

Spirit List

Most of us know Galatians 5:19-21 and know to some degree what each of the words mean. That's important but Paul's point in Galatians is that we start living the way God wants us to.

Paul says:

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[c] you want. – Galatians 5:16-17

This means we need to know how we can be more like Christ by allowing the Spirit to work in us in His various ways. The purpose of this "Spirit list" is to teach all of us how to walk by the Spirit, instead of the flesh. The great news is that these are gifts of the Spirit. When we walk with the Spirit, this is who we become.

Galatians 5:22-26

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. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Love:

(*eros*) - 0 NT: Passion, the love of a man towards a woman. Actually never used in the NT.

(*philia*) - 26 NT: Friendship, love of a close friend or a family member. Is very much of a feeling.

(*storge*) - 0 NT: Affection, precious, love of a parent towards a child.

(*agape*) - 262 NT: This wasn't a word that the Greeks used frequently. Considered the highest form of love. Selfless in nature. CS Lewis noted that agape was an issue not of feeling or emotion but of will. It's a mental word. This type of love takes a deliberate effort.

"The rule for all of us is perfectly simple. Do not waste time bothering whether you "love" your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less." - C.S. Lewis

Joy (*chara*): greek word denotes a sense of joy that comes from religion. It is a gladness, consistent not exuberant or flippant. For us the joy that comes from God, not from things.

Peace (*eirene*): This word was used to describe the sense of security and goodness of a country or town that came from the order created by a good ruler. A Christian peace is rooted in our security in God as our lives are in his hands. Not manufactured, but a gift from God when we are secure in him.

- How would you feel to a big booming voice every moment and at every point of trouble if God personally told you that he had everything under control? How much *peace* would you have each day?
- True peace comes from surrendering and trusting that God has got you...even and especially when things get rough.

Patience (*makrothumia*): This word is generally used in relation to others. It is most often used when talking about God's patience in carrying out his wrath against us. To have patience you have to see past how you're wronged in the moment. Means to postpone judgement, anger, or decision when we are wronged. Longsuffering. The Spirit enables you and me to be hurt and not retaliate, just as God is frequently sinned against and yet still loves us, and waits for us to change.

Kindness & Goodness (*chrestotes*): kindness helps, is sweet, it is the reaching out to help an orphan or someone who is poor or hurting. Mother Theresa is someone who represents kindness.

Goodness (*agathosune*): Goodness can mean kindness but is really overarching and includes a rebuke or discipline. We would probably use a phrase like "that was the right thing to do." Goodness is strong and comes with deep conviction. Jesus could have been described as this when driving out the temple merchants.

Faithfulness (*pistis*): pretty straight forward. Spirit helps you to be someone who is reliable and trustworthy.

Gentleness (*praotes*): This word has 3 meanings: submissive, teachable and considerate. Invokes a humility and someone who considers what their words carefully. Like the gentleness of a tamed animal.

Self-Control (*egkrateia*): Means mastery of the body. It can be used when talking about an athletes control over his body or a denial of lust. It's a measure of the parts of our life we deny and the things we decide to practice to become our best for God.