

## Maximum Growth Potential (part 1)

*“I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full”* (Jesus – John 10:10)

Since you received Jesus Christ into your life – since you placed your faith & trust in Him for salvation and the promise of Heaven – you are a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17). This “new you” has the capacity to live a life that exemplifies a Christ-like character. The characteristics of a Christ-like life can be summarized by what the Bible calls the “fruit of the Spirit”.

What are the “fruit of the Spirit” as identified in **Galatians 5:22,23** (there are nine)?

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Though you have a new capacity to live a Christ-like life, you will continue to have inward battles with temptation and sin. How does **Ephesians 4:22-24** describe who-we-were & who-we-are, and what do these Bible verses suggest we do?

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## The Holy Spirit

**Living the Christian life on our own is not difficult ... it's impossible!**

Living a Christ-like life cannot be done in our own strength. Jesus said, apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

In our independent & self-centered thinking we struggle against the concept and practice of a total dependency upon God to live a righteous life. We often try to live by our own strength until we realize it won't work – and we become so frustrated we want to quit.

**We must submit our lives to God moment by moment and receive the grace and strength He gives us through the Holy Spirit.**

What does God want us to know about the Holy Spirit from the following Bible verses?

John 14:15-17

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John 14:26

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John 16:7-15

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Romans 8:9-16

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Acts 1:8

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## The Spirit-filled life is the Abundant Life

Galatians 2:20    Galatians 5:16-25



### Natural Person (Self-Directed Life)

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.



### Spiritual Person (Christ-Directed Life)

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.



### Carnal Person (Self-Directed Life)

Jesus is in the life but not on the throne. Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration.

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### Spiritual Person

Christ-centered  
Empowered by the Holy Spirit  
Introduces others to Christ  
Effective prayer life

Understands God's Word  
Trusts & obeys God  
Experiences love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, faithfulness,  
gentleness, goodness & self-control

