

The Fruit of God's Spirit is Vengeance and Fury

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The Fruit of God's Spirit is Love and Gentleness (Galatians 5:22).

The Fruit of God's Spirit is Vengeance and Fury (Judges 15:14; 1Samuel 18:10-11).

Because mankind's carnal nature lusts against God's Spirit, there is always going to be conflict between them.

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit (of Almighty God), and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish (Gal. 5:15; Ed. note in parenthesis; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity (hostile) against God; for **it is not subject to the law of God**, nor indeed can be (Rom. 8:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

However, for those who have repented of sin and been baptized, there will be a different approach to God's law and commandments. Instead of being hostile toward God's commands, they will rejoice in them as King David did.

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸**You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies (cf. Eph. 6:12); for they are ever with me.** ⁹⁹**I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.** ¹⁰⁰**I understand more than the ancients (aged), because I keep Your precepts.** ¹⁰¹**I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your**

word. ¹⁰²**I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.** ¹⁰³**How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!** ¹⁰⁴**Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way** (Ps. 119:97-104; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).



BECAUSE THE CARNAL (FLESHLY) MIND IS ENMITY (HOSTILE) AGAINST GOD; FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NOR INDEED CAN BE.

Romans 8:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added

Therefore, God's Holy Spirit is able to produce good fruit in the lives of those who willingly chose to obey the law and commandments. These spiritual fruits are summarized in Galatians 5:22-23. However, everyone who walks contrary to God's word will experience varying degrees of conflict as they push against it.

With this brief background, the two scriptures that apparently contradict Galatians 5:22-23 will be examined. The first text is dealing with Samson when he was delivered to his enemies, the Philistines.

When he (Samson) came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose (Lit. were melted) from his hands (Jgs. 15:14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This is not an example of God's vengeance or fury. Instead, it is proof that God's Spirit works wonders on behalf of His servants. For those who have repented of sin, God's Spirit removes

the bonds of sin and deception that man's enemy, Satan, has placed on them, just as He removed the physical bonds that held Samson as a prisoner (see study: The Christian Yoke Is Not Easy).

The last scripture that is supposed to contradict Galatians 5:22-23 is dealing with King Saul's sin against God (cf. 1Sam. 15:10-11). Because Saul disobeyed God's command, he was going to be replaced by David. Instead of repenting of his sin, Saul began to resent David and attempted to eliminate him a number of times. The action that Saul took against David had nothing to do with God's Holy Spirit. Instead, it was a direct result of Saul's rebellious attitude which left him open to more evil schemes, including murder.

And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house (see study: David Was Tempted by Satan to Number the People). So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. ¹¹And Saul cast the spear, for he said, 'I will pin David to the wall with it.' But David escaped his presence twice (1Sam. 18:10-11).

If anything, God's Holy Spirit was at work protecting David; so there was no vengeance or fury being exhibited, except by King Saul in his attempt to murder David. Therefore, no connection exists between the fruit of God's Spirit, and the two scriptures that some propose as apparent contradictions.

In conclusion, any vengeance or fury on God's part is always tied to sin, which is defined as breaking His law and commandments (Isa. 63:4; Rom. 12:19; 1Jn. 3:4). Those who trust and obey God do not need to concern themselves with God's judgment (1Pet. 4:17). However, those who willfully disobey His word, will have to

give account when Christ returns to judge this world for its sins (Rom. 14:11; Php. 2:10).

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