Day 48

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
Gal 5:22-23 (ESV)

Preachers, theologians, and various authors have produced millions of words to try to explain Paul's few words above. One possibility is that Paul was describing stages in the growth of the "fruit" to its mature form – love – proceeding from the end to the beginning. Biblical **SELF-CONTROL** includes ceasing from thoughtlessness, harshness and anger in word and deed, which produces **GENTLENESS**. Gentleness operating under mature self-control avoids the damage caused by broken commitments, leading to **FAITHFULNESS**. Faithfulness in doing good causes what you initially do because of a desire to obey, DESPITE your feelings, to become what you really want to do – which is the character of **GOODNESS**. The fruit of doing good is to see others blessed, which can be habit forming; **KINDNESS** is this habit. Kindness in faithful operation waits in **PATIENCE** for rewards from God rather than people. Patiently focusing hope on God rather than people leads to **PEACE**. Abiding in this place of peace and obedience brings God's presence, in which there is fullness of **JOY**. Finally, abiding in the joy of God's love produces an abundance of **LOVE** that flows like a river of living water to others. What does it mean when Paul writes: "against such things there is no law"? Perhaps Paul is saying: "regarding the growth of this fruit there is no speed limit". Ask God to show you which stage in the growth of your fruit you most need to focus on, and what you can do to cooperate with Him in cultivating the growth of His orchard.