

## The Fruit of the Spirit – A Devotional for Families

Galatians 5:22-23a says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” All of these come from God and should be in us as we follow God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The table below is meant to be an 18-day devotional for your family. Each day, you can start by quoting Galatians 5:22-23a. On day 1 (and every odd day after that), you can look at the middle column to see how that particular fruit of the Spirit is shown in God. On day 2 (and every even day after that), you can look at the far right column to see how that fruit of the Spirit should be evident in our lives. Be encouraged – if you notice that some of this fruit is not evident in your life as it should be, you can ask God to produce it in you.

<b>Fruit of the Spirit</b>	<b>As Seen in God</b>	<b>As it Should be in Us</b>
<b>Love</b>	1 John 4:7-21	Matthew 22:34-40
<b>Joy</b>	Zephaniah 3:17; Hebrews 12:2	John 15:9-12; Philippians 4:4-7
<b>Peace</b>	Colossians 1:15-23	Philippians 4:6-9
<b>Patience</b>	2 Peter 3:8-10	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
<b>Kindness</b>	Ephesians 2:1-10	Luke 10:25-37
<b>Goodness</b>	Psalm 116	Titus 3:1-8, 14
<b>Faith/Faithfulness*</b>	Psalm 145	Hebrews 11:8-12; Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-6
<b>Gentleness</b>	Matthew 11:28-30	Colossians 3:12-17
<b>Self-Control**</b>	Ephesians 1:15-23	Galatians 5:16-26

\* This word in Galatians 5:22 is simply the word for “faith.” It can also mean “faithful” in some verses. Psalm 145 highlights God’s faithfulness to us. Because God is faithful, we should have faith in him.

\*\* This word comes from a Greek word which implies using our strength in a controlled manner. In Ephesians 1:19, a similar word is used to speak of God’s mighty strength. God used his strength to do wonderful things for us. We should use our strength for good, not for evil or selfish purposes.