



THINK IT THROUGH

NOTE: Growth in Christ-like character is never finished until we go to be with Jesus and are completely transformed into his likeness.

- How does this help us when we feel despondent at our lack of progress?
- How does it help us guard against complacency? (1 Thess 4:9-10)



TAKE ACTION

How can you take responsibility for developing godly character this week? What do you need to do?

Why not memorise Galatians 5:22-23 and as you memorise it, pray, “Lord help me to be more like You!”



PRAY IT THROUGH

- Ask God to reveal areas of character that He wants to work on and transform.
- Pray for yourself and each other that God would continue his work of transformation in our lives in the coming weeks.

Read Hebrews 10:35-39 and respond in prayer.

9 A DAY BECOMING LIKE JESUS

SMALL GROUPS SHEET
WEEK BEGINNING 12 JANUARY 2014

1. God’s great purpose for our lives
Galatians 5:16-26

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

Have you made any resolutions for 2014? Do you have any ambitions or goals? God's great purpose in our lives is to make us more and more like His Son, Jesus.



BACKGROUND

In Galatians 5 Paul is teaching new believers two vital lessons:

1. They are not to be under slavery to the O.T law any more.
Instead, what truly counts? (See Galatians 5:6)
2. They should not be under slavery to their desires and passions.
Instead what should they do? (Gal 5:13)

Paul is clear - LOVE is a key element in the Christian life.

Read Galatians 5:16-26



INVESTIGATE

How would you summarise the battle taking place in our lives as Christians (v14-17)?

What is our hope of progress (v16, v18, v25)? What do these phrases mean in practice?

Note: Sin remains in our lives but it no longer reigns!

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit results in many things and one of the most important is a Christ-like quality of character which has nine characteristics. Notice examples of how these fruit are the exact opposite of the acts of the sinful nature.

Why do you think Paul speaks about the "acts" of the sinful nature, but the "fruit" of God's Spirit (v22-23)? What are the implications for us?



INVESTIGATE

Writer Selwyn Hughes says, "We must never forget that God's primary concern is to make us holy." Do you agree with his statement? Why or why not? Explore and discuss the main point of the following references.

- Romans 8:28-29
- Ephesians 4:22-24
- 2 Corinthians 3:18 (notice the footnote)
- 1 John 3:1-3



THINK IT THROUGH

Paul lists "love, joy etc.." as **fruit** of the Spirit. Elsewhere in the New Testament we are **commanded** to love (John 15:17) and commanded to be joyful (Phil 4:4). How do we get the balance right between being dependent on the Holy Spirit to do what only he can do, while faithfully doing what we must do?

How do the following verses help clarify our responsibility:

- John 15:4-5
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Ephesians 4:22-24
- 2 Peter 1:5-6

Can you think of other ways in which we can co-operate with God's Spirit in this process of change?

If every Christian manifested the nine qualities listed in v22-23 what would be the impact... a) on the Christian church?

b) on the watching world? (John 17:23; John 13:34-35)