

442 Not rocket science, but amazing!

What my recent ‘aerial photography’ of some of the NT books has shown me is that when I’m digging around in the Scriptures looking for new (to me) ideas, it’s all too easy to forget the basics, and this week a very simple thought has occurred to me, which has blown my mind and has actually motivated me. How did this start?

Well, here’s the first paragraph of an article I never finished. Bear with me, I think it’s all part of what God has been saying – to me, anyway:

Last time,^[441] I rehearsed how Paul (certainly in Ephesians), Peter and John all had the same core message. But then I read right through James, and it was the same message: all four letter-writers say that we need to actively, with every fibre of our being, (a) appreciate God’s love and (b) put that into practice in our everyday behaviour, despite the suffering. And given (a) how could we not do (b)?!

That was the start, but what has recently been buzzing around in my brain (and my spirit, hopefully) is the fruit of the Spirit.

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

And the mind-blowing thought that surfaced this week?

What if every single Christian throughout the world were to *actually* exhibit all those different fruits. Can you imagine the revolutionary effect?!

Obviously, ‘the greatest of these is love’, ^{1 Cor 13:13} and I’ve obsessed about that, sharing how that was the core of much of Jesus’ teaching, especially the Sermon on the Mount and at the Last Supper.^[418] The latter eight fruits are all aspects of that first fruit.

OK, that’s it, my shortest article ever, in nine years.

Well, I guess there’s one final thought: Yes, God causes fruit to grow, but gardening involves a lot of effort – we have to play our part in cultivating that fruit, despite drought, storms, forest fires... suffering generally. But God is a miracle-working God!

Paul Bev. 31.8.26