

The Fruit of the Spirit of Technology

A spiritual audit of human invention from 6000 BC to present. Scores 124 major technologies on each of the nine fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) plus a separate Deception measure, then plots the trajectory across human history.

This is one of five studies in the EconFaithAI project. Companion studies cover childhood-influence channels, tech-sector economic concentration, tech-sector religious profile, and machine-vs-human intelligence.

Files in this project

File	Purpose
REPORT_Fruit_of_Spirit_Tech.html / .pdf	Main report — executive summary, methodology, trajectory analysis, best/worst performers, per-fruit breakdown, the 2010s inflection, sources, limitations.
references/README.md / .pdf	This document.
references/Methodology.md / .pdf	Detailed scoring methodology, rationale for the −1 to +1 scale, anchoring sources.
references/Limitations_and_Defensibility.Standalone limitations document. / .pdf	
references/Technology_Scores.csv / .xlsx	Full 124-technology dataset with all nine fruit scores, composite, deception, rolling averages, and sources.

Headline findings

Technology was net-positive for the fruits of the Spirit for 8,000 years. The rolling-average composite score remained positive (0.10–0.38) from irrigation systems in 3000 BC through the early 2000s. Tools that fed people, healed them, connected them, and reduced suffering dominated the inventory.

The composite flipped negative in 2013. With the critical-mass adoption of Twitter, the iPhone, and social-media platforms generally, the rolling-average composite crossed below zero for the first time in the recorded inventory. It has not recovered.

Deception is at all-time highs. The rolling-average Deception score climbed from approximately 0 in 1900 to **0.37 by 2024**. Deepfake technology scores 0.9 — the highest single-technology Deception score in the inventory.

The fruits most damaged by modern digital technology are self-control and patience. Across the 12 worst-scoring technologies of the last 15 years, those two fruits average −0.5 and −0.4 respectively. Faithfulness (truth/trustworthiness) is also under sustained pressure.

The nine fruits

From Galatians 5:22–23 — the New Testament’s measure of soul-formation:

- **Love** (agápē) — sacrificial care
- **Joy** (chará) — deep contentment
- **Peace** (eirēnē) — wholeness, rest
- **Patience** (makrothumía) — long-suffering

- **Kindness** (chrēstótēs) — goodness in action
- **Goodness** (agathōsýnē) — moral integrity
- **Faithfulness** (pístis) — trustworthiness
- **Gentleness** (praútēs) — strength under control
- **Self-control** (enkráteia) — mastery over impulse

What this report does not claim

- Does not claim every individual user of a low-scoring technology is harmed.
- Does not claim high-scoring technologies have no costs (vaccines have side-effect rates; printing also enabled propaganda).
- Does not claim the fruits of the Spirit are the only valid frame for evaluating technology.
- Does not claim the trajectory is irreversible (recent positive-scoring technologies — solar, MRI, CRISPR, Tesla EV — suggest counter-trend examples exist).

What this report does claim

- Under the methodology described, technology was net-positive for the fruits of the Spirit for almost all of human history.
- The composite rolling average crossed below zero in the early 2010s, primarily driven by engagement-optimized digital platforms.
- The Deception rolling average is at all-time highs.
- The fruits most damaged by modern digital technology are self-control, patience, and faithfulness.

Suggested next iterations

- **Workshop the scoring with a panel** to test inter-rater reliability and produce per-cell error bars.
- **Add a fourth axis** — utility/practical-good score independent of fruit-formation, so the comparison isn't framed as fruit-vs-utility.
- **Geographic disaggregation** — does a technology score differently in different cultural/religious contexts?
- **Time series of per-fruit averages** rather than only composite — show which fruits are gaining or losing across eras.

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