

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

CONDITIONS FOR BAD FRUIT

South Carolina peach farmers are in a bad way this year. A combination of an early spring and hard freezes in March have cost them as much as seventy percent of their crop. What they have managed to harvest are mostly small, “button” peaches, which can’t be sold at market, or have pits that are difficult for machinery to remove when processing for fruit cups. “When you lose 70% of a crop,” says Ross Williams, chief operating officer of post-harvest operations at Titan Farms, “it’s difficult to be able to make ends meet at the end of the year.” Farmers are trying to keep relations with major retailers intact by providing as many peaches as they can and hoping for better in the future. “Next year, hopefully when we do have a full crop,” says Williams, “we don’t want to have missed out on a year with that retailer.”

CONDITIONS FOR GOOD FRUIT

This week’s passage includes Paul’s lists of deeds of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit. While it is tempting to think of the fruit of the Spirit as qualities we can work on and develop in our lives, Paul teaches that these things simply “grow” in us as we walk by the Spirit. We can’t make ourselves have more love, joy, or peace, but we can create conditions in our heart for those things to appear on their own by the working of the Lord.

1. What experience, if any, do you have with farming?
2. If you could have more of any fruit of the Spirit, which one would it be, and why?
3. In what sense are the deeds of the flesh another sort of spiritual fruit?

Additional Resources

These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Music Video, Traditional: [“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: [“Less Is More” by Gaetan Judd](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: [“Never Leave” by Red Rocks Worship](#)

[Guzik’s Commentary on Galatians 5](#)

[Jesus Walk Commentary on Galatians 5:22–26](#)

[Bible Background Commentary from Dr. Craig Keener on Galatians 5:22–23](#)