

The Role of the Holy Spirit Series – Acts and Galatians, and ChatGPT

Acts 5:

²⁹ But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and *so also is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

- Peter goes through the steps. First he mentions the death and sacrifice of Christ and the resurrection. He then covers the ascension of Christ in heaven as Prince.
- Peter then outlines the Gospel process again of humility and need for God, repentance, and new hope through forgiveness and freedom from sin.
- The fourth step mentioned is the gift of the Holy Spirit from God. This is a gift given to us when we obey.
- Obey what? The first three steps. Accepting the sacrifice of Christ, repentance and accepting his forgiveness, and turning from our past to the hope we have in Christ and beginning to trust in Him.
- Note: These are the same steps and sequence Peter used in Acts Chapter 2.

Important Observations: Notice who raised Jesus up. It wasn't Jesus, it was the Father. Likewise, we cannot pick ourselves up, we rely on the grace and the power of God to raise us up. The same power that raised up Jesus, is the same power that lifts us up into new life. That is part of the process.

- How do we tap into this power? Follow the first three steps. How do we bring God glory and how does He exalt us? By using the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us in doing His will. Through our actions and testimony, God is exalted and He lifts us up even more.
- 1 Peter 5:6-7; when we humble ourselves, He will exalt us.

Galatians 5:

⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to be* justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

- When we turn from our own works and self-righteousness, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit which gives us the power and ability wait by faith for the justification from God and to be in right standing with Him.

- The Holy Spirit is needed to help us eagerly wait rather than give up and turn back to trusting in ourselves. We need the Holy Spirit to give us the power to stand.

Walking in the Spirit

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- Walking in the Spirit means to make decisions and live your life under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- If we are walking and full of the Spirit, there is little room and fewer opportunities to walk or make decisions in the flesh.
- Lusts against – to desire against
- The flesh fights against the Spirit. There is a battle between the two. What are they fighting over?
 - They are fighting to control the soulish realm. That is the area of your emotions, feelings, intellect, how you process information, and most importantly....the area where you make decisions.
 - If the flesh controls the region of the soul, then you will tend to make decisions based upon your emotions, logic, your desires, etc. The Bible states that the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:8).
- When the Spirit is in control, the flesh is under control and you make decisions that are in alignment with the will of God. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- They that practice or exercise these works cannot inherit eternal life. One has to be born again to be able to inherit.
- This implies you can have a slip up, just don't practice or continue in slipping up.
- Adultery –

Galatians 5:19-21 lists the *works of the flesh*, which are behaviors and attitudes contrary to God's Spirit. Here's a brief description with examples:

1. **Adultery** – Sexual relations outside of marriage. (*e.g., a married person having an affair.*)
2. **Fornication** – Sexual immorality in general. (*e.g., premarital sex or casual hookups.*)
3. **Uncleanness** – Impure thoughts or actions. (*e.g., indulging in pornography.*)

4. **Lasciviousness** – Excessive lust or shameless behavior. (*e.g., provocative, immoral conduct without restraint.*) -- *reckless*
5. **Idolatry** – Worshiping anything above God. (*e.g., prioritizing money or success over faith.*)
6. **Witchcraft** – Involvement in occult practices or manipulation. (*e.g., using spells or sorcery.*)
7. **Hatred** – Intense dislike or hostility. (*e.g., harboring grudges or wishing harm on others.*)
8. **Variance** – Quarreling or being argumentative. (*e.g., constant conflict with others.*)
9. **Emulations** – Jealous rivalry or envy. (*e.g., resenting someone's achievements.*)
10. **Wrath** – Outbursts of uncontrolled anger. (*e.g., explosive fits of rage.*)
11. **Strife** – Creating division through selfish ambition. (*e.g., stirring up conflict for personal gain.*)
12. **Seditious** – Rebellion or causing dissent. (*e.g., leading groups to oppose authority unjustly.*)
13. **Heresies** – Holding beliefs contrary to biblical truth. (*e.g., denying core Christian doctrines.*)
14. **Envyings** – Desiring what others have with resentment. (*e.g., begrudging a friend's success.*)
15. **Murders** – Taking an innocent life. (*e.g., intentional killing.*)
16. **Drunkenness** – Excessive drinking leading to loss of control. (*e.g., habitual intoxication.*)
17. **Revelings** – Wild partying with reckless behavior. (*e.g., out-of-control celebrations involving sin.*)

Paul warns that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God, emphasizing the need for a Spirit-led life.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- Love – good will, charity
- Joy – cheerfulness, gladness
- Peace – rest, quietness, safety
- Longsuffering – patience, endurance, slow in avenging wrongs
- Kindness – gentleness, good, generosity
- Faith – assurance, belief, strong conviction
- Meekness – gentleness, mildness, strength under control
- Temperance – self-control

The evidence of the Holy Spirit in operation includes these characteristics. I don't think you settle for just one but instead should demonstrate a level of each in my opinion.

- There is no law against producing these traits.
- Paul again refers back to the process. You cannot produce these traits unless you have been crucified in Christ. Flesh and self have to be put aside before the Spirit can produce results.
- Morris on **conceited**: “To be *conceited*, to be sure that we are always right (even if that means that other people are always wrong!) is a perennial temptation to believers... It is easy to assume that because we are Christ’s we will always say and do the right thing. Paul is warning his readers that believers can be too confident that they are right in what they are contemplating.”

The process for producing good fruit involves the following steps in sequence. Identifying the need for fruit and breaking up the ground for burying the seed, covering the seed, the seed starts to produce new growth, water the growth, first fruit is produced, pruning, and harvest. Is there an opposite process for producing bad fruit.

Yes, just as there is a process for producing good fruit, there is an opposite process that leads to the production of bad fruit. If we compare this to spiritual life, bad fruit doesn’t just appear—it follows a negative progression, much like how sin and ungodly behavior develop over time. Here’s an opposite process for producing bad fruit:

1. **Ignoring the Need for Good Fruit** – Instead of recognizing the importance of righteousness, a person neglects or rejects spiritual growth.
2. **Hardening the Ground** – The heart becomes resistant to truth, whether through pride, bitterness, or a refusal to change (Hosea 10:12).
3. **Planting Corrupt Seeds** – Instead of planting seeds of righteousness, seeds of sin, deception, or selfishness take root (Galatians 6:7-8).
4. **Covering the Seed in Darkness** – Instead of being nurtured by the light of God’s Word, bad influences, secrecy, or lies encourage sinful growth (John 3:19-20).
5. **Feeding the Growth with Worldly Desires** – Sinful habits are nurtured through indulgence, bad company, or unchecked desires (James 1:14-15).
6. **Producing Corrupt Fruit** – Sin matures and manifests in destructive behaviors, broken relationships, or spiritual emptiness (Matthew 7:17-18).
7. **Pruning in Wickedness** – Instead of repenting, a person becomes more entrenched in sin, excusing or justifying wrongdoing (Romans 1:28-32).
8. **A Harvest of Destruction** – Ultimately, bad fruit leads to spiritual decay, harm to oneself and others, and separation from God (Galatians 6:8).

This negative process mirrors the biblical truth that whatever we sow, we will reap (Galatians 6:7). The good news is that repentance can reverse this cycle, allowing for new seeds of righteousness to be planted.

In Galatians 5, the contrast between good and bad fruit is seen in the *Fruit of the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23) and the *Works of the Flesh* (Galatians 5:19-21).

Natural Comparisons and Spiritual Applications

- **Healthy Trees Bear Good Fruit (Matthew 7:17-18)**
 - *Nature:* A well-nourished tree in good soil, with proper sunlight and water, produces sweet and nutritious fruit.
 - *Spiritual:* A believer rooted in Christ, abiding in the Spirit, produces spiritual fruit that benefits others and glorifies God.
- **Corrupt Trees Bear Bad Fruit**
 - *Nature:* A diseased or neglected tree produces bitter, rotten, or even poisonous fruit.
 - *Spiritual:* A person living in the flesh, disconnected from God, bears destructive behaviors that harm themselves and others.
- **Fruit Reflects the Source (Luke 6:43-45)**
 - *Nature:* A tree's fruit reveals its nature—an apple tree won't produce oranges.
 - *Spiritual:* A person's actions and attitudes reveal their heart condition and spiritual state.
- **Good Fruit Takes Time to Grow (John 15:5, Galatians 6:9)**
 - *Nature:* Fruit does not appear overnight—it requires seasons of growth.
 - *Spiritual:* Developing the Fruit of the Spirit requires ongoing submission to God, growth through trials, and nourishment from His Word.

Would you like a structured outline for your class discussion based on these comparisons?

Bible Study Discussion Guide: Good Fruit vs. Bad Fruit (Galatians 5:16-26)

Opening Question:

- Have you ever seen good fruit turn bad? What caused it to happen?
 - Can you think of a time when something in your spiritual life started strong but later declined?
-

1. Walking by the Spirit vs. Walking in the Flesh (Galatians 5:16-18)

Key Verse: "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)

Discussion:

- What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit"?
- How does daily reliance on the Holy Spirit keep us from producing "bad fruit"?

- What happens when we try to follow God in our own strength?
-

2. The Works of the Flesh: The Fruit that Spoils (*Galatians 5:19-21*)

Key Verse: *"Now the works of the flesh are evident..."* (Galatians 5:19)

Comparison to Nature:

- Just like good fruit can turn bad, our lives can produce sinful behaviors if we drift from God.
- What are some "spiritual diseases" that cause this? (pride, unforgiveness, bad influences, neglecting prayer, etc.)

Reflection Questions:

- Which of these "bad fruits" do you see as most destructive in our world today?
 - How can we guard against these creeping into our lives?
-

3. The Fruit of the Spirit: Signs of a Healthy Tree (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Key Verse: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..."* (Galatians 5:22)

Comparison to Nature:

- A healthy tree, planted in good soil, produces good fruit (Psalm 1:3).
- Just as fruit needs proper care (water, sun, pruning), believers must nurture their relationship with Christ.

Reflection Questions:

- Which of the Fruit of the Spirit do you see most active in your life?
 - Which one do you feel you need to grow in?
 - What practices can help strengthen these fruits? (e.g., Bible study, worship, serving others)
-

4. How Good Fruit Turns Bad: Spiritual Decay & Protection (*Galatians 5:24-26*)

Key Verse: *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* (Galatians 5:24)

Comparison to Nature & Application:

How Good Fruit Spoils	Spiritual Parallel & Solution
Disconnected from the Vine (John 15:4)	Stop relying on God → Spiritual dryness → Sinful behaviors
Exposed to Corrupting Influences (1 Cor. 15:33)	Negative influences weaken our faith
Neglect & Lack of Care (Hebrews 2:1)	Without prayer & the Word, we drift
Internal Rot & Hidden Sin (Matthew 23:27)	Outwardly religious but inwardly corrupt
Overexposure to Harsh Conditions (Mark 4:16-17)	Trials & stress lead to spiritual burnout if not handled through faith

Reflection Questions:

- Which of these areas do you personally need to guard against?
- What practical steps can you take this week to stay connected to the Spirit?

Closing Activity:

- Encourage everyone to **choose one fruit of the Spirit** to focus on growing in this week.
- Pray together, asking God to reveal any areas where bad fruit may be forming and for strength to cultivate good fruit.

Is There a Feast Connection?

While these feasts are distinct from the "Fruit of the Spirit" listed in Galatians 5:22-23, there are thematic connections:

- **Firstfruits and the Fruit of the Spirit:** The Feast of Firstfruits involved offering the initial produce of the harvest to God, symbolizing dedication and thanksgiving. Similarly, believers are called to exhibit the Fruit of the Spirit as the first evidence of a transformed life dedicated to God.
- **Spiritual Growth and Harvest:** The progression from Passover to the Feast of Weeks mirrors a believer's journey from salvation (Passover) to spiritual maturity and fruitfulness (Pentecost), emphasizing the importance of continual growth and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

In essence, while Leviticus 23 and Galatians 5 address different aspects of faith, both highlight the importance of dedicating the best of ourselves to God and allowing His Spirit to produce lasting fruit in our lives.

Spiritual Application:

Similarly, producing good fruit requires following God's guidance. Living "by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16) is not an accident but a disciplined process that results in a life characterized by God's attributes. Each step—repentance, renewal, and perseverance—contributes to a mature, fruitful Christian life.

Is the new book *Process Brings Peace* on Amazon a possible resource for this subject?

"Process Brings Peace" by Chuck Latham focuses on seven specific spiritual principles designed to guide readers toward success, freedom, and peace. The book illustrates these principles through key biblical narratives, demonstrating their application across various contexts.

[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

While the book doesn't explicitly connect these principles to the "Fruit of the Spirit" in Galatians 5 or the seven feasts in Leviticus 23, its emphasis on spiritual growth and the application of biblical principles could provide valuable insights for your study. The process-oriented approach may offer a fresh perspective on cultivating good spiritual fruit and understanding the significance of biblical feasts.

Incorporating "Process Brings Peace" into your Bible study could enrich discussions on how deliberate application of spiritual principles leads to a fruitful and peaceful life, complementing the themes found in Galatians 5 and Leviticus 23.

What ChatGPT Says: What is the role of the HS in the Bible?

The Holy Spirit plays a significant role in the Bible, with various functions and attributes highlighted throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Here are some key aspects of the Holy Spirit's role:

In the Old Testament

1. **Creation:** The Holy Spirit is involved in the creation process. Genesis 1:2 mentions the Spirit of God hovering over the waters.
2. **Inspiration:** The Spirit inspires prophets and leaders, giving them wisdom and guidance. For example, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon individuals like Samson (Judges 14:6) and King David (1 Samuel 16:13).
3. **Empowerment:** The Holy Spirit empowers individuals to perform specific tasks, such as Bezalel in Exodus 31:2-5, who is filled with the Spirit to craft the Tabernacle's furnishings.

In the New Testament

1. **Conception of Jesus:** The Holy Spirit is involved in the miraculous conception of Jesus. According to Matthew 1:18, Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit.
2. **Baptism of Jesus:** During Jesus' baptism, the Holy Spirit descends on Him like a dove (Matthew 3:16), signifying the start of His public ministry.

3. **Guidance and Teaching:** The Holy Spirit guides and teaches believers. Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, who will teach and remind the disciples of everything He has said (John 14:26).
4. **Conviction of Sin:** The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).
5. **Indwelling and Empowerment:** After Jesus' ascension, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within believers, empowering them for witness and service. This is notably seen at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) when the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in different tongues.
6. **Fruit and Gifts:** The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in the lives of believers (Galatians 5:22-23) and bestows spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Overall, the Holy Spirit is depicted as a divine presence that actively participates in creation, inspires and empowers individuals for God's purposes, and plays a crucial role in the life of believers by guiding, teaching, and transforming them.

ChatGPT Example

Original (Psalm 23:1-2, KJV):

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters."

Adaptation:

"The Lord got me—so I ain't stressing. He makes sure I rest when I need to, and He keeps me in peace, like a calm river."

Do you see a problem with this? I do.

How can a person tell today if they are led or have the Holy Spirit? What does it look like?

Great question! The presence and leading of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life can be recognized in several key ways, both internally and externally. Here's what it looks like:

1. Transformation in Character (Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23)



A person led by the Holy Spirit will exhibit:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

If these qualities are increasingly evident in someone's life, it is a sign that the Spirit is working in them.

2. Conviction of Sin & Desire for Holiness (John 16:8, Romans 8:13-14)

The Holy Spirit will convict believers when they sin, leading them to repentance. Instead of being comfortable with sin, they will desire to grow in holiness and obedience to God's Word.

3. A Deepened Understanding of Scripture (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-14)

The Spirit teaches believers and opens their understanding of the Bible. If you find yourself gaining insight and wisdom from Scripture, applying it to your life, and being transformed by it, that is evidence of the Spirit's work.

4. A Desire to Glorify Christ (John 16:14, 1 Corinthians 12:3)

The Holy Spirit always points people toward Jesus. A person led by the Spirit will have a growing love for Christ, desire to worship Him, and will want to make Him known.

5. Guidance in Decision-Making (Romans 8:14, Acts 16:6-7)

Being led by the Spirit means surrendering to God's direction in your daily life. Sometimes, this comes as a deep peace about a decision, a strong conviction, or even a "closed door" that redirects your path.

6. A Burden for Others & Boldness in Witnessing (Acts 1:8, Romans 9:1-3)

The Holy Spirit fills believers with compassion for others, especially the lost, and gives them boldness to share the Gospel. If you feel a growing desire to share Christ and serve others, that's a sign of His leading.

7. Supernatural Empowerment (Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

The Spirit distributes gifts such as wisdom, faith, healing, discernment, and prophecy for building up the church. If you see God working through you in ways beyond your natural ability, that's the Spirit at work.

8. Inner Peace & Assurance of Salvation (Romans 8:16, Philippians 4:7)

The Spirit confirms within us that we are God's children. Even in trials, a Spirit-led believer will experience peace that surpasses understanding and confidence in their salvation.

Would you say you've seen these evidences in your own life? Which of these stands out most to you?

Case Study

That's a great approach—starting with open-ended questions to help your partner reflect without feeling criticized. Here are some conversation starters that might help guide the discussion:

1. **"How do you feel our Bible study sessions have been going lately? Are there any things you think we could improve on together?"**
 - This allows your partner to self-reflect and share his own thoughts before you bring up observations.
2. **"What do you think has been the most effective part of our teaching? What seems to resonate most with the men?"**
 - This helps him focus on what's working and opens the door to discuss areas that may not be as effective.
3. **"How do you feel about the balance between teaching content and making space for the Holy Spirit to move in our sessions?"**
 - This invites a discussion on pacing and leaving room for engagement and response.
4. **"What do you think is the most important goal for each session? How do you think we can best accomplish that in the time we have?"**
 - This helps align priorities and consider whether adjustments are needed.
5. **"I've noticed that when we give the invitation, responses vary. What do you think influences that, and how can we best engage the men at that moment?"**
 - This brings up the altar call in a way that encourages him to analyze what might be happening.
6. **"How do you think we can ensure our teaching time leaves room for deeper connection and response?"**
 - This helps him think about the balance between covering material and making space for engagement.



7. **"Would you be open to trying a different approach for a few sessions and seeing how the men respond?"**

- This invites collaboration rather than correction, making it more likely he'll be open to change.

Framing the conversation as a joint effort to be more effective, rather than pointing out a problem with his teaching style, will help him engage with the discussion more openly. Would you like help outlining some potential adjustments to suggest?