

Fruit of the Spirit

Some things in life we have control over, others things we have no control over whatsoever. Happiness is knowing the difference. The Bible teaches us how to take control over our own lives, leading to the abundant life Jesus promised.

	CONTROL	NO CONTROL
Weather		X
Economy		X
My emotions	X	
Other people		X
My spouse		X
My habits	X	

The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. This is my life's purpose!

1 Timothy 4:12-16 - take heed to self

Luke 6:43-45 - known by fruit

Movies have a way of casting light on the truth of the human condition. They often conclude that money and power don't equal success. They show how casual or promiscuous expressions of sexuality never really satisfy beyond the moment. They portray accurately how wild partying is a dead end road leaving the revelers empty. True happiness and fulfillment in life is found in service to others and in nurturing healthy, life-giving relationships.

I wish the producers and actors modeled this attitude and behavior in their real lives. Yet, it requires walking in the Holy Spirit to truly and consistently live this way. Gratification of the flesh promises happiness, but leads only to death.

Romans 8:11-14 - flesh = death; spirit = life

The fruit of one's life reveals which path she has chosen. Bad fruit = bad choices. Good fruit = good choices.

Galatians 5:16-26

- Walk in the Spirit
 - Let the Word of God richly dwell in you
 - Pray without ceasing
 - Follow the voice of your spirit
- Works of the flesh
 - Sexual immorality
 - Filthy thoughts & shameless deeds
 - Witchcraft = drug abuse
 - Hatred, quarreling, cut throat competition, selfish ambition, jealousy (sounds like an episode of *The Bachelor*)
 - Rage, drunkenness, wild parties
 - What a horrible way to live! That is why this lifestyle is referred to as: works of the flesh. It is much work to keep this much drama and stress going!
- Will not inherit the kingdom of God?
 - Inherit—to possess, to obtain, to receive as one's own, a birthright
 - An inheritance is not based on the death of the heir; it is based on the means and generosity of the giver.
 - Inheriting the Kingdom of God is not a reference necessarily to the afterlife.
 - The Kingdom of God is here now within us.

- Walk in the Spirit and you will inherit (possess, obtain, receive as your own) your birthright—God's Kingdom.
- If your flesh wins the battle, you get a cheap imitation of real life, which is empty, stressful and worthless.
- Fruit of the Spirit
 - This is the Kingdom of God
 - This is the life that glorifies God and is enjoyed by the person as well. This is the abundant life that Jesus promised, walking in the Spirit.
 - No amount of money, fame, drug or alcohol induced escape from reality or sexual experience outside of marriage will ever match the satisfaction, fulfillment and pure happiness in this life that comes from walking in the Spirit.

Romans 13:11-14 - cast off works of darkness

Romans 14:17 - Kingdom of God = righteousness, peace & joy in the Holy Spirit

Fruit of the Spirit Discussion Guide

Some things in life we have control over, others things we have no control over whatsoever. Happiness is knowing the difference. The Bible teaches us how to take control over our own lives, leading to the abundant life Jesus promised.

Over what things in life do we and don't we have control?

1 Timothy 4:12-16

According to this passage what does it mean to take heed to one's self?

Luke 6:43-45

Discuss what it means that: "a tree is known by its fruit."

Romans 8:11-14

What does it mean that: "if you live according to the flesh you will die?"

Discuss what it means to be lead by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-26

Inherit—to possess, to obtain, to receive as one's own, a birthright

An inheritance is not based on the death of the heir; it is based on the means and generosity of the giver. Inheriting the Kingdom of God is not a reference necessarily to the afterlife.

What does it mean to be an heir of the kingdom of God? What does this mean for us today?