

fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith (or fidelity), meekness, temperance." So Eph. v. 9. Now, it is chiefly of this character and of its outward manifestation in the life that Paul speaks when he urges or describes Christian perfection. Of this, 1st Cor. 13th chapter, is the classic passage, beside which we may place Rom. xii., Col. iii., Eph. iv., and Phil. ii. Now, in all these passages Paul exhorts directly to the fruits of the Spirit. But we must not, therefore, suppose that he ignores the experience, the manifestation of the Spirit to the inner man, which lies behind, and is the cause of those fruits. He everywhere speaks of them as the fruits of the Spirit, and as impossible to the natural man. But at the same time, he does not regard them as matter of physical causation, but of moral. The gift of the Spirit, the glorious institution of God's love, does not necessitate by a mere physical law these fruits of the Spirit, as the flame necessitates the explosion of the gunpowder. But it renders them morally possible. Hence, the Christian is constantly exhorted to walk in the Spirit, to show forth in this way "the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." A mere ecstatic state of experience is not sufficient for the Christian. No glorious work of the revealing Spirit will supersede the need of earnestness, patience, perseverance, watchfulness, all the will qualities which Paul so constantly brings to the forefront. But while this is true, and we need especially to-day to be on our guard against forgetting this part of the apostolic teaching, it is likewise, we think, clear that a higher, more enlarged measure of the Spirit, a more profound experience is the prelude of the perfected Christian character and life. This is clearly implied in such exhortation as "Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh." "As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God." "But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God." And Paul, in a subsequent letter to the same Church, says, "Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. And we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit