

BEARING FRUIT

Bearing fruit means allowing the attributes of God described in Galatians 5 to be displayed in our lives.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ “Bearing fruit.” When we speak about bearing fruit, we are talking about the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ We are told that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
- ❖ The fruit of the Spirit is reflective of the divine nature of the almighty God.
- ❖ Jesus declared that it brings God glory when His disciples produce fruit.
- ❖ When it comes to glorifying God, we typically focus on singing praises, clapping our hands, dancing and shouting with a voice of triumph.
- ❖ But allowing the fruit of Spirit to be produced in our lives truly brings glory to God (John 15:8).
- ❖ “Bearing fruit” means allowing the attributes of God described in Galatians 5 to be displayed in our lives.
- ❖ The attributes of God that reside in us through the Holy Spirit must be transformed into virtues we live out.
- ❖ Personal transformation according to the scriptures is required to allow the fruit of the Spirit to be produced in a believer’s life. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17-18.)
- ❖ One might say it is a very simple thing to understand that followers of Jesus Christ are expected to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ The challenge comes in the process of allowing the fruit of the Spirit to be produced in our lives.
- ❖ It is important for us to recognize and understand that we cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit without God (John 15:1-7).
- ❖ As Jesus used an agricultural analogy to teach His disciples about the concept of bearing fruit, so can we utilize a planting analogy to help us better understand the process of allowing God to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.
- ❖ The planting process requires seed in order for fruit to be produced. When we review the parable of the Sower of the seed Jesus told in Matthew chapter 13 (vv. 1-9, 18-28), we understand there are several key elements in the production of fruit: seed, soil and water.
- ❖ The seed is the word of God. We need the word of God in our lives to produce the fruit of the Spirit.
- ❖ The Bible talks about the importance of showing love to each other, demonstrating kindness, being patient, and the need for faithfulness.
- ❖ We need the word of God to better understand the attributes of the Holy Spirit. The scripture actually tells us that the word of God is alive and powerful! (See Hebrews 4:12a.)

KEY SCRIPTURE: Galatians 5:22-25 (NLT)

- ❖ The word of God can bring to life the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.
- ❖ The soil represents the condition of our hearts when we receive the word of God.
- ❖ There are several heart conditions which are counterproductive to the development of fruit. It is important for us to evaluate our hearts in a sincere and honest way:
 - **THE HARD HEART** is reflective of resistance to some aspect of God’s word (i.e. we may have a problem with forgiveness)
 - **THE SHALLOW HEART** is reflective of believing God’s word on a shallow level or only when it is convenient
 - **THE DISTRACTED HEART** is reflective of someone who has multiple priorities aside from the word of God that they view as being either equal to or greater than the priority that is placed on God
 - **THE PRODUCTIVE HEART** is reflective of someone who received the word of God sincerely and allows the growth process to occur
- ❖ Jesus made it clear that a productive heart is required for the production of fruit.
- ❖ If a seed is not watered regularly, then it will face the potential of dying during the germination process. Germination is the growth of a plant contained in a seed.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit facilitates the growth of the word of God in our hearts, which in turn results in personal transformation.
- ❖ It is then through this personal transformation that we are able to allow the Lord to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In your own words, define the personal transformation the Bible speaks about in Galatians 5:22-24. Why is personal transformation vital in the process of bearing the fruit of the Spirit?
2. What does it mean to bring glory to God? Describe two ways in which bearing the fruit of the Spirit could bring glory to God.
3. Provide two examples of a Christian bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Discuss some challenges that believers may face when trying to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, please transform me into Your image, so that I can allow your Holy Spirit to produce fruit in my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Start-up: Have you ever “planted” something (i.e. seeds, money, etc.) and tried to help it grow? How were you able to know when it was harvest time?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

⚡ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD