

The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:16)

Is it fruit of the Spirit or fruits of the Spirit? This is a very interesting question. Our English word fruit is a collective. It == You could have a room full of apples and oranges and pomegranets and grapefruit and you could say, There is a great deal of fruit in that room. On the other hand you could say, There are many different fruits in that room. Perhaps it would be more correct to ~~say~~ say many different kinds of fruit. But when Paul speaks of the fruit of the Spirit, certainly the fruit of the Spirit is what the Spirit produces and what the Spirit produces relates to all the different elements that Paul mentions. We can't have one of them without the other. They are all part of the fruit ~~of~~ the Spirit produces. Yet it is ~~a~~ true that the development of most people is very lopsided. One may -- No one has a certain amount of every type of fruit of the Spirit; he may have a great deal of one and very little of the others. We need to find where we are deficient and pray the Spirit to develop us in that regard. We need to think of where we are falling short. As Christ said about the commandments: You don't commit murder, but do you commit adultery? You don't commit adultery but do you steal? Do you bear false witness? We all are sinners but some are sinners in one regard and some in another. Every Christian is growing in grace, but some are growing more in one respect than in another, and we need to see where we are falling short. The fruit of the Spirit grows out of the Spirit. He is the vine we are the branches, nevertheless it must be pruned~~and~~ and it must be fertilized. [Is the vine fertilized if the vine is Christ?] The Spirit does pruning, the Spirit does fertilizing - both are very important, and we as God's jewels look for and receive joyfully the fertilizing and pruning that He supplies. But as God's tools we look to see what we need in either of these regards, and we look to ~~we~~ help others in these regards.