

Homework sheet

1 Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (ESV)

God at work through Trials

Trials are always hard. It is wonderful know that our God's love never changes (Ps. 13:5). In fact, though these trials God is working to grow us. He wants us to be fruitful because that brings Him more glory (John 15:8). Let's ask God to help us see how He is growing YOU through this difficult time of your life.

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and the commentary pages that follow. Study out what each fruit means. Then list below how God can use this trial you are going through to help you develop that character quality.

1. What is the trial you are going through? _____

2. How is God developing the fruit of the spirit in your life through this trial?

Fruit	How I can show this through my trial
Love	
Joy	
Peace	
Patience	
Kindness	
Goodness	
Faithfulness	
Gentleness	
Self-control	

Commentary on Gal. 5:22-23

5:22 fruit of the Spirit. Godly attitudes that characterize the lives of only those who belong to God by faith in Christ and possess the Spirit of God. The Spirit produces fruit which consists of 9 characteristics or attitudes that are inextricably linked with each and are commanded of believers throughout the NT.

love. One of several Gr. words for love, *agape*, is the love of choice, referring not to an emotional affection, physical attraction, or a familial bond, but to respect, devotion, and affection that leads to willing, self-sacrificial service (John 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 3:16, 17).

joy. A happiness based on unchanging divine promises and eternal spiritual realities. It is the sense of well being experienced by one who knows all is well between himself and the Lord (1 Pet. 1:8). Joy is not the result of favorable circumstances, and even occurs when those circumstances are the most painful and severe (John 16:20–22). Joy is a gift from God, and as such, believers are not to manufacture it but to delight in the blessing they already possess (Rom. 14:17; Phil. 4:4).

peace. The inner calm that results from confidence in one's saving relationship with Christ. The verb form denotes binding together and is reflected in the expression "having it all together." Like joy, peace is not related to one's circumstances (John 14:27; Rom. 8:28; Phil. 4:6, 7, 9).

longsuffering. Patience which refers to the ability to endure injuries inflicted by others and the willingness to accept irritating or painful situations (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 1:15, 16).

kindness. Tender concern for others, reflected in a desire to treat others gently, just as the Lord treats all believers (Matt. 11:28, 29; 19:13, 14; 2 Tim. 2:24).

goodness. Moral and spiritual excellence manifested in active kindness (Rom. 5:7). Believers are commanded to exemplify goodness (6:10; 2 Thess. 1:11).

faithfulness. Loyalty and trustworthiness (Lam. 3:22; Phil. 2:7–9; 1 Thess. 5:24; Rev. 2:10).

5:23 gentleness. Better translated "meekness." It is a humble and gentle attitude that is patiently submissive in every offense, while having no desire for revenge or retribution. In the NT, it is used to describe 3 attitudes: submission to the will of God (Col. 3:12), teachability (James 1:21), and consideration of others (Eph. 4:2).

self-control. This refers to restraining passions and appetites (1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Pet. 1:5, 6). **no law.** When a Christian walks by the Spirit and manifests His fruit, he needs no external law to produce the attitudes and behavior that please God (cf. Rom. 8:4).

Gr. Greek

¹MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ga 5:22). Nashville: Word Pub.