

Fruit of the Spirit Discussion Questions

I hope these questions help you reflect on what you've learned or rediscovered based on the topics covered in the [Wednesday and The Word podcast series: The Fruit of the Spirit](#).

Discuss them with a friend or in a small group. Or use a journal to record your thoughts.

Podcast Page: <https://www.wednesdayintheword.com/fruit-of-the-spirit/>

01 Fruit of the Spirit: Introduction

1. What was your understanding of Paul's letter to the Galatians prior to listening to the podcast?
2. Why is it important to understand the historical context behind Paul's letter?
3. Summarize the difference between salvation through faith alone and adherence to religious law as taught by the Judaizers?
4. In what ways does society today struggle with similar issues regarding faith versus works?
5. How would you define true moral transformation?
6. Why is it sometimes difficult to accept that freedom from the Law does not lead to sinful behavior?
7. Have you experienced legalism in your spiritual journey or observed its effects on others?
8. What changes have you noticed in yourself or other believers over the years?
9. Share a personal experience where repentance led to deeper internal change.
10. Why do you think the transformation of the Holy Spirit is gradual? What value is there in lifelong growth versus instantaneous change?

02 Fruit of the Spirit: Love 1

1. What are your initial thoughts about "the fruit of the Spirit" from experience or previous study?
2. Briefly summarize key points from the podcast to set a foundation for conversation.
3. Describe society's view of love.
4. How is love as a fruit of the Spirit different from society's view?
5. Reflect on examples where loving your neighbor can be challenging in daily life.
6. What practical actions show biblical love towards neighbors? Can you share personal experiences?
7. Discuss how understanding our equality before God changes how we treat others within our families, workplaces, communities and/or churches.
8. Share an example where selfish behavior manifested itself subtly but significantly affected relationships or community harmony.
9. How has your understanding of love as a fruit of the Spirit grown or changed?
10. Reflect collectively on any new insights gained during this discussion.

03 Fruit of the Spirit: Love 2

1. Briefly summarize key points from the podcast to set a foundation for conversation.
2. What comes to mind now when you hear "the fruit of the Spirit"?
3. Define love as a fruit of the Spirit in your own words.
4. Compare and contrast love as the fruit of the Spirit with affection towards others.
5. Share examples from your experiences or observations where someone showed love through actions rather than words or feelings.
6. In your church or community, what strengthens this special bond among believers? What damages it?
7. How has having an eternal perspective influenced your relationships with fellow believers and/or those outside faith communities?
8. Why is discernment important for unity and harmony in the church?
9. Share an example of finding unity with other believers despite different backgrounds, cultures, or denominations.
10. What stood out to you regarding love as a fruit of the Spirit?

04 Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

1. What comes to mind when you think about 'joy'?
2. Share an experience where you felt joyful despite difficult circumstances.
3. Define joy as a fruit of the Spirit in your own words.
4. Compare and contrast joy with happiness.
5. Why do you think joy does not depend on external situations? What role has understanding God's truth played in your experiencing genuine joy?
6. Reflect on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18—"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." What is Paul encouraging us to do? What would this mean in your current circumstances?
7. Share personal experiences or challenges where finding joy was difficult. What encouraged you or discouraged you?
8. Share an experience where you faced the choice to pray or lose heart. What did you learn?
9. How can we encourage each other to find joy in hardships? As a small group? As a church or larger community?
10. Summarize your key insights gained through this discussion.

05 Fruit of the Spirit: Peace

1. What comes to mind when you think about peace?
2. Explain what 'peace' means in both modern terms and in the Bible.
3. Discuss Romans 5:1. How does reconciliation with God lead to peace? How is this different from peace as a fruit of the Spirit?
4. What encourages you to have peace of mind? What discourages you? As a small group, how can we encourage each other in difficult times?
5. Share examples from your community where differences led to discord. How was it (or could it be) resolved through finding common ground in the gospel?
6. Reflect on James 1:2-4. How have trials contributed to developing deeper faith and/or peace of mind in your life?
7. Share a time when facing a challenge as a church community strengthened your unity.
8. Discuss how embracing the gospel changes our approach towards conflict resolution within the local church.
9. Examine Ephesians 4:1-6. What practical steps can we take to promote unity despite differing opinions or traditions?
10. Share personal stories where forgiveness played a key role in restoring a relationship.

06 Fruit of the Spirit: Patience

1. How does modern culture describe patience?
2. What are some common misconceptions about patience in the church?
3. In what ways did Abraham show biblical patience? Can you think of other biblical figures who exemplify this quality?
4. Discuss James' analogy of a farmer waiting for the harvest (James 5:7-11). How can we apply the point of this analogy to our own lives?
5. Why is it important to distinguish between passive endurance and active, faith-based patience?
6. How has trusting in God's promises helped you cultivate patience?
7. Reflect on times when your faith was tested but led to growth through practicing patience.
8. What practical ways can we show patience in our daily interactions with others? How might focusing on understanding truth change our approach?
9. Why is understanding mercy an integral part of practicing long-suffering as believers? How have you seen this in your own life?
10. Share a time when understanding the gospel affected your ability to be long-suffering. What did you learn through that experience?

07 Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness

1. Discuss what Titus 3:1-7 and Ephesians 2:4-10 teach us about God's kindness.
2. How do these scriptures encourage us to act towards others?
3. Share an experience where you gave, witnessed, or received unexpected kindness. What did you learn?
4. Reflect on a time when showing kindness was challenging for you, especially toward someone who may not have treated you well. What did you learn?
5. Identify situations from current circumstances where you can show kindness.
6. Explore how recognizing our own need for grace influences our ability to be kind.
7. Discuss Ephesians 4:31-32; how does forgiveness relate to being kind?
8. Why do you think Christians are not always recognized for their kindness?
9. Discuss how standing for truth can be done with kindness and compassion.
10. Discuss steps we can take when we fail to show biblical kindness? What role does repentance play here?

08 Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

1. How does Paul's definition of goodness challenge or affirm your understanding?
2. In what ways can pursuing goodness impact one's daily life?
3. Share an example where pursuing goodness made you stand out.
4. How do believers in your community differ from nonbelievers on matters of sexual immorality, impurity and greed?
5. How has gratitude toward God been manifested in your speech and actions?
6. Define what it means to live as children of light rather than darkness.
7. Compare and contrast the societal view that equates goodness with victim status versus the biblical view of equality of under God.
8. Compare and contrast goodness as a fruit of the Spirit with: the way the media defines goodness; the way the church has historically defined goodness; and/or your understanding of goodness.
9. Discuss challenges faced when striving for godliness amidst in your workplace and daily life. What encourages you? How can we encourage each other?
10. What new insights have you gained based on this discussion and podcast

09 Fruit of the Spirit: Faith

1. What one word that comes to mind when you hear “faith?”
2. What common misconceptions about faith have you seen?
3. Does it surprise you that faith is on this list? Why or why not?
4. Summarize the 4 core convictions of saving faith in your own words.
5. How has your understanding of faith changed since the day you first came to believe? What experiences made the biggest difference?
6. Reflect on the armor of God metaphor (Ephesians 6). How can we encourage each other to stand firm? What makes it harder? What helps?
7. Discuss the metaphor of Jesus returning like a thief in the night (1Thessalonians 5). What makes it easy to become sleepy and distracted? How can we encourage each other to stay alert and be awake? As a small group? As a church?
8. Share an experience when holding on to your faith was challenging. What did you learn?
9. If you had to go through that experience again, would you handle it differently now?
10. Share stories about individuals who have strengthened or encouraged you in your faith.

10 Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness

1. How does your culture view gentleness? Is it viewed as a strength or a weakness?
2. Reflect on Moses’ humility (Numbers 12). Why do you think meekness is important for leadership?
3. Jesus speaks about his yoke being light. Do you find it hard to submit to Jesus’ yoke? Why or why not?
4. James 3 warns against jealousy and selfish ambition among leaders. Why are these traits particularly harmful in a church?
5. Share an example of someone who exhibits this kind of gentleness from your own life or from Scripture.
6. Share an example from your own life where showing gentleness was challenging. What did you learn?
7. How might you apply understanding gentleness to conflict resolution within your family, community or church?
8. Share an experience where you had to maintain humility. What did you learn from it?
9. How do we balance standing firm on gospel truths while approaching conflicts and leadership with meekness?
10. Summarize key insights shared during this podcast and discussion.

11 Fruit of the Spirit: Self-control

1. Is self-control considered a virtue in your culture? Why or why not?
2. Compare and contrast the modern view of self-control with self-control as a fruit of the Spirit.
3. Share an experience where you felt the inner conflict describes in Romans 7. What did you learn from it?
4. Share your thoughts on limiting personal freedoms for others' sake and Paul's example in 1Corinthians 9. Have you ever had such experiences?
5. Discuss times when you've had to choose between immediate desires and following God. What made it easier? What made it harder? What did you learn?
6. Reflect upon situations where exercising freedom might affect others negatively in your church or community.
7. Explore how false teachings today could lead believers astray concerning their lifestyle choices.
8. Identify ways your own worldview has shifted since embracing gospel truths.
9. When you find yourself struggling with self-control, what helps you?
10. How can we encourage each other to choose to live within God's boundaries?

12 Fruit of the Spirit: Conclusion

1. What are your initial impressions from listening to this series on the fruit of the Spirit?
2. How did you understand these virtues before this study?
3. Reflecting on the podcast and your discussions, how has your understanding changed or grown regarding the fruit of the Spirit?
4. What tempts us to legalism today?
5. Have there been times when you felt God's approval was based on your obedience? What did you learn?
6. What surprised you most from this series?
7. What did you learn from this study that challenged you most?
8. What did you learn from this study that encouraged you most?
9. Which passage of Scripture did you find most helpful or thought-provoking?
10. If a friend asked you to explain the fruit of the Spirit in one paragraph, what would you say?