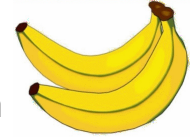


# Imitation Fruit & the Fruit of the Spirit

## Moral reformation vs. spiritual transformation

**B**ehaviour-wise, there are two types of fruit—the *supernatural* kind produced by the Holy Spirit and the purely *natural* kind produced by our clumsy attempts to imitate his work. Paul asked the Galatians, "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" (Gal. 3:3) Do a spiritual inventory using this list and ask yourself, "What must I believe in order to grow the real banana?" (Hint: Gal.3:5)



### My cheap plastic imitation

### The real banana

My "Love" - I love people—if they're <i>loveable</i> . People don't feel loved by me. They feel used because my love is conditional.	God's Love - I give away God's unconditional love for me. By focusing on Jesus, I can love the unlovely—even my enemies! (Mtt.5:44; Lk.6:35)
My "Joy" - I'm joyful—that is, I am happy with the people and circumstances in my life <i>if</i> everything goes according to my plans.	God's Joy - When all else fails, I still have Jesus. I take delight in knowing and being known by the God who delights in me.
My "Peace" - I have peace—when there is no conflict. There is usually something troubling going on, so I complain a lot.	God's Peace - "Peace that passes understanding" is increasingly mine because I know that God is in control of the people and circumstances in my life.
My "Patience" - I am very patient—as long as people do exactly what I say! When they fail to obey/respect me (worship my godness) I lose my temper.	God's Patience - Because God is patient (long-suffering) with me, the sinner, I can be patient with other sinners.
My "Kindness" - I'm kind—up to a point, but if you fail to repay me, watch out! " <i>Scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.</i> "	God's Kindness - His kindness is leading me to repentance. I give food and drink to my enemies. (Rom.12:21)
My "Goodness" - I'm a good person... well, actually, I <i>try</i> to be good, but don't often succeed unless others are good to me.	God's Goodness - As I walk in daily fellowship with God who is good to me, the Spirit empowers me to do good to others.
My "Faithfulness" - I rely on my wisdom to determine "God's will". Then, to avoid embarrassment, I try to do what I've promised in my own strength.	God's Faithfulness - God does what he says, and finishes what he starts. As I follow Jesus and rely on the Spirit, I do the same.
My "Gentleness" - I tend to be harsh with people who don't live up to my standards. I am gentle with people—if they submit to me.	God's Gentleness - As I am blessed by God's gentleness, the Holy Spirit is transforming me into a "gentleman" or "gentle-woman."
My "Self-control" - I try to hide my negative emotions and reactions, and am shamed when my attempts at "sin-management" crumble.	God's Self-control - As I look to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is taming the savage beast of my flesh. Faith is changing me—from the inside-out.