

# Volume 7 — The Fruit Before the Mantle

## Section 1 — The Fruit Before the Mantle

The First Stick declares:

"Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16)

"Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit." (Matthew 7:17)

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Galatians 5:22–23)

"Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." (Matthew 7:19)

The Second Stick declares:

"That which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually." (Moroni 7:13)

"By their works ye shall know them." (Alma 41:3)

"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17)

These witnesses reveal one of the great principles of the Covenant.

The Father develops fruit before entrusting responsibility.

The Father develops character before authority.

The Father develops maturity before influence.

The Father develops the servant before the mantle.

This pattern appears throughout Scripture. Before Moses led Israel, he learned humility in the wilderness. Before David ruled as king, he learned faithfulness as a shepherd. Before Joseph governed Egypt, he learned integrity in slavery and imprisonment. Before the Apostles carried the gospel into the nations, they first walked with the Messiah.

The assignment came later.

The fruit came first.

This reveals the wisdom of the Father.

The Father is not searching merely for gifted people.

The Father is preparing trustworthy people.

Gifts may attract attention.

Fruit sustains the assignment.

Gifts may open doors.

Fruit keeps the servant standing after the door opens.

This is why the Messiah declared:

"Ye shall know them by their fruits."

Notice what He did not say.

He did not say they would be known by their titles.

He did not say they would be known by their knowledge.

He did not say they would be known by their influence.

He said:

"By their fruits."

Fruit reveals the tree.

Fruit reveals the root.

Fruit reveals the life flowing within.

The fruit becomes the visible witness of the invisible kingdom.

This is why the previous volumes naturally lead into this one. The heart was examined because fruit grows from the heart. The mind was renewed because fruit grows through renewed thinking. The emotions were governed because uncontrolled emotions corrupt fruit. The body was aligned because fruit becomes visible through actions. Time was brought under covenant rhythm because fruit develops through faithful seasons.

Everything has been preparing for this moment.

Fruit is the evidence.

Fruit is the testimony.

Fruit is the witness.

The Internal Pharaoh seeks the opposite order. The Internal Pharaoh desires authority before maturity. Recognition before humility. Position before character. Influence before stewardship.

The Father refuses this order.

The Father first examines the servant.

The Father first shapes the servant.

The Father first prunes the servant.

Only then does greater stewardship come.

This is why fruit cannot be manufactured through appearance alone. A tree may appear healthy for a season while bearing little fruit. The Father examines deeper than appearance. He examines the root. He examines the heart. He examines the life continually flowing through the servant.

Healthy roots produce healthy fruit.

Diseased roots produce diseased fruit.

The outward life eventually reveals the inward condition.

The First Stick declares:

"Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit."

Notice the order.

The tree comes first.

The fruit follows.

The life comes first.

The evidence follows.

The government comes first.

The testimony follows.

This pattern cannot be reversed.

The servant cannot continually produce righteous fruit while remaining governed by another throne.

Eventually the fruit reveals the government.

Eventually the life reveals the ruler.

The Second Stick declares:

"That which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually."

The word continually is important.

Fruit is not measured by occasional moments.

Fruit is revealed through continual patterns.

Continual love.

Continual faithfulness.

Continual kindness.

Continual self-government.

The pattern reveals the tree.

This is why fruit remains one of the safest measures of spiritual maturity. Knowledge can be memorized. Positions can be awarded. Titles can be given. Gifts may appear suddenly.

Fruit develops over time.

Fruit requires seasons.

Fruit requires pruning.

Fruit requires patience.

Fruit requires faithful stewardship.

The Father values what grows slowly because it usually grows deeply.

This is why no mantle can safely exist without fruit. A mantle without love becomes domination. A mantle without peace becomes anxiety. A mantle without meekness becomes pride. A mantle without temperance becomes corruption.

The mantle reveals function.

Fruit governs function.

The mantle reveals assignment.

Fruit governs assignment.

The mantle reveals responsibility.

Fruit governs responsibility.

This becomes one of the central laws of the Kingdom.

The Father does not first ask:

"What can this servant accomplish?"

The Father first asks:

"What kind of servant is this becoming?"

Character before calling.

Fruit before function.

Government before authority.

The previous volumes restored the inward kingdom. This volume now reveals the visible evidence of that restoration. The kingdom within begins producing fruit without. The servant becomes known, not by appearance alone, but by the life continually flowing through every thought, word, action, and relationship.

The tree is being examined.

The fruit is being examined.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 2 — Why Fruit Comes First

The First Stick declares:

«"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." (Luke 16:10)»

«"Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister." (Matthew 20:26)»

«"He that is greatest among you shall be your servant." (Matthew 23:11)»

«"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time." (1 Peter 5:6)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17)»

«"If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness." (Ether 12:27)»

«"By small and simple things are great things brought to pass." (Alma 37:6)»

These witnesses reveal that the Father never separates responsibility from character. Before greater stewardship comes, the servant is first tested in smaller stewardship. Before greater influence comes, the servant is first examined in hidden places. Before the mantle becomes visible, the fruit must become established.

This is the order of the Kingdom.

Fruit comes first.

The mantle comes afterward.

This principle appears throughout Scripture. Abraham learned obedience before becoming the father of many nations. Joseph learned integrity before governing Egypt. Moses learned humility before leading Israel. David learned faithfulness before wearing the crown. The Apostles learned discipleship before being sent into the nations.

The process was intentional.

The Father was preparing the servant.

The assignment waited until the servant was ready.

This reveals something about the character of the Father.

The Father protects both the servant and the assignment.

A mantle carried without fruit becomes dangerous.

Authority without humility becomes oppression.

Knowledge without love becomes pride.

Power without self-government becomes corruption.

The Father refuses to build His Kingdom upon unstable foundations.

This is why the First Stick declares:

«"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much."»

Notice the principle.

The Father watches the little things.

Faithfulness in private.

Faithfulness in ordinary labor.

Faithfulness in unseen service.

Faithfulness in daily obedience.

The least reveals readiness for the greater.

The servant often asks:

"When will my assignment come?"

The Father often asks:

"What are you becoming while you wait?"

The waiting is not empty.

The waiting is preparation.

The waiting is cultivation.

The waiting is pruning.

Fruit develops during the waiting.

The Internal Pharaoh hates waiting. Pride desires immediate recognition. Pride desires immediate influence. Pride desires immediate authority. The Internal Pharaoh continually whispers that preparation is unnecessary.

The Father teaches otherwise.

The Father slows the servant.

The Father teaches patience.

The Father teaches dependence.

The Father teaches humility.

The servant gradually becomes trustworthy.

This is why hidden seasons remain valuable. Much of the Father's work occurs where few people are watching. Hidden faithfulness often prepares visible stewardship. Quiet obedience often prepares public responsibility.

The root grows before the fruit appears.

The foundation is laid before the house is built.

The character develops before the mantle is carried.

The Second Stick declares:

«"If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness."»

This is part of the preparation.

The Father exposes pride before authority.

The Father exposes fear before leadership.

The Father exposes impatience before greater stewardship.

The weakness becomes instruction.

The weakness becomes refinement.

The weakness becomes preparation.

The servant learns dependence upon the Father rather than confidence in self.

This is why the Messiah continually taught servanthood. Greatness within the Kingdom does not begin with position. Greatness begins with service. The servant learns to carry responsibility without seeking personal glory. The servant learns to build others rather than exalt self.

Service becomes fruit.

Humility becomes fruit.

Faithfulness becomes fruit.

The mantle grows safely upon this foundation.

The First Stick declares:

«"He that is greatest among you shall be your servant."»

The Kingdom reverses worldly expectations.

The world often seeks position first.

The Father develops character first.

The world rewards appearance.

The Father examines the heart.

The world celebrates achievement.

The Father celebrates faithfulness.

The difference reveals two governments.

This is why fruit always governs the mantle. The mantle reveals what the servant has been entrusted to do. Fruit reveals how the servant carries that responsibility. Two servants may possess similar assignments while producing completely different outcomes because the fruit governing the assignment differs.

The assignment alone is not enough.

The character matters.

The government matters.

The fruit matters.

This becomes one of the great protections within the Covenant. The Father is patient because He is preparing something lasting. Temporary success without fruit often collapses. Fruit establishes endurance. Fruit establishes stability. Fruit establishes trust.

The servant therefore learns to welcome preparation rather than resent it. Every hidden act of obedience matters. Every quiet season matters. Every small act of faithfulness matters.

Nothing is wasted.

Everything prepares the servant.

The previous section revealed that the tree is known by its fruit. This section reveals why the Father develops fruit first. Fruit is not an accessory to the mantle. Fruit is the foundation upon which every mantle safely rests.

The servant is being prepared.

The fruit is growing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

### Section 3 — Love

The First Stick declares:

«"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22:37)»

«"Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Matthew 22:39)»

«"Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:2)»

«"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"Charity is the pure love of Christ." (Moroni 7:47)»

«"Pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love." (Moroni 7:48)»

«"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17)»

These witnesses reveal that love stands first among the fruits of the Spirit because love governs every other fruit. Love governs every mantle. Love

governs every act of service. Love governs every relationship within the Kingdom.

Without love, knowledge becomes pride.

Without love, authority becomes domination.

Without love, correction becomes cruelty.

Without love, service becomes self-promotion.

Love reveals the government of the heart.

This is why the Messiah declared that the greatest commandments begin with love.

Love for the Father.

Love for one another.

Everything else grows from these two foundations.

The Kingdom does not begin with power.

The Kingdom begins with love.

This pattern appears throughout Scripture. The Father loved before He redeemed. The Messiah loved before He sacrificed. The Apostles loved before they preached. Every righteous work begins with the government of love.

Love becomes the root.

Service becomes the fruit.

The Internal Pharaoh cannot produce this love. Pride loves recognition. Fear loves protection. Selfishness loves advantage. The Internal Pharaoh continually places self upon the throne.

Love removes self from the throne.

Love serves.

Love gives.

Love forgives.

Love remains faithful.

This is why the Apostle declared:

«"Though I have all faith... and have not charity, I am nothing."»

The statement is remarkable.

The mantle may exist.

The gift may exist.

The knowledge may exist.

The influence may exist.

Without love, the Kingdom is not being reflected.

The outward work may continue.

The inward government has already failed.

The Second Stick declares:

«"Charity is the pure love of Christ."»

Notice the source.

The servant does not manufacture this love alone.

The Father develops it.

The Spirit grows it.

The servant yields to it.

This is why Moroni immediately instructs the servant to pray for this love. Love is cultivated through communion with the Father. The closer the servant walks with Him, the more the servant begins reflecting His character.

Love becomes visible.

Love becomes consistent.

Love becomes the atmosphere of the Kingdom.

This love is not merely emotion.

Love remains when emotions change.

Love serves when recognition never comes.

Love forgives when wounded.

Love continues when circumstances become difficult.

Love chooses faithfulness.

The First Stick declares:

«"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples."»

Notice the witness.

The world recognizes discipleship through love.

Not first through knowledge.

Not first through titles.

Not first through accomplishments.

Love becomes the identifying mark of the Kingdom.

This is why every mantle must remain under the government of love. A teacher without love wounds the flock. A judge without love becomes harsh. A king without love becomes a tyrant. A prophet without love seeks condemnation rather than restoration.

The mantle remains.

The fruit determines whether the mantle builds or destroys.

Love governs every assignment.

Love governs every responsibility.

Love governs every relationship.

The servant therefore continually examines the heart.

Why am I serving?

Why am I speaking?

Why am I leading?

Why am I correcting?

Love answers each question differently than pride.

Love seeks restoration.

Love seeks truth.

Love seeks the Father's glory.

Love seeks the good of others.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer serves merely because work must be done. The servant serves because love governs the kingdom within. The assignment becomes an expression of love toward the Father and toward His people.

The previous section revealed why fruit comes before the mantle. This section reveals the first fruit that governs every mantle. Love is not one fruit among many. Love becomes the foundation upon which every other fruit grows and every mantle safely rests.

The heart is being examined.

Love is growing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 4 — Joy

The First Stick declares:

«"The joy of the Lord is your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)»

«"In thy presence is fulness of joy." (Psalm 16:11)»

«"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." (John 15:11)»

«"Rejoice in the Lord alway." (Philippians 4:4)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"Men are, that they might have joy." (2 Nephi 2:25)»

«"They were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins." (Mosiah 4:3)»

«"Your joy may be full." (3 Nephi 17:20)»

These witnesses reveal that joy is more than happiness. Happiness often changes with circumstances. Joy remains rooted in the government of the Father. Happiness may rise and fall with success or failure. Joy remains because the throne remains occupied.

Joy is the fruit of confidence in the Father.

Joy is the fruit of trust.

Joy is the fruit of remembrance.

Joy is the fruit of hope.

This is why Nehemiah declared:

«"The joy of the Lord is your strength."»

Notice the witness.

Joy strengthens.

Joy stabilizes.

Joy endures.

The servant who possesses joy can continue through seasons of difficulty because joy is not dependent upon perfect circumstances. Joy grows from the certainty that the Father remains faithful.

The Internal Pharaoh seeks to steal joy. Pride continually compares. Fear continually worries. Envy continually complains. Anxiety continually imagines loss.

Joy disappears whenever another government occupies the throne.

The Covenant restores joy by restoring the throne.

The Father remains sovereign.

The Covenant remains secure.

The promises remain true.

Joy begins returning.

This is why the Second Stick declares:

«"Men are, that they might have joy."»

The Father's purpose is not merely survival.

The Father's purpose is not merely endurance.

The Father's purpose includes joy.

Not the fleeting excitement of the world.

The lasting joy found in covenant relationship with Him.

This joy appears throughout Scripture. David rejoiced before the Lord. The disciples rejoiced after witnessing the resurrection. The Nephites rejoiced after receiving the words of Christ. Their circumstances differed.

The source remained the same.

The Father was present.

The Covenant remained active.

Joy became their strength.

The First Stick declares:

«"In thy presence is fulness of joy."»

Notice where joy is found.

Not in possessions.

Not in recognition.

Not in position.

In the presence of the Father.

The closer the servant walks with Him, the deeper this fruit begins to grow. Joy becomes less dependent upon outward success and more dependent upon inward communion.

The kingdom becomes steady.

The heart becomes thankful.

The mind becomes hopeful.

The servant continues forward.

This is why joy governs every mantle. A servant without joy eventually begins serving from obligation alone. The assignment becomes heavy. The burden becomes overwhelming. The work loses its beauty.

Joy restores perspective.

Joy reminds the servant why the work matters.

Joy reminds the servant who called him.

Joy reminds the servant that the Father walks with him.

The mantle becomes sustainable because joy strengthens the servant carrying it.

The Second Stick declares:

«"They were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins."»

Notice the source again.

Joy grows from reconciliation.

Joy grows from mercy.

Joy grows from forgiveness.

The servant remembers where the Father found him.

The servant remembers what the Father has done.

Gratitude produces joy.

Remembrance produces joy.

The Covenant produces joy.

This joy also blesses those around the servant. Joy encourages the weary. Joy strengthens the discouraged. Joy gives hope to those who are struggling. Just as fear spreads, joy also spreads. The Kingdom becomes brighter because joy is present within it.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant continues rejoicing even while carrying responsibility. The servant continues giving thanks even during seasons of testing. The servant continues serving because joy has become rooted deeper than circumstances.

The previous section revealed that love governs every mantle. This section reveals the strength that sustains every mantle. Love becomes the foundation. Joy becomes the strength that enables faithful endurance.

The heart is rejoicing.

The strength is increasing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 5 — Peace

The First Stick declares:

«"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."  
(Isaiah 26:3)»

«"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." (John 14:27)»

«"The fruit of righteousness shall be peace." (Isaiah 32:17)»

«"Follow peace with all men." (Hebrews 12:14)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"Live in thanksgiving daily." (Alma 34:38)»

«"And may the peace of God rest upon you." (Alma 13:29)»

«"Ye shall sit down in the kingdom of God, with... your garments spotless,  
even as their garments are spotless." (Alma 7:25)»

These witnesses reveal that peace is more than the absence of conflict. Peace is the stability that exists when the kingdom remains under the government of the Father. Circumstances may change. Trials may come. Opposition may arise.

The throne remains occupied.

The government remains established.

Peace remains.

This is why the Messiah declared:

«"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."»

Notice the witness.

The peace belongs to Him.

The servant receives it.

The world cannot manufacture it.

The world cannot preserve it.

The Father gives it.

This peace does not depend upon perfect surroundings.

It depends upon the presence of the King.

The Internal Pharaoh continually attacks peace. Fear creates unrest. Pride creates striving. Envy creates dissatisfaction. Anger creates conflict. Anxiety imagines tomorrow before tomorrow arrives.

The kingdom becomes disturbed.

The waters become troubled.

The heart becomes restless.

The Covenant restores peace by restoring government.

The throne remains occupied.

The heart remembers.

The mind returns.

The servant becomes still.

The First Stick declares:

«"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."»

Notice where peace begins.

The mind remains fixed upon the Father.

Attention remains upon the Father.

Trust remains in the Father.

Peace follows.

This is why the previous volumes prepared for this fruit. A renewed mind protects peace. A governed heart protects peace. Ordered emotions protect peace. An aligned body protects peace. Covenant rhythm protects peace.

Everything works together.

The kingdom becomes stable.

The servant becomes steady.

This peace also governs every mantle. A teacher without peace spreads confusion. A leader without peace spreads fear. A judge without peace becomes reactionary. A shepherd without peace unsettles the flock.

Peace steadies the mantle.

Peace steadies the servant.

Peace steadies the kingdom.

The Second Stick declares:

«"Live in thanksgiving daily."»

Gratitude and peace continually walk together.

The servant who remembers the Father's goodness becomes less controlled by fear.

The servant who continually gives thanks begins seeing the Father's hand more clearly.

Peace grows.

Trust grows.

Hope grows.

This peace also blesses those around the servant. A peaceful servant calms troubled hearts. A peaceful household strengthens the family. A peaceful leader steadies the people entrusted to his care.

Peace spreads.

Peace restores.

Peace heals.

The kingdom reflects the character of its King.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer allows every circumstance to determine the condition of the heart. The servant remains anchored because the throne remains occupied. Storms may surround the kingdom without ruling the kingdom.

The peace of the Father remains greater than the conflict of the world.

The previous section revealed joy as the strength of the servant. This section reveals peace as the stability of the servant. Joy strengthens the walk. Peace steadies the walk. Together they preserve every mantle under the Father's government.

The heart is becoming still.

The kingdom is becoming steady.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 6 — Longsuffering

The First Stick declares:

«"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)»

«"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." (James 5:7)»

«"Charity suffereth long, and is kind." (1 Corinthians 13:4)»

«"The Lord is... longsuffering." (2 Peter 3:9)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"We did suffer all manner of afflictions... but the Lord did deliver us." (Alma 26:27)»

«"I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders." (Mosiah 24:14)»

«"Bear with patience thine afflictions." (Alma 38:4)»

These witnesses reveal that longsuffering is the fruit that remains faithful when the journey becomes difficult. It is the fruit that continues walking

when answers appear delayed. It is the fruit that remains steady when the assignment becomes heavy.

Longsuffering is endurance under government.

Longsuffering is patience under pressure.

Longsuffering is faithfulness during delay.

This is why the Father continually develops this fruit before entrusting greater responsibility.

A mantle will eventually experience resistance.

A calling will eventually experience opposition.

A servant will eventually experience delay.

Without longsuffering, the assignment is often abandoned before it is fulfilled.

The Internal Pharaoh hates delay. Pride wants immediate results. Pride wants immediate recognition. Pride wants immediate harvest without enduring the season of growth.

The Father teaches another way.

The Father teaches waiting.

The Father teaches endurance.

The Father teaches perseverance.

The servant becomes stronger because the waiting is not wasted.

This is why the Apostle declared:

«"Charity suffereth long."»

Love remains.

Joy remains.

Peace remains.

Longsuffering allows them to remain during difficult seasons.

The fruit protects the kingdom when circumstances become painful.

The Second Stick declares:

«"We did suffer all manner of afflictions... but the Lord did deliver us."»

Notice the order.

Affliction came.

Faithfulness remained.

Deliverance came.

The suffering was real.

The Covenant remained real.

The Father remained faithful.

This pattern appears throughout Scripture. Noah endured years before the flood came. Abraham waited decades for the promised son. Joseph endured slavery and prison before governing Egypt. Moses remained in the wilderness before leading Israel. The Apostles endured persecution while continuing the work entrusted to them.

The assignment required longsuffering.

The mantle required longsuffering.

The Kingdom required longsuffering.

This is why the Father often allows seasons that cannot be rushed. Fruit grows through seasons. Character grows through seasons. Wisdom grows through seasons.

The servant cannot hurry maturity.

The servant cannot hurry pruning.

The servant cannot hurry harvest.

The Father governs every season.

The First Stick declares:

«"Be patient therefore, brethren."»

Patience is not passive.

Patience remains faithful while waiting.

Patience continues serving while waiting.

Patience continues trusting while waiting.

The servant does not stop walking simply because the destination has not yet appeared.

The walk continues.

The government remains.

The Covenant remains.

Longsuffering also governs every mantle. A teacher must patiently instruct. A shepherd must patiently care for the flock. A judge must patiently discern. A servant must patiently labor. Every assignment eventually requires endurance.

The mantle may be given in a moment.

The faithfulness to carry it develops over years.

This is why the Second Stick teaches:

«"Bear with patience thine afflictions."»

The Father does not waste affliction.

The Father teaches through affliction.

The Father strengthens through affliction.

The Father reveals Himself through affliction.

The servant gradually discovers that endurance produces greater dependence upon the Father rather than greater dependence upon self.

The throne remains occupied.

The government remains established.

Faithfulness continues.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer abandons the assignment whenever difficulty appears. The servant remains faithful because the Father remains faithful. Seasons change. Circumstances change. Opposition comes and goes.

The Covenant remains.

The Father remains.

The servant continues.

The previous section revealed peace as the stability of the kingdom. This section reveals longsuffering as the endurance of the kingdom. Peace steadies the servant. Longsuffering keeps the servant walking until the Father's work is complete.

The endurance is growing.

The fruit is maturing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 7 — Gentleness

The First Stick declares:

«"Let your moderation be known unto all men." (Philippians 4:5)»

«"A soft answer turneth away wrath." (Proverbs 15:1)»

«"The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient." (2 Timothy 2:24)»

«"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"By small and simple things are great things brought to pass." (Alma 37:6)»

«"He commandeth that there shall be no disputations among you." (3 Nephi 11:28)»

«"See that ye are not lifted up unto pride." (Alma 38:11)»

These witnesses reveal that gentleness is not weakness. Gentleness is strength under government. It is power that has been brought under the authority of the Father. It is the ability to act with wisdom when force would be easier.

Gentleness restrains.

Gentleness listens.

Gentleness restores.

Gentleness serves.

This is why the Kingdom never confuses loudness with strength. The world often celebrates domination. The Father develops self-government. The world often rewards intimidation. The Father develops gentleness.

The throne determines the response.

The government determines the spirit.

The First Stick declares:

«"A soft answer turneth away wrath."»

Notice the witness.

The circumstance may remain difficult.

The other person may remain angry.

The pressure may remain real.

Yet gentleness changes the direction of the encounter.

Gentleness interrupts conflict.

Gentleness creates space for wisdom.

Gentleness opens the door for restoration.

The Internal Pharaoh despises gentleness. Pride seeks to win every argument. Pride seeks the last word. Pride seeks superiority. Pride mistakes force for authority.

The Covenant teaches another way.

Truth without gentleness wounds.

Correction without gentleness hardens hearts.

Authority without gentleness becomes oppression.

The Father never separates truth from His character.

Truth remains.

Love remains.

Gentleness governs both.

The Second Stick declares:

«"He commandeth that there shall be no disputations among you."»

Notice the purpose.

The Kingdom is not built through continual contention.

The Kingdom is built through truth spoken under government.

Gentleness does not compromise righteousness.

Gentleness changes how righteousness is carried.

This is why the Messiah continually demonstrated gentleness. He corrected without cruelty. He taught with patience. He restored the broken. He welcomed the humble. His authority was unquestionable, yet His spirit remained gentle.

Power remained under perfect government.

This becomes the pattern for every servant.

A teacher must teach with gentleness.

A shepherd must guide with gentleness.

A judge must discern with gentleness.

A leader must govern with gentleness.

The mantle remains safe because gentleness governs the mantle.

The First Stick declares:

«"The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men."»

Notice that gentleness is connected with teaching.

People often learn best where wisdom is joined with patience.

Correction is received more readily when delivered with humility.

Truth becomes easier to hear when spoken in love.

Gentleness prepares the heart to receive instruction.

This fruit also protects the servant. A gentle heart is less easily provoked. A gentle spirit is less controlled by pride. A gentle servant is more willing to listen before speaking and to understand before judging.

Gentleness creates stability.

Gentleness creates peace.

Gentleness strengthens relationships.

The Second Stick declares:

«"By small and simple things are great things brought to pass."»

Gentleness often works quietly.

It does not seek attention.

It does not demand recognition.

Yet over time it transforms families.

It transforms friendships.

It transforms congregations.

It transforms kingdoms.

Small acts of gentleness produce lasting fruit.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer measures strength by the ability to overpower others. The servant measures strength by the ability to remain under the Father's government even when pressure increases.

The throne remains occupied.

The government remains established.

Gentleness remains visible.

The previous section revealed longsuffering as the endurance of the Kingdom. This section reveals gentleness as the spirit in which that endurance is carried. Longsuffering continues faithfully. Gentleness continues faithfully with humility, wisdom, and compassion.

The spirit is becoming gentle.

The fruit is maturing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 8 — Goodness

The First Stick declares:

«"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."  
(Psalm 23:6)»

«"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good." (Micah 6:8)»

«"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)»

«"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the  
service of your God." (Mosiah 2:17)»

«"Learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the  
commandments of God." (Alma 37:35)»

«"Come unto Christ, and be perfected in him." (Moroni 10:32)»

These witnesses reveal that goodness is more than avoiding evil. Goodness is the continual practice of what is righteous. It is the active expression of the Father's character through the life of the servant.

Goodness serves.

Goodness gives.

Goodness protects.

Goodness builds.

Goodness reflects the Father.

This is why the First Stick declares:

«"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good."»

Goodness is not left to personal opinion.

The Father defines goodness.

The Father reveals goodness.

The Father teaches goodness.

The servant learns goodness by walking with Him.

This principle appears throughout Scripture. The Father continually acts for the benefit of His people. He provides. He corrects. He protects. He restores. His goodness is continually revealed through His works.

The servant becomes a witness of that same goodness.

The Internal Pharaoh imitates goodness only when it serves self. Pride performs good works for recognition. Vanity performs good works for praise. Fear performs good works for acceptance.

The Father examines deeper.

Why is this work being done?

Who receives the glory?

What government is producing this action?

Goodness flows naturally from a heart governed by the Father.

The First Stick declares:

«"Let your light so shine before men."»

Notice the purpose.

Not that men glorify the servant.

That they glorify the Father.

Goodness becomes testimony.

The servant becomes a living witness of the Father's character.

This is why goodness governs every mantle. A teacher uses knowledge for the good of others. A shepherd protects the flock. A judge seeks righteous justice. A servant seeks the welfare of others. Every mantle becomes safe when goodness governs it.

Without goodness, ability becomes dangerous.

Without goodness, leadership becomes exploitation.

Without goodness, influence becomes manipulation.

The fruit protects the mantle.

The Second Stick declares:

«"When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."»

Service becomes one of the clearest expressions of goodness.

The servant helps without demanding repayment.

The servant encourages without seeking applause.

The servant gives because the Father has first given.

Goodness continually moves outward.

It blesses families.

It blesses neighbors.

It blesses strangers.

It blesses the Kingdom.

This fruit also shapes daily decisions. Goodness appears in honesty when dishonesty would be easier. Goodness appears in generosity when selfishness would be easier. Goodness appears in forgiveness when resentment would be easier.

The ordinary moments become opportunities.

The Kingdom becomes visible.

The Father becomes glorified.

The First Stick declares:

«"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."»

Notice the government.

Evil does not determine the servant's response.

The Father's goodness determines the servant's response.

Darkness does not produce darkness.

The Father's light produces goodness.

The Kingdom answers evil with righteousness.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer measures success by personal gain alone. The servant measures success by faithfulness to the Father's character. Wherever the servant goes, goodness follows because the Father governs the kingdom within.

The previous section revealed gentleness as strength under government. This section reveals goodness as the continual expression of the Father's character through every assignment. Gentleness shapes the spirit of the servant. Goodness shapes the works of the servant.

The works are being examined.

The fruit is maturing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 9 — Faith

The First Stick declares:

«"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)»

«"The just shall live by faith." (Habakkuk 2:4)»

«"Without faith it is impossible to please him." (Hebrews 11:6)»

«"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things." (Alma 32:21)»

«"If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness... then will I make weak things become strong unto them." (Ether 12:27)»

«"Faith is things which are hoped for and not seen." (Ether 12:6)»

These witnesses reveal that faith is the fruit that continues walking when sight is unavailable. Faith does not wait until every answer is visible. Faith obeys because the Father has spoken.

Faith trusts.

Faith walks.

Faith waits.

Faith endures.

This is why faith governs every mantle. Every servant eventually reaches moments where certainty cannot be found through natural sight alone. The assignment continues. The promise remains. The evidence has not yet appeared.

Faith continues walking.

The Internal Pharaoh rejects this path. Pride demands certainty before obedience. Fear demands guarantees before movement. Self-reliance demands visible proof before trust.

The Father teaches another way.

Trust first.

Understanding follows.

Obedience first.

Fruit follows.

The First Stick declares:

«"The just shall live by faith."»

Notice the witness.

Faith is not an occasional act.

Faith becomes a way of living.

The servant learns to trust the Father's wisdom above personal understanding. The servant learns to move according to the Father's direction even when every outcome has not yet been revealed.

This is why the greatest witnesses throughout Scripture continually walked by faith. Noah built before the rain came. Abraham departed before seeing the inheritance. Moses left Egypt before seeing the promised land. Peter stepped upon the water before knowing how the next step would unfold.

Faith acted.

The Father responded.

The Kingdom advanced.

The Second Stick declares:

«"Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things."»

This witness protects the servant from waiting for complete certainty before obedience. Complete knowledge belongs to the Father.

Faith belongs to the servant.

The servant receives enough light for the next step.

The next step reveals the next step.

The walk continues.

The Father continually teaches through movement.

This is why Alma compared faith to planting a seed. The servant plants before seeing the harvest. The servant waters before seeing the increase. The servant continues caring for what the Father has begun.

Growth comes.

Fruit comes.

Harvest comes.

The process remains under the Father's government.

Faith therefore strengthens every other fruit. Love continues through faith. Joy remains through faith. Peace remains through faith. Longsuffering remains through faith. Goodness remains through faith.

Faith keeps the Kingdom moving forward.

This fruit also protects the mantle. Every assignment eventually reaches seasons where results appear delayed. Without faith, discouragement becomes the ruler. With faith, the servant remembers the Father's promises and continues faithfully.

The assignment remains.

The calling remains.

The Father remains.

The throne remains occupied.

The First Stick declares:

«"Without faith it is impossible to please him."»

Notice the witness.

Faith honors the Father's character.

Faith declares that the Father is trustworthy.

Faith declares that His promises remain true.

Faith declares that His government remains righteous.

The servant therefore walks because the Father's Word is sufficient.

The Second Stick declares:

«"Then will I make weak things become strong unto them."»

Faith allows the Father to accomplish what the servant cannot accomplish alone. Weakness remains. The Father supplies strength. Understanding remains incomplete. The Father supplies wisdom. The path remains uncertain. The Father supplies direction.

The servant walks.

The Father leads.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer depends entirely upon visible evidence before obeying. The servant trusts the One who established the Covenant. The servant

trusts the One who governs the Kingdom. The servant trusts the One who has remained faithful throughout every generation.

The previous section revealed goodness as the visible expression of the Father's character. This section reveals faith as the continual trust that sustains every expression of that character. Goodness serves faithfully. Faith continues serving even before the harvest becomes visible.

The trust is increasing.

The fruit is maturing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 10 — Meekness

The First Stick declares:

«"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)»

«"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart." (Matthew 11:29)»

«"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3)»

«"With all lowliness and meekness." (Ephesians 4:2)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"If men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness... then will I make weak things become strong unto them." (Ether 12:27)»

«"See that ye are not lifted up unto pride." (Alma 38:11)»

«"The remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart." (Moroni 8:26)»

These witnesses reveal that meekness is one of the most misunderstood fruits of the Spirit. Meekness is not weakness. Meekness is strength completely submitted to the government of the Father.

Power remains.

Authority remains.

Ability remains.

The throne belongs to the Father.

This is why the Messiah described Himself as:

«"Meek and lowly in heart."»

No greater authority has ever walked the earth.

No greater power has ever been given.

Yet every action remained under the Father's government.

This is meekness.

Power submitted.

Strength governed.

Authority surrendered to the will of the Father.

The Internal Pharaoh rejects meekness. Pride seeks recognition. Pride seeks superiority. Pride seeks control. Pride continually attempts to establish itself upon the throne.

Meekness removes self from the throne.

The Father remains King.

The servant remains faithful.

The government remains established.

This is why Moses is called the meekest man upon the earth. Moses confronted Pharaoh. Moses led a nation. Moses received the Law. Moses judged Israel.

His authority was unquestionable.

His heart remained submitted.

His strength remained governed.

The mantle remained protected by meekness.

The First Stick declares:

«"Blessed are the meek."»

Notice the promise.

The Kingdom belongs to those who remain under the Father's government.

The inheritance belongs to servants rather than tyrants.

The Father entrusts lasting authority to those who refuse to exalt themselves.

This principle appears throughout Scripture.

Joseph remained humble while governing Egypt.

David remained dependent upon the Father while leading Israel.

The Messiah continually submitted Himself to the Father's will.

Every righteous mantle remained protected by meekness.

The Second Stick declares:

«"The remission of sins bringeth meekness."»

Notice the connection.

The servant remembers mercy.

The servant remembers forgiveness.

The servant remembers grace.

Pride weakens.

Gratitude grows.

Meekness becomes natural because the servant remembers that everything received has first come from the Father.

Nothing is earned.

Everything is stewardship.

This fruit governs every mantle. A prophet without meekness becomes self-exalting. A king without meekness becomes oppressive. A teacher without meekness becomes arrogant. A shepherd without meekness begins serving himself instead of the flock.

Meekness keeps every assignment under the Father's authority.

The servant continually remembers:

This mantle is not mine.

This wisdom is not mine.

This strength is not mine.

Everything belongs to the Father.

This awareness protects the kingdom from corruption.

The First Stick declares:

«"Learn of me."»

Notice that meekness is learned.

It develops through walking with the Messiah.

It develops through correction.

It develops through obedience.

It develops through continual surrender.

The servant becomes teachable.

The servant becomes approachable.

The servant becomes faithful.

The throne remains occupied.

The Second Stick declares:

«"See that ye are not lifted up unto pride."»

The warning reveals the continual battle.

As responsibility increases, pride attempts to increase.

As influence increases, pride attempts to increase.

As knowledge increases, pride attempts to increase.

Meekness continually returns the servant to the Father's feet.

The Father receives the glory.

The servant continues serving.

The Kingdom remains protected.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant no longer measures greatness by recognition or authority. The servant measures greatness by submission to the Father's government. The higher the mantle, the deeper the humility.

The previous section revealed faith as continual trust in the Father. This section reveals meekness as continual submission to the Father. Faith trusts His promises. Meekness submits to His government. Together they preserve every mantle from the corruption of pride.

The servant is becoming humble.

The fruit is maturing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 11 — Temperance

The First Stick declares:

«"Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." (1 Corinthians 9:25)»

«"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." (Proverbs 25:28)»

«"Add to your faith... temperance." (2 Peter 1:5–6)»

«"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"See that ye bridle all your passions." (Alma 38:12)»

«"The natural man is an enemy to God." (Mosiah 3:19)»

«"Watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds." (Mosiah 4:30)»

These witnesses reveal that temperance is the fruit of self-government. Temperance is the ability to remain under the Father's government even when every desire, emotion, appetite, or impulse seeks another direction.

Temperance governs.

Temperance restrains.

Temperance disciplines.

Temperance preserves.

This is why temperance stands as the final fruit. The previous fruits reveal the character of the Kingdom. Temperance protects every one of them. Love requires temperance. Joy requires temperance. Peace requires temperance. Longsuffering requires temperance. Every fruit remains healthy because temperance guards the kingdom.

The First Stick declares:

«"Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things."»

Notice the witness.

Mastery requires government.

Mastery requires discipline.

Mastery requires stewardship.

The servant who cannot govern himself cannot safely govern greater responsibilities.

The Internal Pharaoh continually resists temperance. Pride seeks excess. Appetite seeks indulgence. Anger seeks immediate expression. Fear seeks immediate control.

Temperance interrupts each of these.

The desire appears.

The government remains.

The emotion appears.

The government remains.

The temptation appears.

The government remains.

The throne remains occupied.

This is why Proverbs declares:

«"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."»

The imagery is powerful.

A city without walls possesses no protection.

Anything may enter.

Anything may rule.

Anything may destroy.

Temperance rebuilds the walls.

The gates become guarded.

The thoughts become guarded.

The words become guarded.

The actions become guarded.

The kingdom becomes secure.

The Second Stick declares:

«"See that ye bridle all your passions."»

Notice the language.

The passions are not denied.

The passions are bridled.

The body is not rejected.

The body is governed.

The emotions are not rejected.

The emotions are governed.

The desires are not rejected.

The desires are governed.

Everything comes under the Father's authority.

This is why temperance governs every mantle. A prophet without temperance speaks carelessly. A king without temperance abuses authority. A judge without temperance loses discernment. A teacher without temperance becomes careless with truth.

The mantle remains.

Temperance protects the mantle.

The servant gradually learns that freedom is not found through unlimited indulgence.

Freedom is found through government.

Freedom is found through obedience.

Freedom is found through stewardship.

The kingdom becomes stronger because nothing besides the Father occupies the throne.

The First Stick declares:

«"Add to your faith... temperance."»

Notice the progression.

Faith grows.

Knowledge grows.

Patience grows.

Temperance grows.

The Kingdom matures step by step.

The Father builds deliberately.

The servant is transformed gradually.

The Second Stick declares:

«"Watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds."»

Temperance makes this watchfulness possible.

The servant observes.

The servant discerns.

The servant chooses.

The servant remains under government.

Self-government becomes visible.

This becomes one of the great signs of maturity within the Covenant. The servant is no longer controlled by every impulse that enters the heart, mind, body, or emotions. The servant lives under one government.

The Father's government.

This is why temperance stands as the guardian of every mantle. Gifts may open doors. Knowledge may increase. Responsibility may grow.

Temperance preserves what the Father has entrusted.

The previous section revealed meekness as strength submitted to the Father. This section reveals temperance as self-government under the Father. Meekness governs authority. Temperance governs the servant. Together they protect every assignment entrusted by the Kingdom.

The walls are being restored.

The fruit is maturing.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Section 12 — The Fruit Governs the Mantle

The First Stick declares:

«"Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16)»

«"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Galatians 5:22–23)»

«"Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit." (Matthew 7:17)»

«"Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." (Matthew 7:19)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"Charity is the pure love of Christ." (Moroni 7:47)»

«"That which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually." (Moroni 7:13)»

«"The Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent... has wrought a mighty change in us." (Mosiah 5:2)»

These witnesses bring us to the central law of this volume.

Fruit governs the mantle.

The mantle reveals function.

Fruit determines whether that function builds or destroys.

The mantle reveals responsibility.

Fruit determines how that responsibility is carried.

The mantle reveals assignment.

Fruit determines whether the assignment glorifies the Father or glorifies self.

This is why the Father always develops fruit before entrusting greater stewardship.

The Father never intended gifting to govern character.

Character governs gifting.

Fruit governs function.

This pattern has appeared throughout every volume. The heart was restored before outward change. The mind was renewed before greater understanding. The emotions were governed before greater responsibility.

The body was aligned before greater stewardship. Time was brought into covenant rhythm before greater order.

Now the evidence appears.

Fruit becomes visible.

The kingdom becomes visible.

The government becomes visible.

The First Stick declares:

«"Ye shall know them by their fruits."»

Notice that the Messiah continually returns to fruit.

Not titles.

Not reputation.

Not influence.

Not knowledge.

Fruit.

Fruit cannot remain hidden forever.

Eventually the tree reveals itself.

Eventually the government reveals itself.

Eventually the kingdom becomes visible.

The Internal Pharaoh seeks another order. The Internal Pharaoh desires gifts without character. Authority without humility. Leadership without service. Recognition without faithfulness.

The Father refuses this order.

The Father patiently develops the servant.

The Father patiently develops the fruit.

Only then does He entrust greater responsibility.

This protects both the servant and the Kingdom.

Every fruit studied throughout this volume serves the mantle.

Love keeps the mantle from becoming selfish.

Joy keeps the mantle from becoming weary.

Peace keeps the mantle from becoming unstable.

Longsuffering keeps the mantle from being abandoned.

Gentleness keeps the mantle from becoming harsh.

Goodness keeps the mantle from becoming corrupt.

Faith keeps the mantle moving forward.

Meekness keeps the mantle submitted to the Father.

Temperance keeps the mantle under self-government.

Together they form one government.

One character.

One Kingdom.

The Second Stick declares:

«"That which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually."»

Notice the word continually.

Fruit is continual.

The mantle may change.

Assignments may change.

Responsibilities may increase.

Fruit remains.

The servant who carries fruit into every assignment carries the Father's character into every assignment.

This becomes the true measure of maturity.

Not how much authority has been received.

How faithfully the Father's character has been reflected.

This is why the Kingdom remains safe. The Father entrusts greater stewardship only as fruit matures. The greater the assignment, the deeper the fruit must become.

The greater the influence, the greater the humility.

The greater the responsibility, the greater the love.

The greater the authority, the greater the temperance.

The Kingdom remains protected because fruit governs every mantle.

This also explains why some assignments require years of preparation.

The Father is not delaying the servant.

The Father is strengthening the root.

The Father is cultivating the fruit.

The Father is protecting the mantle before it is ever placed upon the servant.

Nothing is wasted.

Every hidden season matters.

Every act of obedience matters.

Every quiet victory matters.

Every lesson prepares the kingdom.

The servant therefore stops pursuing mantles for their own sake.

The servant pursues the Father.

Fruit grows.

The mantle follows.

The servant pursues righteousness.

Stewardship follows.

The servant pursues the Kingdom.

Responsibility follows.

The order never changes.

Fruit first.

Mantle afterward.

The throne remains occupied.

The government remains established.

The Kingdom remains secure.

The previous sections revealed each fruit individually. This section reveals how they function together. They are not separate virtues. Together they

become the government that safely carries every mantle entrusted by the Father.

The fruit is governing.

The mantle is protected.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

## Closing of Volume VII — The Fruit Before the Mantle

The First Stick declares:

«"Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:16)»

«"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." (Galatians 5:22–23)»

«"Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit." (Matthew 7:17)»

«"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself... no more can ye, except ye abide in me." (John 15:4)»

The Second Stick declares:

«"Charity is the pure love of Christ." (Moroni 7:47)»

«"That which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually." (Moroni 7:13)»

«"The Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent... has wrought a mighty change in us." (Mosiah 5:2)»

These witnesses reveal the central lesson of this volume.

The Father is not merely producing workers.

The Father is producing sons and daughters who reflect His character.

The Father is not merely assigning mantles.

The Father is preparing servants.

The Father is not merely building ministries.

The Father is building His Kingdom.

Throughout this volume the fruit has been examined. The necessity of fruit before the mantle was examined. Love was examined. Joy was examined. Peace was examined. Longsuffering was examined. Gentleness was examined. Goodness was examined. Faith was examined. Meekness was examined. Temperance was examined. Finally, the relationship between fruit and the mantle was revealed.

Every section testified of the same truth.

Character comes before calling.

Government comes before authority.

Fruit comes before the mantle.

This is the order established by the Father.

This order protects the servant.

This order protects the Kingdom.

This order glorifies the Father.

The Internal Pharaoh continually seeks another order.

Power before humility.

Authority before stewardship.

Recognition before faithfulness.

Influence before character.

The Father never builds this way.

The Father begins beneath the surface.

The Father strengthens the root.

The Father nourishes the tree.

The fruit appears naturally.

Only then does greater stewardship follow.

This is why the Messiah continually pointed to fruit rather than appearance.

Fruit cannot be counterfeited forever.

Fruit cannot be hidden forever.

Eventually every tree reveals itself.

Eventually every government reveals itself.

Eventually every kingdom reveals itself.

Love reveals the throne.

Joy reveals the throne.

Peace reveals the throne.

Longsuffering reveals the throne.

Gentleness reveals the throne.

Goodness reveals the throne.

Faith reveals the throne.

Meekness reveals the throne.

Temperance reveals the throne.

Together they reveal the King.

This is why the fruit remains more important than the mantle.

The mantle may change.

The fruit must remain.

The assignment may change.

The fruit must remain.

The season may change.

The fruit must remain.

The servant who loses the mantle may still possess the fruit.

The servant who possesses the mantle without fruit has already lost the greater treasure.

The Father therefore measures differently than men.

Men often admire position.

The Father examines character.

Men often admire influence.

The Father examines faithfulness.

Men often admire gifting.

The Father examines fruit.

This becomes the safety of the Kingdom.

The fruit protects the mantle.

The fruit protects the servant.

The fruit protects the people being served.

The fruit protects future generations.

The Kingdom remains healthy because the Father continually develops character before responsibility.

This also reveals why every previous volume was necessary.

The Fortress Within established the kingdom.

The Anatomy of the Heart revealed the well.

The Architecture of the Mind renewed thought.

The Government of Emotions brought the waters under authority.

The Law Written Upon the Body aligned the vessel.

The Covenant Calendar restored the rhythm of time.

Now the visible evidence has appeared.

Fruit.

The Kingdom within has become visible without.

Yet the work of restoration continues.

The servant now possesses fruit.

The servant now carries a mantle.

A new question emerges.

How should those mantles function together?

How does one servant strengthen another?

How does the Kingdom become one body with many functions?

How does every mantle serve rather than compete?

The excavation therefore continues.

The Kingdom moves from the character of the individual servant...

...to the order of the Kingdom itself.

The throne remains occupied.

The government remains established.

The Covenant remains active.

The Father continues His work.

The excavation continues.

End of Volume VII — The Fruit Before the Mantle