

True Prophets—Confession or Fruit?

We know and have heard many people confess Jesus and mention that He came in the flesh. That's great according to these verses but there is a lot more to it than that as other passages of scripture reveal. There is more to a true profession of Jesus. It's not just saying the right things.

1 John 4:2-3 teaches that whoever doesn't confess that Jesus is come in the flesh is not of God nor speaking of God.

1 John 4:15 *Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*

- a) Confession is powerful. But there is a lot more to confession. Some have taken confession to the extreme. Did you know there are people that say the right things and because of that it gives them a belonging and a certain association, yet they do not belong.
- b) The power is not in what you confess, but what you believe in your heart. We all know people that use the name of Jesus, and they confess it, but do not believe in Jesus.

1 John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

- a) The word confess was translated from a Greek word: - HOMOLOGEO – it's a compound word made up of two words "HOMOU" and "LOGOS". HOMOU – **"the same"** and Logos **"something said"** so Homologeo means **"to speak the same thing."**
- b) When we are in sin, we are not saying, thinking, or doing the same thing as the Lord. But when we confess (speak the same thing) we are turning from our way of thinking and agreeing with the Lord that we have done wrong.

A. Believe in your heart

- a) Confess alone is not what brings you salvation.
- b) It is believing in your heart—Romans 10:9-10.

- c) If someone says the right thing yet does not believe in their heart, they have wasted their time. They have to believe.

B. Fruit

Matthew 7:16, 20 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

What are the fruits?

We were also told how to know them. This is talking about how we shall know the false prophets—by their fruits—evil fruits/bad fruits.

The word “*evil*” doesn’t always mean demonic as many have always thought and believed. It can also mean “bad or corrupt” (as used in this passage). We all know that fruits can’t be demon possessed in a way the word evil has come to mean in our present day and age.

Because they bring forth corrupt or evil fruit, they will be hewn down and cast into the lake of fire. We all know the lake of fire is for **unbelievers** not believers. We can also conclude that these false prophets were not believers.

Good fruit that one needs to bring forth or else they are cast into the lake of fire is believing on the Lord Jesus. Those who have not believed on the Lord do not have or aren’t bringing forth good fruit.

Some people take fruit to mean:

- a) Miracles performed
- b) Number of following congregants or churches
- c) Size of their ministry
- d) Money
- e) Major movements. Jehovah witness, the Mormons, the Jesuits, and many more have turned out to become major movements, yet they are false. That’s right I said! If you are surprised, I more for you. I have written a book to address these movement fallacies.

But all these can be faked and staged. There is got to be a better definition of fruit that is not based on big numbers, money, and wealth.

Let me submit to you what the fruit is based on the principle of Scripture interpreting scripture,

- a) General Fruit

- i) Believing on Jesus that He died for your sins and God raised Him up from the dead. This the general fruit.
- ii) Once we bring forth the general fruit, then we can certainly bring forth the specific fruit which others eat.

b) Specific Fruit

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Notice:

- i) It's not talking about what many call fruit. It's a character. Huge difference.
- ii) If you are walking in these then you are one heck of a fruity person. No tree eats its fruit.
- iii) This is how we measure fruitfulness.
- iv) If fruit is just size, money, numbers—then a lot of believers are not fruitful. But we know it's not true. Believers are fruitful and have the ability to bring forth this specific fruit just like the preacher.
- v) If fruit is not the external things, then there is no boasting

2 Peter 1:5-8 *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

- i) Notice after all these things are listed, it then talks about barrenness and unfruitfulness.
 - This brings out that these things are fruits which is why the word "unfruitfulness" is used.
- ii) If we lack these fruits, we are then barren and unfruitful (fruitless).
 - Just like in Galatians 5:22-23, these things listed here (2 Peter 1:5-8) are the true definition of fruit which we are all supposed to bring forth and they are the true measure of fruitfulness.

iii) If we have them and abound in them, we are then considered fruitful, nor barren in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Faith without works

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

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