

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Galatians 5:16-23 (NIV) -

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Look inward - is the soil of your heart on its way to becoming a place where good fruit can grow?

Look upward - These are not qualities YOU generate yourself!
The life of God is poured out into and through your own.

Look outward - Who are you becoming for your friends, family, coworkers or church?

Looking forward - all this is possible because of the grace of God, who is forming us into the people he wants us to be.

WEEK 11



becoming

fruit of the Spirit summer series



"Becoming" • Week 11

In such chaotic times as this current cultural moment, the Church has a different and better way of life to offer the world. The fruit of the Spirit is about living life by the Spirit of God in order to become the kind of person this world needs.

We have come to the end of our time in the qualities of the Christian life known as the fruit of the Spirit.

This series of devotionals was designed to take us deeper into what God had for us each week, based on the topic of the previous Sunday's teaching. I hope that these have helped you grow in Christlikeness in regards to these 9 qualities of the Christian life!

Instructions: this could be a simple format for your prayer time:

1. Begin with a prayer of approach, asking God to reveal himself to you and to take you deeper into relationship with him.
2. Come with an attitude of humility, submission, and learning, so that you're ready to obey what God says.
3. Pray the Scripture for that day. Read it slowly. What stands out to you? What strikes you? Read it a second time slowly.
4. Keep note throughout the day how you experience the fruit of the Spirit of self-control. Be thinking about what you could share with someone else regarding the goodness and love of God.

Friday, September 18, 2026

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV) -

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Self-control in our world today is often motivated simple for the self. Biblical self-control is governing yourself for the sake of others. How does you respond to that?

Luke 9:23-25 (NIV) -

²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?"

What is the Holy Spirit inviting you to die to today?

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Proverbs 25:28 (NIV) -

*²⁸ Like a city whose walls are broken through
is a person who lacks self-control.*

1. What do you think was the purpose of city walls in those days?
2. What happens when walls of a city are breached?
3. How does that transfer to your own life when you lack self-control?
4. What is one thing you can exert control over yourself in this season of your life?

Monday, September 14, 2026

Romans 8:31-37 (NIV) -

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

1. We said in the sermon on Sunday that self-control is about power over the self, having the power to govern yourself. The way Romans 8 says it that we are not just conquerors, but MORE THAN conquerors. What do you think it means to be MORE THAN conquerors?

2. Is there any area of your life where you are not “conquering” right now?

3. Invite Jesus in to give you his victory and power over it.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV) -

¹But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

²People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Obvious question - Do we see any of these kinds of things in our culture today? Yes, of course. We are living in what Scripture calls the "last days" and have been since Jesus came. Have these contributed to the good of our world? Again - an obvious answer, no. I ask an obvious question because I want us to see the absolute necessity of being a self-controlled person.

1. In a spirit of no condemnation, are there any of these qualities that tend to creep up in your heart if you're not careful? Invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart and help you WANT to be a person full of the fruit of the Spirit.

2. If there is one of these qualities that is revealed, simply invite Jesus into it. "Jesus, come in to my ungratefulness, my pride, etc." Release that thing into Jesus' nail-scarred hands.

3. If you automatically think of these things in *other* people, release that person or persons into Jesus' nail-scarred hands that died for them, too.

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Matthew 8:18-22 (NIV) -

¹⁸When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake. ¹⁹Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

²⁰Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

²¹Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

²²But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

1. Self-control is about letting go of all your attempts at self-fulfillment. How can saying no to the things of this world actually bring you the life you desire?

2. What does Jesus say is the cost of following him? What does that look like in your own life?