

# Introduction

## CHARACTER: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

### THE TAKEAWAY

When we live by the Holy Spirit, we display the character of Christ.

### OPENING QUESTION

What are three characteristics that describe you?

### WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

Life can be tough. Many pressures pull us in many directions. It can be hard to resist the distractions of the world. Growing in godly character can help in this battle against sin and temptation. Character is also the foundation of leadership and discipleship, and developing godly character is necessary for spiritual growth.

We often think that we're middle-of-the-road regarding character: "I'm not as 'bad' as the worst people I know, but I'm probably not as 'good' as I could be." Instead of comparing ourselves to other people, we need to compare our character to God's standard.

The Bible has a lot to say about developing strong inner character. It even gives us a handy list to help encourage godly character growth. This list is called the fruit of the Spirit. These nine aspects of a Christlike nature include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. While you've probably heard of these characteristics before, the key to spiritual growth is to go beyond just a theoretical understanding of the fruit of the Spirit to the everyday application of becoming more like Christ. The good news is that the Holy Spirit helps us grow and develop this godly character.

**Read Galatians 5:16–26.**

### DISCUSS:

- There are two lists in this passage. What are the differences between the two?
- Which characteristics (from either list) do you see in your own life?
- How can you grow in living out the fruit of the Spirit?

APPLY IT

Pick one fruit of the Spirit you'd like to work on. What is one thing you can do this week to grow in that fruit and live it out in your life?

What are you going to do?

When are you going to do it?

Is there someone who can keep you accountable?

MEMORY VERSE

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."  
Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

ON YOUR OWN...

Prayer doesn't always come easily. Sometimes we need help to know when to pray, how to pray, and what to pray about. This week use the ACTS Prayer method, focusing especially on Adoration.

**ACTS PRAYER**  
  
The ACTS Prayer Method is a tool to guide you toward a complete process of prayer and away from the common wish list of things you want from God. Pray through the following:

**Adoration:** Praise God for who he is

**Confession:** Confess your sins before God

**Thanksgiving:** Offer thanks for God's gifts

**Supplication:** Present your requests to God