

# The Inevitability of Spiritual Fruit in the Believer According to Romans 5–8

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**Introduction:** How does our justification relate to spiritual fruit in the believer's life?

## I. Criteria for Identifying Spiritual Fruit-bearing

### A. Positive criteria

1. Paul's descriptions of new life in Christ
  - a. How does Paul describe the new life?
    - 1) Contrasts:
    - 2) Direct statements:
    - 3) Purpose/result clauses:
  - b. What are examples of the new life?
2. Distinguishing fruitbearing from possessions

### B. Negative criteria

1. Any description found in the imperative or subjunctive
2. Blessings that speak of the believer's passive reception of them will not be used.
3. Future tense statements
4. Summary: any indicative, non-future verb that relates a righteous response to the promptings of the Spirit will be included

## II. Spiritual Fruit-bearing in Romans 5–8

### A. Exegesis of Romans 5–8

1. Romans 5
2. Romans 6-7
3. Romans 8

### B. Delineation of righteous responses in Romans 5–8

1. Boasting in hope, tribulations, and God – 5:2,3,11
2. Demonstrating love for God – 5:5
3. Reigning in life – 5:17b
4. Walking in newness of life – 6:4
5. Being ashamed of past sin – 6:21
6. Producing fruit leading to sanctification – 6:22
7. Bearing fruit to God – 7:4

8. Serving in newness of Spirit – 7:6
9. Walking according to the Spirit – 8:4
10. Minding the things of the Spirit – 8:5
11. Being led by the Spirit – 8:14
12. Praying for God’s help – 8:15
13. Groaning for bodily redemption – 8:23
14. Expressing love for God – 8:28
15. Being conformed to the image of Christ – 8:29

### III. The Nature of Spiritual Fruit-bearing in Romans 5–8

- A. Boasting –
- B. Love for God –
- C. Reigning in life –
- D. Walk in new life –
- E. Ashamed of past sin –
- F. Fruit to sanctification –
- G. Bearing fruit to God –
- H. Serve in newness of Spirit –
- I. Walk according to Spirit –
- J. Mind the Spirit –
- K. Led by the Spirit –
- L. Pray for God’s help –
- M. Groan for redemption –
- N. Express love for God –
- O. Conformed to image of Christ –
- P. Summary
  1. Grammatical questions:
  2. Theological questions:

3. Unambiguous responses:

**IV. Conclusion**

- A. While fruit-bearing is a necessary result of justification, growth in righteous living is never completed or perfected during our earthly existence.
- B. Other Pauline texts give proof that fruit-bearing is a necessary result of justification: 1 Cor 15:10; 2 Cor 3:18; 5:16; 9:8; Eph 2:10; Phil 1:6; 2:13; Titus 2:14
- C. The rest of NT agrees: Jesus (Matt 13:23), Peter (1 Pet 1:6,8), John (1 Jn 2:3–6), and James (2:17,20,24). All Christians bear fruit.
- D. Paul denies any teaching that advocates two classes of Christians.
- E. God initiates and brings forth fruit in the believer's life through the Word and by the Spirit. We must submit to his gracious working in us.

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