



Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.  
(Gal 6:7)

### Why Wouldn't the Fruit of the Spirit Mature?

Long ago, Jesus warned us about the tendency of “thorns” to “grow up with” and “choke” the fruit of seed sown in good soil (Luke 8:7). He was talking, of course, about human hearts—“As for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature” (Luke 8:14).

Continuing to build on the metaphor of planting and tending a family garden in our homes where the fruit of the Spirit *ought* to be borne, what sort of “thorns” and “weeds” do we need to be on guard against in our hearts? Consider [Galatians 5:19-21](#):

- Sexual immorality -
- Impurity -
- Sensuality -
- Idolatry -
- Sorcery -
- Enmity -
- Strife -
- Jealousy -
- Fits of anger -
- Rivalries -
- Dissensions -
- Divisions -
- Envy -
- Drunkenness -
- Orgies -

Look around at the surrounding context in [Galatians 5](#). Why would anyone allow these “weeds” to grow in the family garden?

If they already are, what can be done about it?