

BEING PRODUCTIVE

Making Room for What Really Matters – Part 3 of 3

Margin is the space I create between my **LOAD** and my **LIMITS**.

The Bible word for using what God has given to you is called **STEWARDSHIP**.

KEY TRUTH #1: Productivity is always about making the most of what you've been **GIVEN** by God.

KEY TRUTH #2: It's not how much you get done, rather it's are you doing the **RIGHT** things.

The Bible doesn't use the word productivity. It uses the word **FRUITFULNESS** or bearing fruit.

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8

- Bearing fruit brings **GLORY** to God
- Bearing fruit **SHOWS** that I am a Christ Follower
- God wants me to bear **MUCH** fruit

"You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last!" John 15:16

- Bearing fruit is the **OUTCOME** of being in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

KEY OBSERVATION: An authentically productive life is one where the fruit **LASTS**.

"...I've been coming to look for fruit on this tree and still haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?" Luke 13:7

"Every fruit tree that doesn't bear fruit will be cut down." Matthew 3:10

KEY QUESTION: What is your definition of **SUCCESS**.

Action Steps Towards a Productive Life:

ACTION STEP #1: We must cultivate deep **ROOTS**.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes – its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and it never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

"The righteous cannot be uprooted." Proverbs 12:3

"They find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do." Psalm 1:2-3

"Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught." Colossians 2:6-7

ACTION STEP #2: We must eliminate the **WEEDS** from our life.

"The seed is the Word of God... The seed that falls among weeds stands for those who hear, but the worries and riches and pleasures of this life crowd in and choke them, and their fruit never ripens." Luke 8:14

ACTION STEP #3: We must cooperate with God's **PRUNING** in our life.

Jesus: "I am the True Vine and my Father is the gardener. He lops off every branch that doesn't produce. And he prunes those branches that bear fruit for even larger crops!" John 15:1-2

- Never confuse **PUNISHMENT** with pruning.

"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:11

ACTION STEP #4: We must patiently WAIT and EXPECT a harvest.

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life will lose it . . .” John 12:24-25

Jesus: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. But apart from me you can do nothing!” John 15:5