

But he wants us to know that we can't expect everything to go easily and nicely in life, because one of the things he is most interested in is fitting us and preparing us to be exactly what He wants us to be through all eternity. I have a little ~~poem~~ poem here I think is worth reading in this connection:

When God wants to drill a man, thrill a man, and skill a man
 When God wants to mold a man to play for Him the noblest part,
 When He yearns ~~as~~ with all his heart to build so bold a man

That all the world shall be amazed, then watch God's methods,
~~Watch~~ Watch his ways.

How he ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects
 How he hammers him, hurts him and with mighty blows can burn him
 making shapes and forms which only God Himself can understand.
 Even while the man is crying, lifting a beseeching hand, yet
 God bends but never breaks when man's good he undertakes.
 When He uses whom he chooses and with every purpose fuses man
 to act, and act to man as it was when he began.
 When God tries His splendor out, man will know what He's about.

God wants us to understand the will of God and to know that He has very important purposes for our lives. If we are going to accomplish those purposes in our development to be His jewels, then it is vital that we study His Word for that is the means by which we grow. That we study His Word, that we learn to understand His purposes, that we learn to see the ideal that he wants us to be built into. That we learn to see how he works in lives. He wants us to study His word, and to seek the fruit of the Spirit. We find that == them described in Gal. 5, where we find a list of the fruit of the Spirit. You're all familiar with this list. It is something we cannot read too many times: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, goodness, faith, temperance -- these are the fruit of the Spirit. These are fruit we can go on and on and on through years and years, lifetimes and lifetimes developing. Just when you feel that you have attained one of these, something happens and you realize that you haven't attained it at all.

Here's a man who is very very meek. He is very unselfish. He is always thinking of the good of others. He has not the least bit of conceit. He is entirely devoted to the good of others. He gives a great speech. God uses it tremendously, and then somebody says My wasn't that a wonderful message you gave! Oh, how thankful I am for it! And the man just broadens out and feels to happy that other people think he's done something good. And you find his unselfishness, his love, is only so deep. Underneath there's that selfishness, there's that desire for egotism, there's that desire that we amount to something rather than that God amount to something. And it's in all of us, and God has a long way to ~~xxx~~ go with every one of us in making us into His jewels. In making us such that we truly show forth love, joy, peace, longsuffering -- Oh, how ready we are to take offence at little things. How ready we are to get disgusted at minor things and make a fuss about whether we are getting the attention we should, about whether we are getting the prominence we should, about whether we are getting the praise we should.