

4 THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The inestimable gift of the Father is Jesus Christ, through whom He brought salvation into the sphere of our humanity, and life to every penitent and trustful soul amongst men. But it is the Paraclete, "even the Holy Spirit," Whom the Father sends in the Son's name, Who applies to man's inner being, the perfect salvation wrought out by Jesus Christ. "I am the Life," said the Lord Jesus, and the Church of Christ truly interpreted the Divine Word in the great Nicene Confession, "I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord and Giver of Life." Jesus is Himself the Life, the Holy Spirit is the Life-Giver, and Christ Who died for us our atonement, becomes Christ in us the hope of glory. Thus the fulness of the Divine Life, revealed in the Son, is communicated to believing souls by the Holy Spirit. It is because the life-giving Spirit joins us to the living Christ, that our life is hid with Christ in God.

The Christian is called into the service of Christ, that he "should go and bring forth fruit." His life is that of a branch in the Vine, and he was grafted there for the sole purpose of fruit-bearing. The chief end of man, it has been truly said, is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever. And the Lord Jesus points the way: "Herein is My Father glorified that ye bear much fruit."

If, then, we are to fulfil the supreme purpose of our being, we must look for a self-emptied and