

## 1. Love

**T**HE Christian is compared in Scripture to a good tree bringing forth fruit to the glory of God. The graces and virtues of the Christian life are called the "fruit of the Spirit," because they come from the Holy Spirit, as the fruit of the tree does from the root. In nature there is at work an unseen and most mysterious force which is known by its results, causing in the tree, first, the bud, then the blossom, and culminating in the rich and gracious fruit which makes glad the heart of man. In the Christian, too, there is an unseen and mysterious spiritual force or power at work, causing the life to blossom in the fragrance of holy deeds, and to bear the sweet and blessed fruit of love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

One great office of the Holy Spirit is to give life. So we confess as saving truth in the Nicene Creed, "I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life." This mighty operation on