The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control **(Galatians 5:22-23a)**.

Viticulture … consists mainly of pruning.
In pruning a vine, two principles are generally observed:
first, all dead wood must be ruthlessly removed; and
second, the live wood must be cut back drastically.
Dead wood harbors insects and disease and may cause the vine to rot. …
Live wood must be trimmed back in order to prevent such heavy growth
that the life of the vine goes into the wood rather than into fruit.
The vineyards in the early spring look like a collection of barren, bleeding stumps;
but in the fall they are filled with luxuriant purple grapes.
As the farmer wields the pruning knife on his vines,
so God cuts dead wood out from among his saints,
and often cuts back the living wood so far that his method seems cruel.

**-Merrill Tenney**

The sparkling radiance of a diamond is [formed]
by a lump of coal subjected to extreme pressure and heat. …
When we suffer in various ways, God is able to use all the pressures and irritations
to reveal … his radiance and beauty in our lives.

**-David Watson**

I had never foreseen the possibility [of] real contact,
person to person, here below, between a human being and God.

**-Simone Weil**

1. I am joined to the Vine.
2. I submit my will to his.
3. I take his Word into my life.
4. I see him answer prayer.
5. I experience his love within my life.
6. I experience his joy.
7. I reflect Jesus' love in my relationships with others.

We picture lovers face-to-face, but friends [stand] side-by-side;
their eyes look ahead. …
Friendship must be about something. …

Those who have nothing can share nothing;
those who are going nowhere can have no fellow-travelers.

**-C. S. Lewis**

[My father] had many secrets, for he was always going on with God, yet they were but one—the simple, profound secret of drawing for every need, temporal or spiritual, upon the fathomless wealth of Christ.

**-Howard Taylor**