability to know God's Will.

**\*Romans 12:2 (NIV)** Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. **The Blessings:** **Psalm 31:19** Oh, how great is Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, Which You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!