

## 06-22-2024 Lessons from the Berry Patch #11

### Pick the Big Ones #2

*“The biggest berries are in the middle of the vine.”*

Have you ever noticed that most of the time, the biggest, juiciest, plumpest, most delicious berries are way deep in the middle of the vine? Yep, they aren't easy to get, you must reach in deeply and carefully, I remind you of the issue of thorns .

If you want those big berries, you have to do more than just pick around the edges, those berries get that big because other pickers have chosen not to put forth the effort and take the chance of the thorns.

It is easy to dabble around the edges and fill our bucket with the smaller berries, but when we get home no one is going to look in the bucket and say “wow, look at that one!!!”

Our spiritual lives are like that, Paul teaches us that worthy goals require some effort:

1 Corinthians 9:

**24** Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

**25** Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

**26** Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

**27** but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified. <sup>NASB</sup>

It is so easy to be spiritually ordinary. One of the church crowd. The world is looking for authentic Christianity. We're not talking about some kind of “spiritual one-upmanship,” We're talking about being a genuine, devoted follower of Jesus Christ.” We're talking about living a consistent life of

commitment to Jesus Christ. We're talking about a life that is characterized by the, Fruit of the Spirit.

#### Galatians 5:

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. NASB

Do those, "Fruit of the Spirit" qualities dominate our lives?

Folks, let's dive headlong into following of The Lord! Like those berries, the best spiritual fruit may take a little effort to harvest.

Don't take the easy way, don't be ordinary. Pick the big berries out there in The Berry Patch!

