

Liberty in Christ - The fruit of the Spirit

By

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Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

How do we overcome?

- By crucifying the flesh (Gal. 5:24)
 - Note: something that is BY us; not something done to us
 - Not a dying, but a “putting to death”
 - Painful

How do we overcome?

- By walking in the Spirit
 - Galatians 5:16 (KJV)
¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Means to

- **Walk in unity (Eph. 4:1-6)**
- **Walk in love (Eph. 5:2)**
- **Walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8-14)**
- **Walk circumspectly (Eph. 5:15-17)**

How do we overcome?

- By being led by the Spirit
 - **Galatians 5:18 (KJV)**
¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

How do we overcome?

- By living in the Spirit
 - **Galatians 5:25 (KJV)**
²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- **Example: Gal. 2:20**

What will it produce?

- The “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)

Love

- Four words in Greek; two concern us.
 - Philo – brotherly love
 - Agape – love that seeks the highest good of others

Joy

- Grk., Chara – joy gladness (Thayer) delight (vine)
 - Joy unaffected by circumstances that comes from a right relationship with God

Peace

- Peace with God (Rom. 5:1)
- Peace in circumstances in life (Phil. 4:6-7)

Longsuffering

- Grk., **makrothumia** ('patience' in the NASB)
 - Literally, it means being “long-tempered” (the opposite of short-tempered)
 - “patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs” – **Thayer**
 - “Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish.

Kindness

- **Grk., chrestotes - this word describes “the sympathetic kindness or sweetness of temper which puts others at their ease, and shrinks from giving pain” - Plummer**
 - It therefore describes a quality that makes other people feel at ease when with you.

Goodness

- **Grk., agathosune - active goodness, benevolent - Complete WordStudy Dictionary**
 - “It is more than **chrestotes, gentleness, kindness, a mellowing of character.**” - **ibid.**
 - “It is character energized, expressing itself in **agathon, benevolence, active good.**”- **ibid.**

Faithfulness

- Grk., **pistis** - often used in the NT of a conviction or belief in respect to God and Christ
 - But it also is used to describe the quality of **“fidelity, faithfulness”**
 - “the character of one who can be relied on...” - **Thayer**
 - “faithful, to be trusted, reliable...” - **Vine**
- William Barclay calls it **“the virtue of reliability”**

Gentleness (meekness)

- Grk., **prautes** - gentleness; by implication humility: - **meekness** - **Strong**
 - “the ability to bear reproaches and slights with moderation, and not to embark on revenge quickly, and not to be easily provoked to anger, but to be free from bitterness and contentiousness, having tranquility and stability in the spirit.” - **Aristotle, On Virtues And Vices**
 - Gentleness (or meekness), then, is that virtuous quality by which “we treat all men with perfect courtesy, that we can rebuke without rancor, that we can argue without intolerance, that we can face the truth without resentment, that we can be angry and sin not, that we can be gentle and yet not weak.” - **Barclay**
- A virtue displayed by both Moses and Jesus (**Num 12:3; Mt 11:28-30**)

Self-control

- **Gr., egkrateia - it comes from the word “kratos” (strength), and means “one holding himself in” - Robertson**
 - **Thayer defines it as: “the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites”**
 - **MacKnight adds the thought: “Where this virtue subsists, temptation can have little influence.”**