

# BETTER

# 12

## STEPS TO BETTER 2025

### BIBLE STUDY NOTES



THE HOUSE OF HOPE  
ATLANTA

4650 FLAT SHOALS PKWY  
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## SPIRITUAL INVENTORY

This month we are doing an inventory check on ourselves. Today's discussion is about our Fruit of Spirit versus our works of the flesh. Let's evaluate where we are so that we can overcome our sinful nature and walk in the Spirit as we strive to be better.

"But if you are guided and led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the Law. Now the practices of the sinful nature are clearly evident: they are sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality (total irresponsibility, lack of self-control), idolatry, sorcery, hostility, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions [that promote heresies], envy, drunkenness, riotous behavior, and other things like these. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:18-23 AMP

### **Purpose of Law**

The law serves to reveal sin and point to the need for a Savior, but it is the Spirit that enables a life of righteousness.

### **The Problem of Legalism**

- Judaizers insisted on adherence to the Mosaic Law for salvation (Galatians 2:16, Acts 15:1).  
Rule-keeping cannot justify; only faith in Christ can (Galatians 2:21, Romans 3:20).

### **The Purpose of the Law**

- The Law reveals sin but cannot transform hearts (Romans 7:7-12).  
It points to the need for a Savior (Galatians 3:24).

### **The Power of the Spirit**

- The Holy Spirit guides believers into truth and empowers obedience (John 16:13, Romans 8:14).  
Freedom in Christ means liberation from sin's mastery, not lawlessness (Galatians 5:13).

## Step 4: Take Inventory

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## Practices of the Flesh: Symptoms of a Fallen Nature

### Sexual Immorality, Impurity, and debauchery

- *Porneia* (sexual sin) includes adultery, fornication, (Leviticus 18, 1 Corinthians 6:9–10).
- Moral and ethical corruption extends beyond sexual thoughts and motives (Matthew 5:28, Ephesians 5:3).
- Debauchery, or "aselgeia" in Greek, denotes a lack of self-restraint, often manifesting in excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures.

### Relational Brokenness

- Hatred, jealousy, and rage destroy community (Proverbs 15:18, James 4:1–2).  
Divisions and factions contradict Christ's prayer for unity (John 17:21, 1 Corinthians 1:10).

### Idolatry and Sorcery

- Idolatry elevates anything above God (Exodus 20:3–5, Colossians 3:5).
- Sorcery reflects distrust in God's sovereignty (Deuteronomy 18:10–12, Revelation 21:8).
- Idolatry and sorcery; hatred, discord, jealousy, and rage;
- Idolatry refers to the worship of false gods or the elevation of anything above God in one's life.
- Involves the use of magic or witchcraft, often associated with pagan religious practices.

### Rivalries, divisions, and factions

- Involve competition and contention, often driven by selfish ambition.
- Refer to splits or schisms within a community, which can weaken the body of Christ.
- Are groups formed around differing opinions or beliefs, leading to disunity.

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## **The Produce of Divine Transformation: Fruit of the Spirit**

*The Spirit's work produces Christlike character.*

### **Love, Joy, Peace: The Foundation**

- *Agape* love prioritizes others' needs (1 Corinthians 13:4–7, John 13:35).
- Joy persists through trials because of eternal hope (James 1:2–3, Nehemiah 8:10).
- Peace flows from reconciliation with God (Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7).

### **Patience, Kindness, Goodness: Relational Grace**

- Patience reflects God's longsuffering (2 Peter 3:9, Ephesians 4:2).
- Kindness disarms hostility (Luke 6:35, Colossians 3:12).
- Goodness involves moral integrity and the desire to do what is right. (Romans 12:21, Matthew 5:16).

### **Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control: Steadfast Integrity**

- Faithfulness mirrors God's covenant loyalty (Lamentations 3:22–23, Revelation 2:10).
- Gentleness strengthens humility (Matthew 11:29, Galatians 6:1).
- Self-control is the ability to govern one's desires and impulses, aligning them with God's will. (1 Corinthians 9:27, Titus 2:11–12).
- The call to avoid debauchery is a call to live a life of discipline and self-control

## **The Power of Holy Spirit's Empowering Presence**

### **Daily Surrender, Not Self-Effort**

- "Walk by the Spirit" implies moment-by-moment dependence (Galatians 5:16, Romans 8:13).
- Spiritual fruit grows through abiding in Christ (John 15:4–5).
- Community Accountability
- Restore fallen believers gently (Galatians 6:1–2, James 5:19–20).

## **Step 4: Take Inventory**