



## Apples and Pears

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**A**s a child, I remember our back yard had a fruit tree planted by my grandfather. Each year the tree bore apples and pears, both on the same tree. My grandfather explained that he had planted an apple sapling and then had grafted a pear branch onto its trunk. What continues to intrigue me about that tree is how the very same nourishment, the same sap out of the earth and traveling up the trunk, would produce such different fruits.

It is much like the power of the Holy Spirit given to human beings at the time of the ascension. Various gifts make themselves known, at times in the same person, over the course of a lifetime. A friend loved being a mom and raising a family. After the children had grown and went on their way, she went back to school and became a nurse. A local pastor was a pediatrician. After his wife died, he decided to become

a priest. John Grisham, educated as an attorney, began writing novels. All apples and pears, the fruit of God's Spirit.

We tend to ask young people what they would like to be when they grow up. A better question might be to ask what they think God would like them to be. However someone might answer such a question, what is important is to do it with "humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2–3)—all prompted by God's Spirit. ●

### Reflect

***Is there a difference between what we want  
to do and what God wants us to do?  
How do we know?***

[Jesus] said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."

MARK 16:15

