

Leadership and Bearing Fruit

“For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.” John 15:1-11; Gen. 49:22-26

I Purpose of Bearing Fruit

- 1) Fulfillment of God’s plan (Gen. 1:28)
- 2) Brings glory and pleasure to the Father’s heart (John 15:8)
- 3) Proof of identity, genuineness of faith and discipleship
- 4) Development of Christ -like character (2 Peter 1:5-8; Philippians 1:11)
- 5) Advancement and expansion of the Kingdom of God

II Challenges to Producing Fruit (Mark 4:1-20)

(Generosity of the sower; power of the seed; condition of the soil)

- 1) Wayside (hard heart)
- 2) Stony ground (shallow heart)
- 3) Thorny ground (distracted heart)
- 4) Good ground (transformed heart)

III. Seriousness of Bearing Fruit Before God

- 1) Redeeming privileges, seasons and opportunities (Isaiah 5: 3-7)
- 2) Responding to the voice of God with repentance (Luke 3:9; 13:6-9)
- 3) Abiding (John 15:6)
- 4) Accepting God’s discipline (Heb. 12:11)
- 5) Being Genuine (Mark 11:12-19)
- 6) Walking in the calling of God (Matt. 21:43)

IV. Fruit that God Requires

- 1) Genuine repentance (Matt. 3:8)
- 2) Obedience of faith (John 15:14)
- 3) Holiness (Rom. 6:22)
- 4) Fruit of wisdom (James 3:17)
- 5) Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)
- 6) Righteous works (Col. 1:10; Phil. 1:22)
- 7) Giving (Rom. 15:28; Phil 4:16)
- 8) Worship (Heb. 13: 15)
- 9) Winning souls (Rom. 1:13; John 4:36)

V. Dynamics of Bearing fruit

1) Abiding (John 15: 4-7; Gen. 49:22)

- a- Maintaining close relationship
- b- Following Christ and walking in the light
- c- Life of dedication
- d- Life of faith, obedience and perseverance
- e- Dwelling in God's presence
- f- Walking in fellowship with the Body of Christ
- g- Growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ
- h- Life of faithfulness and fear of the Lord
- i- Life of forgiveness

2) Dying (death to self; laying our life down for the Lord) (John 12:24; Genesis 49:22b)

Difference between worldly success and spiritual fruit

Worldly Success

- Based on social standards and image Christ
- Centered on human ambition and wisdom
- Valued by performance, resources, numbers
- Excelling but losing our real self life
- Being shaped according to expectations of those around us.
- Enjoying temporary fulfillment followed by emptiness
- Driven by demands for greater performance
- Begins with lack of contentment and drive to prove one self.
- Insecurity about reaching society's standards
- Neglecting our lives to please others
- Focus on professionalism to impress others
- Stirs up comparison and competition

Spiritual Fruit

- Standard of Word of God and the image of Christ
- Glorifying God through guidance of Holy Spirit
- Quality of life with large eternal influence
 - Possessing purpose and plan of God for your life
- Changed and shaped according to the image of Christ Jesus
 - Genuine fulfillment followed by eternal rewards
- Enjoyment of walking with Christ in freedom and Peace
- Life of contentment in who I am in Christ
- Confidence that God will complete what He Has begun in our lives
 - Caring for spiritual health to bear fruit
- Quality of character that draws people to Christ
- Diversity of fruit for full expression of God's Kingdom

3) Pruning (John 15:2; Genesis 49:23-25)

- a) Arrows of Purification (Jealousy, rejection, betrayal, humiliation, injustice, abandonment)
- b) God's Sustaining Hands
 - formed and shaped by the hand of the Mighty God of Jacob
 - healed and restored by the hand of the Shepherd
 - established and strengthened by the Stone of Israel
 - kept by the covenant of the God of your father
 - provided for and blessed by the Almighty

4) Infilling (Double-portion blessing) (Genesis 49:25-26; John 15, 16; Eze 47: 1-7; Rev. 22:1-2)