

## Growing Fruit in the Spirit

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Galatians 5:22-26

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

How can the Fruit of the Spirit take root in our hearts and be produced in our lives?

Paul tells us to: *keep in step with the Spirit*

Remember these truths:

### 1) We belong to Jesus Christ!

- By the work of the Spirit: Titus 3:3-8; 1 Cor 6:19-20
- Our approval from the Father rests on our performance but on Jesus!
- We were saved and are equipped by the Spirit for good works: Eph 2:10
- Because of the Gospel we can confess our shortcomings and know we belong to Jesus John 10:27-30

### 2) We've crucified the sinful nature with its passions & desires Gal 5:24

- Believers are changed: Gal 2:20
- We have died to sin Rom 6:2,6 We are no longer enslaved to sin!
- So crucifying the flesh is about strangling sin at the motivational level rather than just at the behavioral level... Too often we focus on behavior rather than our heart
- Stop focusing on WHAT you do wrong and consider WHY you do wrong - keep in step with the Spirit!
- We typically disobey to get something we feel we must have (don't trust God to provide)
- The 4 G's help us:

God is Great – so I don't have to be in control.

My desire to control is because I want to be in control like God...

*Ps 145:3 — Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and his greatness is unsearchable.*

God is Glorious – so I don't have to fear others.

When we put other people or things in place of the God who redeemed us when we were beyond hope

*Ps 145:5—On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*

God is Good – so I don't have to look elsewhere for satisfaction

How often do we look to other things to provide satisfaction when the truly satisfying thing is to know that we are accepted in the Beloved

*Ps 145:9 — 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*

God is Gracious – so I don't have to prove myself

*Ps 145:8 — 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The crucified and risen Christ proves that to me}*

- Walking in the Spirit is walking with the mind of Christ 1 Cor 2:16; Gal 5:25

### 3) We need to keep in step with the Spirit Gal 5:25

- The Gospel gives us a new identity in Christ - Gal 4:6
- The Gospel gives us a NEW way of thinking... a new way of acting
- The Gospel isn't just 'giving up things' but of who we are in Christ!
- Walking in the Spirit means asking how we might glory in and magnify the work of Jesus in our lives because we've been set free!
- Focus on worshiping Christ with the power of the Spirit in ALL things!
- How do I adore Christ such that I find Jesus more beautiful and desirable than anything else?

### 4 G's

God is Great – so I don't have to be in control.

*Ps 145:3 — Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and his greatness is unsearchable.*  
Because my God is Great, HE controls things and I can trust Him that my current situation is part of His plan. Lord help me to trust You!

God is Glorious – so I don't have to fear others.

*Ps 145:5—On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.*  
Because my God is Glorious, I will stop focusing on others or circumstances such that I fear. Instead: *On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. Ps 145:5*

God is Good – so I don't have to look elsewhere for satisfaction

*Ps 145:9 — 9 The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*  
Because God is Good, I will continually remind myself of that and stop trying to run after the trinkets of this world. My life on this Earth is but temporary compared with eternity!

God is Gracious – so I don't have to prove myself

*Ps 145:8 —The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*  
Because God is gracious – The crucified and risen Christ proves that to me – I don't have to prove myself or earn merit in His eyes! *Ro 5:8 — 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### Put it into action:

- memorize the 4 G's
- daily, analyze your day and heart – have I lived for Jesus or for myself (Spirit or flesh)?
- write out – what should I instead think on – how is Jesus more Great, Glorious, Good or Gracious than what I was setting my sights on?