

"And they came unto The Brook Of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence." Numbers 13:23-24 KJV

"Eshcol," (*esh-kole'*) means, "a cluster of grapes" or "a bunch of fruit;" a brook named for the discovery made there. A cluster so large it needed two men to carry it. Oh, that believer's lives would be "*Brooks of Eshcol!*" That our path might laud the memory of our passage: That our Spiritual Fruit might be a wondrous testimony to our Lord! Fruit bearing is a direct result of the vine. Jesus said, "*I Am The True Vine, And My Father Is The Husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He Taketh Away: and every branch that beareth Fruit, He Purgeth it, that it may bring forth more Fruit. I Am The Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much Fruit: for Without Me ye can do nothing.*" If you've ever visited a vineyard, you'd know that the fruit bearing branches are the most severely pruned. They are carefully trimmed of all unneeded shoots and stems. Leaves are kept to a minimum. Good branches produce volumes of quality fruit and are usually the sturdiest. Gardeners remove unfruitful branches to increase the health of those that do, because they rob the fruit of the sap's nutrients. Our Lord is infinite in supply, but wishes to increase "*the Fruit of the Spirit.*" Every branch of His must bear Fruit, His fruit. Jesus said, "*Ye have not chosen Me, But I Have Chosen you, and Ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth Fruit. The Fruit of the Spirit Is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, [And] Temperance.*" Notice it is "*Fruit,*" singular. It is not fruits which are listed, but the attributes of that "*Fruit.*" Blemishes indicate underdeveloped fruit. Is your "*Fruit*" unblemished? "*Unfeigned Love of the brethren*" is one evidence one is "*in The Vine.*" Love, not of ourselves, but springing naturally and effortlessly from those in which "*Christ Dwelleth.*" Sap enables fruit bearing and God enables the believer. "*It is God Which Worketh In you both to Will and to Do of His Good Pleasure.*" If you have Love, Peace, And Joy, it's because you have "*Christ in you, The Hope of Glory.*" He Is The Anchor of the soul; the solid Rock upon which Faith stands. It Is God in my thoughts throughout each day, speaking His Word of Truth, that Makes me free of fear and anxiety! "*Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth Shall MAKE you Free!*" You will never hear God's Voice if you do not "*pray without ceasing*" and meditate in His Word "*day and night.*" Everlasting Hope is built upon This! Without God's Voice, there is no Hope. Many do not "*hear*" Him!

That "Brooks of Eshcol" we might be,
Esteeming brothers lovingly,
So men may ever only see,
The hope of Jesus Christ in me. –CGP

Jesus said, "*Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*" Faith is verified by word AND deed. Those sowing discord are not Christ's. Mark them – that is their fruit. "*A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.*" Fruit Is The Essence of The VINE! Upon what "vine" does your branch grow?

"This then Is The Message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, That God Is Light, and in HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the Truth: But if we walk in The Light, as He Is In The Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son Cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:5-7 KJV

