

In winning souls for the Master, it is not the first mile of compulsion, duty, or convention that will transform man and his world, but rather the *second* mile of free service and liberty-loving devotion that betokens the Jesusonian reaching forth to grasp his brother in love and sweep him on under spiritual guidance toward the higher and divine goal of mortal existence. Christianity even now willingly goes the *first* mile, but mankind languishes and stumbles along in moral darkness because there are so few genuine second-milers — so few professed followers of Jesus who really live and love as he taught his disciples to live and love and serve. (195:10.5)

Second-Milers Love and Serve

First you must be born again, born of the spirit; but once you choose to be a child of God, then what? Will you let this spiritual life die? Are you choosing to grow? Are you a spiritual adult?

“[T]hose who are born of the spirit will immediately begin to show forth the fruits of the spirit in loving service to their fellow creatures. And the fruits of the divine spirit which are yielded in the lives of spirit-born and God-knowing mortals are: loving service, unselfish devotion, courageous loyalty, sincere fairness, enlightened honesty, undying hope, confiding trust, merciful ministry, unfailing goodness, forgiving tolerance, and enduring peace.” (193:2.2) These *cosmic* fruits are in contrast to the merely spiritual fruits: “love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance” (Gal:5.22–23, as quoted in 34:6.13).

When you are born of the spirit, you are thrillingly dynamic, not blissfully static. “If professed believers bear not these fruits of the divine spirit in their lives, they are dead; the Spirit of Truth is not in them; they are useless branches on the living vine, and they soon will be taken away.” (193:2.2) If you are not really living—if you are not choosing to grow your relationship with the Holy Spirit, the *Spirit of Fact*—then you cannot have a relationship with the Spirit of Truth: you are spiritually dead, both in fact and in truth.

“You may enter the kingdom as a child, but the Father requires that you grow up, by grace, to the full stature of spiritual adulthood.” (193:2.2) “The certain technique of fostering ... [your perfection-hunger for] spiritual growth is to maintain an attitude of wholehearted devotion to supreme values.” (100:1.6) Identify with God the Mother; she will grow you. “Man cannot cause growth, but he can supply favorable conditions.” (100:3.7)

(reflections by Chris M. Halvorson)