

### *Marks of a Spiritual Christian*

*"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8).*

But what is the fruit God expects to find on the branch? He tells us.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22, R.V.).*

The "fruit of the Spirit" is the full-orbed symmetrical character of the Lord Jesus Christ in which there is no lack and no excess. Note it is not "fruits" as so often misquoted. It is just one cluster, and all nine graces are essential to reveal the beauty of true Christ-likeness. But how often we see a great heart of love spoiled by quickness of temper—there is "love" but not "self-control." Or we see a person of great long-suffering but he is also very long-faced. There is "long-suffering" but no "joy." Again one sees a Christian very long on "faith" but very short on "gentleness." He has more of the thunder of Sinai than the love of Calvary in his make-up. He defends the doctrine with better success than he adorns it. Sometimes we see one whose life is the embodiment of goodness but the goodness is overshadowed by worry and fretfulness. There is "goodness" but not "peace." Oh! how the lack of the ex-