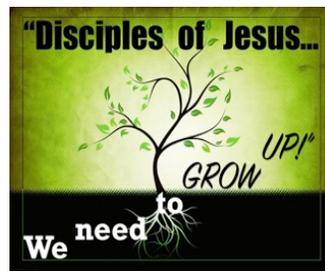


**“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”**

**Part 15: “The Fruit of the Spirit ... more than a list!”**

**Galatians 5:16-26; II Peter 1:1-11**



Introduction: **II Peter 1:3-4:** “ ... so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature ... ”

God HAS GIVEN to believers everything we need to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in this world!

**II Corinthians 5:17, 3:18:** “And we all (believers) ... are being transformed into the same image ... For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” (3:18).

**Disciples of Jesus exhibit the life of the Spirit in preparation for entrance into Christ’s eternal kingdom.**

The Spirit is our Teacher, giving us knowledge and wisdom to follow the path laid out for us in God’s Word.

### **I. The Spirit enables believers to identify the enemy ...**

**Galatians 5:16-17:** “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other” (vs. 17).

The greatest obstacle to our being conformed to the image of Christ is the “flesh,” our own sinful nature !

**Romans 7:18-25:** “For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out!” (vs. 18).

Failure to identify that the enemy is the old nature of sin leaves millions tormented by guilt and shame, trying to be good, but failing over and over and over again.

**Galatians 5:19-21; James 1:14:** “Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire” (James 1:14).

As long as we live in the flesh we will face temptation.

### **II. The Spirit equips believers to engage in the battle ...**

**Galatians 5:16:** “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh!”

You (as a believer) are NOT a helpless victim of the nature within. **FIGHT!!!** (II Timothy 2:4; II Peter 1:3-4).

**Ephesians 4:17-24:** “ ... put OFF your old self ... and ... put ON the new self, created after the likeness of God ... ” (vss. 22-24).

**Galatians 5:22-24** ... The old nature has “will-power” that is turned the wrong direction and without the power of the Spirit of God any changes you try to make will be met with opposition from the old nature.

**II Corinthians 10:3-5:** “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds” (vs. 4).

**II Peter 1:5-8:** “... make every effort to supplement your faith” (vs. 5).

Don’t make the mistake of looking at the “fruit of the Spirit” as a list you attempt to produce by trying harder without setting your mind on Christ !!

“ GROW UP !” Pursue maturity!!

The Spirit of God is within every believer, equipping us through the Word for every good work.

### **III. The Spirit empowers believers to achieve victory in the battle ...**

**II Peter 1:9-11:** “Be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure!” (vs. 10).

Dwelling on the past and punishing yourself prevents you from moving forward and being productive in serving Christ.

A runner doesn’t win the race by looking behind them, but by looking at the finish line and straining toward it!!

The assurance of being a disciple of Jesus comes when I see the evidence of the Spirit giving me victory over the flesh.

**Disciples of Jesus exhibit the life of the Spirit in preparation for entrance into Christ’s eternal kingdom.**