

Gal. 5:22-23. " But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ~~god~~ == there the verse ends! Then the next verse says, "gentleness and self-control." I don;t know why somebody ~~put~~ a verse division there. I think he must have been half asleep! when he did it. Anyway here are these mentions of these important aspects of the fruit of the Spirit.

Has your love toward other Christians increased in 1980? or did it decrease? Did you get a more \_\_\_\_\_ feeling toward others, or did you get a more gracious feeling toward others? Did you learn to show forth the love of God in your relationship with everyone and particularly toward Christians during 1980 than you did before? It is good to look back and to appraise yourself in that regard. And it is good to look forward and to think how you can develop this first mentioned fruit of the Spirit. The true love of God and show it in your heart and in your life.

The peace of God. If we have been saved we have the peace with God, but we need also to have the peace of God in our hearts. If my wife is to be home at 4 o'clock and it gets to be 4:30 and she is not there, I find myself just shaking all over wondering if she has had an accident! Wondering what has happened. I get terribly nervous when I think what might have happened. I want to learn to have more of the peace of God in my heart and to know that she is in God's hands to take care of, and that he is directing and that nothing can happen except it be in accordance with His will.

Do you have the peace of God truly in your heart? You can't it just in an instant. I can't say that I have fully realized it yet, by any means. But I believe I have made progress. The peace of God that is a part of the fruit of the Spirit.

And all these others that are mentioned here, as the fruit of the Spirit. Have you made progress in the last year? in each of these? And will you make greater progress this year? Paul in 1 Cor. 13 tells us that all our great abilities and blessings are nothing if we do not have true love. And it is shameful ~~and~~ how Christians are cantankerous and disagreeable in their relations with one another. When we see other Christians who are that way the thing for us to do is not to strike out at them and criticize them but to try to set them an example in our attitude toward them. God wants us to grow in everyone of the aspects of the fruit of the Spirit.

He wants us not to be training now for a time of service later, but he wants us to be serving Christ right now. Once I received a letter which was evidently intended as a missionary letter as a letter seeking support for the missionary work they intended to go in to, and this man said in his letter that he had gone before the mission board with which he desired to serve. The ~~mission~~ mission board said, You graduated from a good college --that is fine. We believe you should get seminary. So he said, I went to such and such a seminary and he said I spent three years there; I worked very hard in earning money to pay tuition and to take care of my family, sleepless nights, hard days of ~~xxx~~ toil, ==as he described it you just felt sorry for the fellow for what he'd gone through! He finished by saying, I finally got my degree and