

to ~~study-me~~ ^{learn ways} of presenting our message, we want to learn how to reach people, we want to learn to avoid the silly mistakes most of us make which alienate people and drive them away instead of drawing them to us that they may be brought by the message. We want to ~~learn these~~ ^{work on} methods, but far more we want to work on the source, and be quite sure that we are planted beside the river that comes from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and we are drawing our sustenance from it and are bearing fruit.

When I was in seminary, one of the professors said one day that it was possible keep up your spiritual life, even in a theological seminary...

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...that day, the teaching was orthodox, but the atmosphere was cold as ice, it was a struggle to keep up your spiritual life. It has always been my hope that the atmosphere would be entirely different. We are trying to cultivate an atmosphere here to make it easy rather than hard ~~for~~ for you to develop a spiritual life but the development is your concern in the end. It is easy, it is possible, he said, even in a seminary, to keep up your spiritual life. Well, it was possible in that one, but it was a struggle. Here they're trying to make everything conducive, it is possible here for your spiritual life to sink and die and wither. You must keep your eyes on Christ, you must keep drawing from the river, you must keep looking to that river that flows from the throne of God and from the Lamb, you must keep abiding in Him in order that you may bear fruit. Now we know that Ezekiel said that it bore various kinds of fruit, and John went beyond, John said it bore twelve manner of fruits and yielded fruit every month. There is a variety in the fruit, and God gives different gifts to different people, and this one has this gift and how easy it is to look at the other and how easy it is to look at the other and say, well, God is using me in this wonderful way and that one he isn't using at all. That one may be used in a different way, which may be more important though less conspicuous than the way that he is using you. There are various kinds of goodness.

As Paul tells us, there is in the church, there is a tongue, there is an ear, there