

TEAM SPORTS devotions

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Skills You Expect To See

Galatians 5:22-23a, Luke 6:44, Ezekiel 36:26



What skills do football players practice? Football players practice snaps and hand-offs. They practice passing and catching the ball. They practice how to carrying the ball and run routes. They practice pulling flags or tackling. **Can you think of any other skills football players practice? Why would you expect a football player to have these skills?**



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23a



How can you tell someone is a football player? You can tell someone is a football player by his words and actions. When you hear him talk about football, you can tell he understands the game. You can learn more about football talking to him. When you see him with a football ball, you can tell he knows how to handle it well. You can learn more about how to play football by watching him. **How do you know someone follows Jesus?** You can tell someone follows Jesus by his words and actions. When you hear him talk about Jesus, you can tell he knows Jesus well. You can learn more about Jesus talking to him. When you see him with people, you can tell he treats them the way Jesus would. He cares for people who are weak and feel left-out. He is forgiving. He shows kindness to those who don't deserve it. He is loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. You can tell God's Spirit is in him.



Jesus said, *"You can tell each tree by the kind of fruit it bears."* Luke 6:44 **If you see apples growing on a tree, what kind of tree must it be?** (an apple tree) **If you see the fruit of the Spirit growing in someone's life, what kind of person must they be?** (a follower of Jesus) **When you first plant an apple tree, do apples immediately pop out on the branches?** No, but you can see how God works to make flowers appear, which turn into small apples, which grow and ripen until they are sweet and delicious. In the same way, God's Spirit works to give us a new heart and new spirit that is faithful to him. Ezekiel 36:26 In time, our lives will produce the sweet fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts helping us become more like Jesus. Amen