

In Today's Epistle reading, Galatians 5:22-23, we hear about the fruit of the Spirit. Saint Paul writes, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

What does it mean that those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires? In our baptism we have put on Christ, we have become His disciples, and as He was crucified for our sins being blameless destroying death by death, we now can choose with our own free will to select a path to walk. Will it be a walk of the Spirit? Or will it be a path of passions which enslaves us?

Dearest ones of God, let us remember that the fruit of the Spirit is given when we choose to walk in the Spirit, when we choose to follow Him in the highest who unconditionally loves us, gives us joy, peace, is patient, kind, good, gentle with each of us throughout our lives—we too in choosing to walk in the Spirit will bear these fruits and it will be Him who will be given all honor, worship and glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.