



## Bearing Fruit

One of the major signs of a true believer or a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ is **bearing fruit--fruitfulness**. We should be out to bear fruit. We are called to bear fruit.

Our actions speak volumes of our relationship with God. Although our performances or actions are crucial, they are not the **root** of our salvation and right standing with God, but just the **fruit** of that relationship.

It takes a lot of effort and diligence to become a fruitful Christian. Maturity doesn't come by osmosis. We can't just pray to bear fruit.

We are called to be fruitful. Fruit is for other people. We need to be fruitful. Trees don't eat their own fruit, neither should we.

Fruitful is measured by the fruit we bear that others eat from our branch. Our good work ought to have fruit in it.

*John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."*

A. Bears much fruit.

*"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."—John 15:8-9*

- a) A disciple is one that bears fruit. Until we move on to the level of being disciples, we can't bear fruit. It is one thing to bear fruit, but it is another thing for that fruit to remain.

## B. Fruit should remain or last.

John 15:16 *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that **ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."* (emphasis mine)

- a) Many people do bear and can bear fruit to a degree. It is one thing to bear fruit, but it is another thing altogether for that fruit to remain (stay). The fruit of the disciple **MUST REMAIN.**
- b) There is a need for consistency. Disciples of the Lord Jesus can be seen not only by the fruit they bear but by whether that fruit lasts. **We can't just bear fruit seasonally. It must remain.**
- c) A disciple is one that bears fruit that must remain and must be consistent.

## C. Stay connected to the vine

John 15:4-5 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 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.*

- a) We are the branches, not the vine. If a branch ceases to be connected to the vine, you can rest assured it will cease to bear fruit.
- b) It is the vine that bears fruit through us. All we must do is stay connected and plugged in.

## D. Abide

John 15:5, 8 *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.*

- a) The Word “*abide*” means to “*stay*”. We have to remain and continue in the Lord to bring forth fruit (John 15:2) and much fruit (John 15:5, 8).
- b) If we are going to bring forth much fruit that will remain, we need to abide in Jesus, the True Vine.

#### E. True fruit

- a) Outside relationship with Jesus, there is no true fruit. Those who have not made the Lord Jesus their personal Lord and Savior will not be able to bear fruit, let alone fruit that will last.
- b) If we are trying to diagnose a continuing issue or challenge that someone is dealing with, we need to make sure that they are truly born again. Without this first step, we will never be able to come to total healing and deliverance. We need to seek to know the condition of the root before we worry about the fruit itself.

#### F. Good fruits and bad fruit

Not every fruit that believers bear is good fruit.

These passages of scripture give good examples of how good fruit looks like.

- i) James 3:17 *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”*

This verse describes how good fruit looks like.

- a) Pure
- b) Peaceable
- c) Gentle
- d) Easy to be entreated
- e) Full of mercy
- f) Good fruits

- g) Without partiality
  - h) Without hypocrisy.
- 2) Galatians 5:22-23 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*
- a) Love
  - b) Joy
  - c) Peace
  - d) Longsuffering
  - e) Gentleness
  - f) Goodness
  - g) Faith
  - h) Meekness
  - i) Temperance

#### G. Praise and thanksgiving to God is fruit

Hebrews 13:15 *“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”*

- a) Thanksgiving unto the Lord is good fruit.

#### H. Fruit of righteousness

James 3:18 *“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”*

- a) Righteousness must have fruit. Those who are truly in right standing with Him must have the fruit of righteousness.

#### I. Fruitful unto every good work

Colossians 1:10 *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

- a) We are to be fruitful in EVERY good work by walking worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. Not is some or just a few.

b) One of the ways we can do that is by increasing in the knowledge of God.

## J. Know them by their fruits!

Matthew 7:16 *"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"*

Matthew 7:20 *"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."*

- a) It is sad to say that sometimes the unbelievers seem to be bearing more fruit than the believers.
- b) I must make this clear that it is possible for an unbeliever to bear fruit. That fruit will rather be temporal and many times, bad fruit. Fruit doesn't necessarily equal to true relationship with Jesus. Fruit doesn't save, but rather faith in the Lord Jesus.
- c) We are known by our fruits, not by our words. The fruits we produce speak volumes of who we are. Just as we tell the type of plant by its fruit, we can tell a lot about a person by just looking at the fruit.
- d) Anyone can claim to have faith, but true faith is examined by fruit, not profession.
- e) People's actions are an indicator of a person's spiritual condition.

### How to bear fruit

#### a) Desire the Word.

1 Peter 2:1-2 *"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

- i) Many people have been born again for years but they have been baby Christians ever since. They have never grown or matured. Although they are counting years they have been born again, they are old Christian babies.

ii) One of the ways we begin to bear fruit is by desiring the Word. An unfruitful Christian is typically one who does not desire the word.

iii) Planted by the rivers of water

*Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

If we are going to bear fruit, we need to be planted by the rivers of water. The Word of God is pivotal to bearing fruit.

#### b) Continue in the Word.

*John 8:30-32 "As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

i) Notice here in these verses that Jesus was speaking to those that had believed on Him. These were already believers, but they weren't disciples yet, so, Jesus told them how to become disciples. A true disciple must continue in the Word which will in return cause him to bear fruit. This is not a onetime thing but a continual process.

ii) A lack of consistency in the Word of God is a clear indication that one is not a disciple but a convert. You are to continue until you **know the truth** so that the **truth you now know makes you free**. The truth will not just set you free but will make you free.

iii) Being a believer is not all there is to relationship with God. We must advance to bearing fruit. Going to church for one hour a week will not cut it. **You need discipline, quality and quantity time!**

- iv) You must continue in the Word that it begins to reshape your thinking, lifestyle, morality, philosophy, politics, opinions, values and beliefs. This is fruitfulness.
  - v) A person that will believe contrary to the Word of God, holding opposing values to the Word for emotional reasons is not a disciple.
- Without the Word of God, there is no growth, but without continuing in it, there is no maturity. You have to continue in the Word of God if you are going to be fruitful. This ought to be the main goal for every single Christian.

1 Peter 2:1-2 *"Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow"*

- Many believers know some of the Word like John 3:16, Psalm 23 and so forth, but they do not continue therein. If we are going to bear much fruit, we want to continue in the Word.

Bearing fruit is tied to continuing in the Word.

i) Psalm 119:105 *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*

- If we need light and good vision, we need the Word of God. We can't see our path without light, God's Word is that light.

ii) Psalm 119:130 *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."*

- If we want understanding, it comes from the Word of God. A lack of understanding is a sign of the absence of the Word of God because it is that which brings light and understanding.

### c) Taking heed to the Word of God.

Psalm 119:9-11 *"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

- i) Disciples have a desire to take heed to the Word of God which in return cleanses their ways hence making them fruitful. So, we can safely say that if the Word of God has not cleansed our way, it is because we have not taken heed to it. If we are not fruitful, we can say that it is partly because we do not take heed to God's Word.

d) **Doer and continue therein.**

*James 1:22-25 "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso **looketh** into the perfect law of liberty, and **continueth therein**, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

- i) Some of the key determinations of whether we will bear fruit lies in whether we are doers of the Word, not on how much we know and the head knowledge we possess.
  - One of the ways we do the Word is by believing on the Lord Jesus (John 6:28-29)
- ii) These verses further emphasize the need to not just look into the Word, but continue in it. We can't just do it one time. If we are going to mature and become disciples and doers of the Word, we ought to continue in it. The key is in continuing. We just should not stop.

e) **Lord and Christ.**

*Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both **Lord and Christ.**"*

- i) A believer is someone who has made Jesus their savior, but **not the Lord of their daily life**, while a disciple is one who has made Jesus both Savior and Lord. Every believer should aspire and live life with the heart of making Jesus the Lord of their life.
- ii) When someone is your lord, he is your master. The word "Lord" means "One having power and authority over others. A ruler by preeminence to whom service and obedience are due."



- iii) If we are going to bear fruit, we need to make a conscious decision to make Jesus the Lord of our lives.

f) **Not conformed to this world.**

Romans 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

- i) If you have not aligned your thinking according to God's Word nor allowed the Word of God to shape, change or get in the way of what you believe, you will not be a fruitful Christian.
- ii) You ought to let the Word of God change your opinions, beliefs, values, philosophy and outlook on life. If we do not renew our minds, we will stay conformed to this world and we will miss out on being fruitful, knowing the good, acceptable and perfect will of God. Fruitfulness will follow the renewing of our minds by the Word of God.

g) **Love one another.**

*"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*—John 13:35

- i) One of the main characteristics of true disciples is that they love each other.
- ii) Loving one another is a sign or proof that one is a disciple or a mature follower of the Lord Jesus.

C. **Endures hardship.**

*"If you choose to bear fruit, you can't escape persecution."*—Rich Kanyali.

- a) *"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful*

*men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”—2 Timothy 2:1-4*

- i) Paul was very careful and selective in his instructions as to who to commit these truths to. He never committed those things that were heard of him to anyone, but to the believers who were “able to **teach**” and were “**faithful men.**”
  - ii) These believers being described by Paul are exactly equivalent to the description of a disciple—**bearing fruit**, mature, able to teach, and faithful.
- b) *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”—2 Timothy 3:12*
- i) If you turn up godliness a little, you will suffer persecution. Bearing fruit will have a price such as persecution.