

# Hanging Apples on the Tree

Recently, I read a story of a little boy who had a method of escaping his bedroom after being punished.

He would crawl out of his bedroom window and climb down an old fruit tree to the ground. One day, his father told him that he was going to chop down the fruit tree because it had not borne any fruit for a number of years.

That evening, the boy and his friend bought a bushel of apples, and during the night tied those apples on the barren branches of the tree.



The next morning, his father could not believe his eyes. He said to his wife, “Honey, I can’t believe it! That old tree hasn’t yielded any fruit for years, and now it’s covered with apples. And the most amazing thing – it’s a pear tree!”

Obviously, the son got a little confused about the kind of fruit that old tree should be bearing.

The Bible is clear, however, about the kind of fruit Christians should be bearing – the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

In his letter to the church at Galatia, the Apostle Paul explains it: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law”* (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV).

Such fruits are markers of a beautiful personal life, and – for those of us in hospitality and health care – they are tools of remarkable customer service.

How do we acquire this fruit? Jesus tells us in the Gospel of John: *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in Him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter