

The Fruit of the Spirit

- I. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." (**Gal 5:22-23**)
- II. "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth:)" (**Eph 5:9**)
- III. Fruit is something that is produced by something else.
 1. A tree produces fruit in a botanical sense.
 - A. Fruit *n.* - 1. Vegetable products in general, that are fit to be used as food by men and animals. Now usually in pl. Also fruits of the earth or the ground. 2. The edible product of a plant or tree, consisting of the seed and its envelope, *esp.* the latter when it is of a juicy pulpy nature, as in the apple, orange, plum, etc.
 - B. The Bible uses *fruit* in this sense (**Neh 10:35**).
 2. People produce fruit in a biological sense.
 - A. Fruit *n.* - 6. Offspring, progeny. Also, an embryo, foetus. Orig. a Hebraism. Now rare, except in Biblical phraseology. More fully *fruit of the body, loins, womb*.
 - B. The Bible uses *fruit* in this sense (**Psa 127:3**).
 3. Labor produces fruit in figurative sense.
 - A. Fruit *n.* - 7. a. Anything accruing, produced, or resulting from an action or effort, the operation of a cause, etc. a. Material produce, outgrowth, increase; pl. products, revenues.
 - B. The Bible uses *fruit* in this sense (**Psa 104:13; Pro 31:16**).
 4. Spiritual labor produces fruit in a spiritual, immaterial sense.
 - A. Fruit *n.* - 7. b. An immaterial product, a result, issue, consequence.
 - B. The Bible uses *fruit* in this sense (**Jam 3:18**).
 5. In like manner, the Spirit of God produces effects and results (fruit) in a man's life when He operates within that man.
 - A. Fruit itself does not cause the ability to produce it.
 - i. The apple didn't cause the tree; the tree caused the apple.
 - ii. The baby didn't cause the parents; the parents caused the baby.
 - iii. The iPhone didn't cause Steve Jobs; Steve Jobs caused the iPhone.
 - iv. Likewise, the faith of a man didn't cause the Spirit of God to dwell in him; the Spirit of God dwelling in Him caused and produced his faith.
 - v. Faith is the fruit, not bait, of the Spirit.
- IV. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 1. The Holy Spirit must first dwell within a man before that man can exhibit the fruit of the Spirit.
 2. The Holy Ghost doesn't dwell in fallen man by nature (**Jude 1:19**).
 3. Evil cannot dwell with God (**Psa 5:4-5**).
 4. Therefore, God has to first remove the old, evil heart from man before He gives him a new heart (**Eze 36:26-27**) in an operation which the Holy Spirit performs called regeneration (**Tit 3:5**).
 5. When the Spirit of God renews a man's inward parts (his soul and spirit), He then indwells him (**Rom 8:9; 2Ti 1:14; 1Co 6:19-20**).

6. Once indwelling him, the Spirit then begins to produce fruit through the man (**Gal 5:22; Eph 5:9**).
7. Whereas without the Spirit, man brings forth no fruit (**Jude 1:12**) or fruit unto death (**Rom 7:5**), with the Spirit he brings forth fruit unto holiness (**Rom 6:22**) and fruit unto God (**Rom 7:4**).
8. Once the Spirit of God dwells in a man, he can know and understand the gospel which brings life and immortality to light (**1Co 2:12, 14; 2Ti 1:10; 1Co 1:18; 1Th 1:4-5**).
9. The following are evidences that a man has the Spirit of God dwelling in him:
 - A. Keeping God's commandments (**1Jo 3:24**).
 - B. Loving one another (**1Jo 4:12-13; 1Jo 4:16**).
 - C. Confessing that Jesus is the Son of God (**1Jo 4:15**).

V. The fruit of the Spirit

1. Love *n.* - 1. a. That disposition or state of feeling with regard to a person which (arising from recognition of attractive qualities, from instincts of natural relationship, or from sympathy) manifests itself in solicitude for the welfare of the object, and usually also in delight in his or her presence and desire for his or her approval; warm affection, attachment.
 - A. Love is a fundamental attribute of God (**1Jo 4:8,16**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. Love (charity) is the greatest of the Christian virtues (**1Co 13:13; 2Pe 1:5-7**).
 - C. Charity *n.* - 1. Christian love a. God's love to man. (By early writers often identified with the Holy Spirit.) *Obs.* b. Man's love of God and his neighbour, commanded as the fulfilling of the Law, Matt. xxii. 37, 39. *Obs. c. esp.* The Christian love of our fellow-men; Christian benignity of disposition expressing itself in Christ-like conduct: one of the 'three Christian graces', fully described by St. Paul, 1 Cor. xiii.
 - D. The greatest two commandments are to love God with all that we have and to love our neighbor as ourselves (**Mat 22:37-40**).
 - E. True love toward both God and man is keeping God's commandments (**Joh 14:15; 1Jo 5:2-3**).
 - i. True love doesn't sin against God (**1Co 13:4-5**); therefore fornicators and sodomites are not really loving God or each other, nor displaying the fruit of the Spirit (**1Co 6:18; Rom 1:26-27**).
 - ii. What the world calls "hate" God calls love, because true love of God is hating evil (**Psa 119:128; Pro 8:13**).
 - iii. True love believes the truth (**1Co 13:6-7**); therefore those who knowingly reject the truth are not loving God, nor are they displaying the fruit of the Spirit.
 - iv. True love is rebuking someone for his sin (**Lev 19:17**).
 - F. Love in a man's heart is evidence of eternal life (**1Jo 4:7**).
 - G. He that hates his brother shows no evidence that he has the Spirit dwelling in him (**1Jo 2:9; 1Jo 4:20**).
2. Joy *n.* - 1. a. A vivid emotion of pleasure arising from a sense of well-being or satisfaction; the feeling or state of being highly pleased or delighted; exultation of spirit; gladness, delight.
 - A. Joy is an attribute of God (**Zep 3:17**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).

- B. The Spirit of God dwelling in us should bring joy in our hearts.
 - C. The joy of the LORD is our strength (**Neh 8:10**).
 - D. The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (**Rom 14:17**).
 - E. Christians should rejoice always (**Php 4:4; 1Th 5:16**), even in tribulations (**Jam 1:2-3**) and persecutions (**Luk 6:22-23**).
 - F. We can always rejoice in our salvation even though we are in sometimes in sorrow because of temptations (**1Pe 1:4-6**).
 - G. Even when sorrowful and poor, a Christian should always be rejoicing (**2Co 6:10**).
 - H. Those that have not joy in their hearts are not manifesting that the Spirit of God is dwelling in them.
3. Peace *n.* - 1. a. Freedom from, or cessation of, war or hostilities; that condition of a nation or community in which it is not at war with another.
- A. Peace is a fundamental attribute of God (**Rom 15:33**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. Prior to the Holy Ghost regenerating a man's spirit and indwelling him, he was at enmity with God (**Rom 8:7**) and not at peace with men (**Rom 3:17**).
 - i. Enmity *n.* - 1. The disposition or the feelings characteristic of an enemy; ill-will, hatred.
 - ii. Before being saved by God, he hated both God and others (**Tit 3:3**).
 - C. Jesus made peace between God and the elect by dying on the cross (**Rom 5:10; Col 1:20-22**).
 - D. Jesus came that we might have peace (**Joh 14:27; Joh 16:33**).
 - E. By making us righteous (**2Co 5:21**), Jesus makes us to be at peace and to enjoy quietness (**Isa 32:17-18**).
 - F. The key to finding peace within ourselves.
 - i. If you are laboring under the burden of sin and worry, come unto to Jesus and surrender your will to His, and He will give you peace and rest (**Mat 11:28-30**) and lead you by the still waters (**Psa 23:2**).
 - ii. Joy and peace are found in believing the gospel (**Rom 15:13**).
 - iii. Acquaint yourself with God and you will be at peace (**Job 22:21**).
 - a. Know Jesus, know peace; no Jesus, no peace.
 - b. If you don't spend time in God's word getting to know Him, you will not have inner peace.
 - iv. Peace in the Holy Ghost is found in the church which is the kingdom of God (**Rom 14:17**).
 - v. If you have not yet been baptized and added to the church, it is no wonder if you are not at peace.
 - vi. If you want to have the peace of the Holy Ghost, strive to live uprightly (**Psa 37:37**).
 - vii. If you are not at peace, consider your ways and do some introspection to see if you are living uprightly.
 - viii. When our ways please the LORD, even our enemies will be at peace with us (**Pro 16:7**).
 - ix. If you have enemies that are causing you turmoil, search your soul to see if your ways are pleasing to the LORD.

- x. Keeping God's commandments will bring long life and peace (**Pro 3:1-2**).
 - a. If you are worried about dying young, keep God's commandments.
 - b. If you lack peace in your soul, inspect your heart to see if you are breaking or rejecting God's commandments.
 - xi. Those that love God's law will have great peace and not be easily offended (**Psa 119:165**).
 - xii. If you are easily offended, you need to spend more time reading the Bible.
 - xiii. The paths of wisdom are peace (**Pro 3:17**).
 - xiv. If you don't have peace, go to the Bible to learn to walk in wisdom.
 - xv. Keep your mind stayed on God and you will have perfect peace (**Isa 26:3; Psa 29:11**).
 - xvi. If your mind is pulled in a million different directions and not fixed on God, you will not have peace.
- G. Those whose lives are in turmoil and conflict are not manifesting that the Spirit of God is dwelling in them.
4. Longsuffering *n.* - Patient endurance of provocation or trial; longanimity.
- A. Longsuffering is a fundamental attribute of God (**Exo 34:6**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. By nature, man is not longsuffering, but is a child of wrath (**Eph 2:3**).
 - C. A child of God indwelt with the Spirit is not promised to never suffer tribulation or provocation, but is rather promised persecution and temptation (**Act 14:22; 2Ti 3:12**).
 - D. A child of God is instead given the Spirit of God which enables him to suffer patiently.
 - i. Ministers show themselves approved by exhibiting longsuffering (**2Co 6:4-6**).
 - ii. Christians walk worthy of their calling when they demonstrate longsuffering (**Eph 4:1-2; Col 1:10-11**).
 - iii. The elect are known by their longsuffering (**Col 3:12**).
 - iv. Longsuffering is a mark of true love (**1Co 13:4**).
 - E. Those who do not patiently endure provocation or trial are not manifesting that the Spirit of God is dwelling in them.
5. Gentleness *n.* - 1. One's inherited nature. *Obs.* 2. The state or condition of being gentle in respect of birth or social position. *Obs.* 3. The state or condition of being gentle in temper and conduct; good breeding, courtesy, affability (*obs.*); kindness, mildness. 4. The state of being gentle (in other senses of the *adj.*); freedom from harshness or violence, etc.
- A. Gentleness is an attribute of God (**2Sa 22:36; 2Co 10:1**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. Christians who are possessed of wisdom are gentle and easy to be entreated (**Jam 3:17**).
 - C. Christians should be meek and gentle to all men like Christ (**Tit 3:2**).
 - i. Though Christ was meek and gentle, He still spoke harshly to unrepentant sinners (**Mat 23:27-28**).
 - ii. Though Jesus was gentle, He still got violent when defending God's house (**Joh 2:13-17; Mat 21:12-13**).
 - iii. Meekness is not weakness.

- a. Jesus was meek (**Mat 11:29**), yet not weak, as was just demonstrated.
 - b. Moses was the meekest man on the earth (**Num 12:3**), but he was not weak (**Exo 32:19-21**).
 - c. Meek saints execute judgment (**Zep 2:3**).
- D. Gentleness is a characteristic that pastors must possess.
- i. The apostles were our example of gentleness (**1Th 2:7**).
 - a. Though Paul was gentle, he was tough when he needed to be (**1Co 4:21**).
 - b. Paul had harsh words to say to the enemies of the faith (**Gal 1:6-9; Gal 5:12; Act 13:10; 1Th 2:14-15; 1Ti 1:19-20; 2Ti 4:14**).
 - c. Paul had to rebuke Peter to the face when he was wrong (**Gal 2:11-14**).
 - d. Peter likewise had harsh words to say to the enemies of Jesus Christ (**Act 8:20-23**).
 - ii. Pastors must be patient and gentle when instructing those who are deceived by the devil (**2Ti 2:24-26**).
 - a. Though pastors are supposed to be gentle, they shouldn't always preach gently (**2Ti 4:2**).
 - b. The pastor is supposed to rebuke sinners publicly (**1Ti 5:20**).
 - c. Pastors are supposed to shut the mouths of the gainsayers (**Tit 1:9-13**).
6. Goodness *n.* - 1. The quality or condition of being good. a. Of persons: Moral excellence, virtue.
- A. Goodness is a fundamental attribute of God (**Exo 34:6**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. Only God is truly good (**Mar 10:18**).
 - C. By nature, no man does good (**Rom 3:12; Rom 7:18**).
 - D. We only possess goodness (**Rom 15:14**) because Christ made us righteous (**Rom 5:19**) and began a *good work* in us (**Php 1:6**).
 - E. God created us as new creatures to do *good works* (**Eph 2:10; Col 1:10**).
 - F. *Goodness* is the only one of the fruits of the Spirit that is in both lists (**Gal 5:22-23 c/w Eph 5:9**).
 - G. We should strive so that it might be said of us as it was of Barnabas that "he was a *good man*, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith" (**Act 11:24**).
 - H. The Bible says the following about a *good man*:
 - i. "The steps of a *good man* are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." (**Psa 37:23**)
 - ii. "A *good man* sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion." (**Psa 112:5**)
 - iii. "A *good man* obtaineth favour of the LORD..." (**Pro 12:2**)
 - iv. "A *good man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children..." (**Pro 13:22**)
 - v. "...a *good man* shall be satisfied from himself" (**Pro 14:14**)
 - vi. "A *good man* out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good ... for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." (**Luk 6:45**)

- vii. "Joseph, a counsellor ... was a *good man*, and a just ... who also himself waited for the kingdom of God" (**Luk 23:50-51**)
 - viii. Men recognized that Jesus was "*a good man*" (**Joh 7:12**)
 - ix. "...for a *good man* some would even dare to die" (**Rom 5:7**)
 - I. Women should strive for goodness as well as men (**Tit 2:5**).
 - J. We should both *do good* and be rich in *good works* (**1Ti 6:18**).
 - K. The scriptures furnish the man of God unto every *good work* (**2Ti 3:16-17**).
 - L. A pastor should show himself a pattern of *good works* (**Tit 2:7**).
 - M. It is a constant battle with our flesh to do *good* (**Rom 7:19-23**).
 - N. We must cleave unto, follow, and hold fast that which is *good* (**Rom 12:9; 1Th 5:15; 1Th 5:21**).
 - O. We should overcome evil with *good* (**Rom 12:21**).
 - P. We should *do good* unto all men as we have opportunity, especially to the brethren (**Gal 6:10**).
 - Q. God is pleased with us when we *do good* (**Heb 13:16**).
7. Faith *n.* - I. Belief, trust, confidence. 1. a. Confidence, reliance, trust (in the ability, goodness, etc., of a person; in the efficacy or worth of a thing; or in the truth of a statement or doctrine). b. Belief proceeding from reliance on testimony or authority. 3. *Theol.* in various specific applications. a. Belief in the truths of religion; belief in the authenticity of divine revelation (whether viewed as contained in Holy Scripture or in the teaching of the Church), and acceptance of the revealed doctrines. c. The spiritual apprehension of divine truths, or of realities beyond the reach of sensible experience or logical proof. By Christian writers often identified with the preceding; but not exclusively confined to Christian use. Often viewed as the exercise of a special faculty in the soul of man, or as the result of supernatural illumination.
- A. Faith is a fundamental attribute of God (**Deu 7:9; 1Co 1:9**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. Faith is the evidence of things not seen (**Heb 11:1**).
 - i. By faith we see the invisible God (**Heb 11:27**).
 - ii. It's impossible to please God without faith (**Heb 11:6**).
 - iii. In order to come to God, one must first believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (**Heb 11:6 c/w Psa 19:11**).
 - C. Faith is a gift of God that He gives to His children in regeneration (**Rom 12:3; 1Jo 5:4; Phi 1:29**).
 - i. Therefore, faith is the evidence of eternal life and being born again (**Joh 5:24; Joh 6:47; 1Jo 5:1; 1Jo 4:15**).
 - ii. No man can have faith in Christ without the Holy Spirit dwelling in him (**1Co 12:3**).
 - iii. Faith is the fruit, not the bait, of the Holy Spirit (**Gal 5:22**). (See Section III)
 - iv. In other words, faith is the evidence of the Spirit dwelling in us, not the cause or the means of it.
 - D. God commands us to have faith in Him.
 - i. Jesus exhorted His disciples to "Have faith in God." (**Mar 11:22**)
 - ii. Faith is a weightier matter of the law (**Mat 23:23**).
 - iii. Believing in Christ is doing the work that God would have us to do (**Joh 6:28-29**).

- iv. God commands us to believe on His Son Jesus Christ (**1Jo 3:22-23**).
 - v. Jesus said if we believe in God we must also believe in Him (**Joh 14:1**).
 - vi. Having faith in Jesus is having faith in God because Jesus is God (**Joh 1:1,14; 1Jo 5:7,20**).
 - vii. Believing in Jesus includes believing that He died for our sins according to the scriptures and that He was buried and raised again from the dead three days later according to the scriptures (**1Co 15:1-4**).
 - E. By faith, we find rest (**Heb 4:3**).
 - F. Those that believe in God shall never be ashamed (**Rom 10:11; 2Ti 1:12**).
 - G. Through faith in God, we will obtain a good report and be victorious, no matter what persecution or hardships we may endure (**Heb 11:32-40**).
8. Meekness *n.* - The quality of being meek; gentleness of spirit; humility.
- A. Meek *adj.* - 1. a. Gentle, courteous, kind. Of a superior: Merciful, compassionate, indulgent. b. As connoting a Christian virtue: Free from haughtiness and self-will; piously humble and submissive; patient and unresentful under injury and reproach. c. Submissive, humble
 - B. Meekness is an attribute of God the Son (**Mat 11:29; Mat 21:5; 2Co 10:1**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - C. The meek are blessed.
 - i. The LORD will teach them His way (**Psa 25:9**).
 - ii. They will be saved (**Psa 76:9**).
 - iii. God lifts them up (**Psa 147:6**).
 - iv. God will beautify them with salvation (**Psa 149:4**).
 - v. They shall inherit the earth (**Psa 37:11; Mat 5:5**).
 - D. Christians should exhibit a spirit of meekness (**Eph 4:1-2; Col 3:12**), especially in the following:
 - i. Restoring a brother who has been overtaken in a fault (**Gal 6:1**).
 - ii. Receiving the word of God (**Jam 1:21**).
 - iii. Living out our faith (**Jam 3:13**).
 - iv. Sharing our faith with others (**1Pe 3:15**).
 - E. Pastor's must be meek (**1Ti 6:11; 2Ti 2:24-25**).
 - F. Women should be characterized by meekness (**1Pe 3:4**).
 - G. Meekness is not weakness. (See section on Gentleness.)
9. Temperance *n.* - 1. The practice or habit of restraining oneself in provocation, passion, desire, etc.; rational self-restraint. (One of the four cardinal virtues.) a. Self-restraint and moderation in action of any kind, in the expression of opinion, etc.; suppression of any tendency to passionate action; in early use, esp. self-control, restraint, or forbearance, when provoked to anger or impatience.
- A. Temperance (self-control) is an attribute of God (**Psa 103:8**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. Temperance is something that should be added to our faith (**2Pe 1:5-6**) which will make our calling and election sure (**2Pe 1:10**).
 - C. Temperance is a part of the gospel that sinners don't want to hear (**Act 24:25**).
 - D. We must be known for our moderation (**Php 4:5**).
 - E. Temperance is self-control and self-restraint.
 - F. Those who are intemperate do not control and restrain themselves in the following:

- i. Spending money
 - a. If you spend all that you make, you're not temperate (**Pro 21:20**).
 - b. If you don't save a significant amount of your income, you're not temperate.
 - c. If you buy things impulsively, you're not temperate.
 - d. If you charge anything on your credit card that you don't pay off before the end of the month, you're not temperate.
 - e. If you have debt (outside of a moderate mortgage), you're not temperate (**Rom 13:8; Pro 22:7; Pro 24:27**).
- ii. Eating
 - a. If you eat too much (which is evidenced by the fact that you are overweight), you're not temperate (**Pro 23:20-21**).
 - b. If you eat until you are uncomfortably full, you're not temperate.
 - c. If you binge eat, you're not temperate.
 - d. If you don't stop after eating a moderate amount of dessert, you're not temperate (**Pro 25:16**).
 - e. If you eat junk food regularly which you know is not good for you, you're not temperate.
- iii. Drinking
 - a. If you drink alcohol to the point of drunkenness, you're not temperate (**Eph 5:18**).
 - b. If you drink coffee all day long to keep you awake, you're not temperate.
 - c. If you drink sugary drinks regularly that make you fat, you're not temperate.
- iv. Sleeping
 - a. If you sleep too much, you're not temperate (**Pro 6:9; Pro 20:13**).
 - b. If you hit the snooze button on the alarm too many times, you're not temperate.
- v. Entertainment
 - a. If you are given to pleasures, you're not temperate (**Isa 47:8; Luk 8:14; 2Ti 3:4; Tit 3:3**).
 - b. If you spend most of your free time away from home entertaining yourself, you're not temperate.
 - c. If you or your children are involved in too many activities, you're not temperate.
 - d. If you play too many video games, you're not temperate.
 - e. If you watch too much TV, you're not temperate.
 - f. If you spend too much time surfing the internet, you're not temperate.
- vi. Leisure
 - a. If you are lazy, you're not temperate (**Pro 19:15; Rom 12:11**).
 - b. If you put off things that need to be done so that you can relax, you're not temperate.
- vii. Working
 - a. If you work too much, you're not temperate.

- b. If you are all business and no leisure and enjoyment, you're not temperate (**Ecc 2:24; Ecc 4:8**).
- 10. Righteousness *n.* - 1. Justice, uprightness, rectitude; conformity of life to the requirements of the divine or moral law; virtue, integrity. (**Eph 5:9**)
 - A. Righteousness is a fundamental attribute of God (**Psa 7:9; Dan 9:14**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).
 - B. There are two different aspects of righteousness that need to be understood: the eternal and the temporal.
 - i. The elect were made eternally righteous by Christ's death for their sins (**Rom 5:19; 2Co 5:21**).
 - a. Righteous *adj.* - 1. a. Of persons: Just, upright, virtuous; guiltless, sinless; conforming to the standard of the divine or the moral law; acting rightly or justly.
 - b. Our righteousness is through Christ's faith (**Php 3:9**).
 - c. Our new man is created in righteousness (**Eph 4:24**).
 - ii. Having been made righteous by Christ, we should work out that righteousness by living godly lives in accordance with God's commandments (**Rom 6:17-22; 1Pe 2:24**).
 - a. We must flee sin and follow after righteousness (**1Ti 6:11; 2Ti 2:22**).
 - b. Belief in what God has said is the evidence, not the cause of righteousness (**Rom 4:3**).
 - c. Doing righteousness is strong evidence of being born again (**1Jo 2:29; 1Jo 3:7**).
 - d. Anyone who fears God and works righteousness is accepted with God (**Act 10:35**).
 - C. Children of God should hunger and thirst after righteousness (**Mat 5:6**) and they are blessed when they are persecuted for it (**Mat 5:10**).
 - D. A man who truly desires to be filled with righteousness will endeavor to keep all of God's commandments, even the little ones (**Mat 5:19**).
 - E. If our righteousness is only outward as was the Pharisees', we shall not enter the kingdom of heaven (**Mat 5:20**).
 - F. Not doing righteousness is an evidence of reprobation (**1Jo 3:10**).
 - G. As Christians, we should seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness (**Mat 6:33**).
 - H. A primary characteristic of the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace (**Rom 14:17**).
 - i. A good indication of whether a man is doing righteousness is whether or not he has peace in his life (**Jam 3:18; Psa 85:10**).
 - ii. Working righteousness yields peace (**Isa 32:17-18**).
 - iii. There is no peace in unrighteousness (**Isa 48:22**).
 - I. Righteousness is another part of the gospel that sinners don't want to hear (**Act 24:25**).
- 11. Truth *n.* - II. 5. a. Conformity with fact; agreement with reality; accuracy, correctness, verity (of statement or thought). (**Eph 5:9**)
 - A. Truth is a fundamental attribute of God (**Exo 34:6; Deu 32:4 Joh 14:6**), and therefore is a fruit of the Spirit of truth (**Joh 14:17**) who is God (**1Jo 5:7**).

- B. A Christian should be characterized by truth.
 - i. Jesus Christ is full of truth (**Joh 1:14**) because He is the truth (**Joh 14:6**).
 - ii. God's word is truth (**Joh 17:17; Psa 119:142,151**) which endures forever (**Psa 100:5**).
 - iii. The church of Jesus Christ is the pillar and ground of the truth (**1Ti 3:15**).
 - iv. As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the truth, as a believer in His word which is the truth, and as a member of His church which is the pillar and ground of the truth, a Christian should believe, love, and live the truth.
 - v. If we are to worship God acceptably, we must worship Him in truth (**Joh 4:23-24**).
- C. Continuing in the word of God will bring us to the knowledge of the truth which will make us free (**Joh 8:31-32**).
- D. Belief of the truth is evidence of eternal life and rejection of the truth is evidence of reprobation (**Joh 8:44-47; Rom 2:8; 2Th 2:10-13**).
- E. Acknowledging the truth is an act of godliness (**Tit 1:1**).
- F. If we don't keep God's commandments, the truth is not in us (**1Jo 2:4**).
- G. Those that do truth come to the light because they have nothing to hide (**Joh 3:21**).
- H. Charity, the highest of the Christian virtues, rejoices in the truth (**1Co 13:6**).
- I. The truth of the gospel must never be compromised, even under pressure (**Gal 2:1-5**).
 - i. Those who don't obey the truth should be rebuked (**Gal 2:14**).
 - ii. Telling people the truth will make a man enemies (**Gal 4:16**).
- J. We should speak the truth even when it costs us (**Eph 4:25**).
- K. Truth is part of the armor of God that will protect us from the assaults of the devil (**Eph 6:14**).
- L. We must be ever vigilant to strive for the truth because there is a time coming where some will turn away from the it (**2Ti 4:1-4**).
- M. God has no greater joy than to see His children walking in truth (**3Jo 1:4**).