

February 14, 2021

## Fruit of the Spirit

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
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## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

**Galatians 5** teaches that if we walk by the Spirit, we will avoid “**works of the flesh**” and produce the “**fruit of the Spirit**.” This beautiful fruit is described as “**love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law**” (Gal. 5:22-23).

It is fitting that love is mentioned first. If we love God as we should, we will be motivated to please Him by obeying His commands (1 John 5:3).

Love for *others* involves seeking others’ highest good. It serves as the motivation for treating others right. A familiar passage in 1 Corinthians 13 expresses this well. **Verses 4-7** say, “**Love is patient and is kind; love doesn’t envy. Love doesn’t brag, is not proud, doesn’t behave itself inappropriately, doesn’t seek its own way, is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things**” (also see Rom. 13:9-10).

The second quality included in the fruit of the Spirit is joy.

**1 Thessalonians** commands, “**Rejoice always**” (Ch. 5:16). As **Philippians 4:4** shows, continual joy is possible “**in the Lord**.” The blessings of living in Christ (saved from sin, reconciled to God, a member of His family, etc.) provide a

# Fruit of the Spirit

(Continued)

basis for a much deeper and more lasting sense of joy than anything the world offers.

The same can be said with the third characteristic included in the fruit of the Spirit: peace. Walking by the Spirit leads one to be at peace *with God* (**Rom. 5:1**), and to seek peace with others (**Rom. 12:18**).

The one who is at peace with God and fervently prays to and trusts Him is able to have inner peace that surpasses all understanding (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

Walking by the Spirit also leads one to be longsuffering. This can include suffering long while enduring hardships – i.e., steadfastly obeying God through trials (**2 Tim. 2:3**).

It can also include being longsuffering toward *others* – i.e., suffering mistreatment from others with love, instead of rendering evil for evil (**1 Pet. 3:9**).

The fruit of the Spirit further includes kindness. Instead of bitterness, wrath, slander, and malice, those who walk by the Spirit are kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving, bearing in mind the kindness and willingness to forgive God has shown us (**Eph. 4:31-32**).

This is connected to the sixth quality listed in the fruit of the Spirit: goodness. The one who walks by the Spirit seeks to do good for others, just as God has been so good to us.

The seventh quality listed in the fruit of the Spirit is faithfulness. Faith, in one sense is “**assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen**” (Heb. 11:1).

When the term “faithful” is used, though,

it often refers to being *trustworthy*. Just as “**God is faithful**” (**1 Cor. 10:13**), meaning He can be relied on to follow through with what He’s promised, those who walk by the Spirit can be counted on to fulfill the responsibilities God has given us.

The eighth characteristic listed in the fruit of the Spirit is meekness. The attitude of meekness accepts God as our Master, yields to His guidance, and yields to *others* when it is appropriate.

Meekness is not being gullible or being a “push-over.” It works “hand-in-glove” with being steadfast. Steadfastness refuses to change in ways that push us away from God, while meekness pursues changes that draw us *closer* to God. Meekness is the attitude of allowing God to mold us like clay according to His will (cf. **James 1:21**).

The final trait mentioned in the description of the fruit of the Spirit is self-control. This involves an inner mastery over one’s desires and passions. For instance, controlling one’s anger is needful to avoid being quick-tempered and thus speaking rashly toward others in fits of wrath (**Eph. 4:26; James 1:19**).

These nine qualities show the beauty of living according to God’s will. May we shun the “**works of the flesh**,” and pursue the excellent way of “**love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.**”

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***“My soul, wait in silence for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress. I will not be shaken. With God is my salvation and my honor. The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people. Pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us.”***

– Psalm 62:5-8

***“Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:”*** – Isaiah 26:4

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Mabel H  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
June H  
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)  
Roger S  
Jeanette's Grandson, Oliver  
L.A. S (COVID recovery)  
Justice G (Perthes disease)

## Daily Bible Reading

February 14 – Hosea 1-4; Revelation 1  
February 15 – Hosea 5-8; Revelation 2  
February 16 – Hosea 9-11; Revelation 3  
February 17 – Hosea 12-14; Revelation 4  
February 18 – Joel; Revelation 5  
February 19 – Amos 1-3; Revelation 6  
February 20 – Amos 4-6; Revelation 7

***“But [Jesus] answered, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”***

– Matthew 4:4

### **Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Steve

Evening:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

### **Assignments**

Sunday, February 21, 2021

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Harold

Table: Steve

Serve: Darrell

Mike

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Invitation:

### **Clean Building**

Jeanette

### **Prepare Communion**

Jeanette

### **Upcoming Reminders**

*\*Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

*evening Bible classes are temporarily*

*suspended, due to effects of COVID*

### **Anniversaries**

### **Birthdays**

February 15 – Dan D

February 20 – Jeff

February 23 – Larry

February 28 – Donna G

February 28 – Sandy