

Developing the Fruit of the Spirit

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

JOHN 15:2 NKJV

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a]takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Important Things to Note

1. God wants you to be fruitful. To be productive in the outer fruit of evangelism and the inner fruit of Christ-likeness. Jn.15:2
2. There are various levels of fruit bearing
 - a. Fruit. Jn.15:2a
 - b. More fruit. Jn.15:2b
 - c. Much fruit. Jn.15:5,8.
 - d. Permanent fruit. Jn.15:16;

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JOHN 15:5 NKJV

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:8

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

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JOHN 15:16 NKJV

*You did not choose Me, but I chose you
and appointed you that you should go and
bear fruit, and that your fruit should
remain, that whatever you ask the Father
in My name He may give you.*

Important Things to Note

3. The bible uses natural parallels to explain spiritual principles.
 - a. An example is the parable of the Sower where a natural example of how a farmer sows seeds is used to explain the method of building the kingdom of God. Matt.13:1-9, 18-23;
 - b. In another parable He used the natural example of a woman searching intensely for a lost coin to illustrate the intense concern we should have for those who are lost in sin. Lk.15:8-10;
 - c. This principle of natural and spiritual parallels is explained in 1Cor.15:44-46.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:44-46 NKJV

It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

Important Things to Note

4. Understanding this principle of natural parallels of spiritual truths results in new insights in the study of God's Word.
 - a. Jesus used the term "fruit" of the Spirit as a natural parallel of a spiritual truth
 - b. Certain conditions are necessary to produce fruit in the natural world. These are spiritual parallels of things necessary for production of spiritual fruit

Conditions For Producing Spiritual Fruit Derived From Natural Parallels.

1. Life.

- a. The first requirement for development of the fruit of the Spirit is life. Just as life in the natural world comes through seed, life in the spiritual world came through the Seed of Jesus Christ. Gen.3:15; Jn.1:4; 5:26; 10:10b
- b. That Seed of life, Jesus Christ, must be living in you. You cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit if you do not have a personal relationship with Him because... Jn.15:5

GENESIS 3:15 NKJV

*And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed; He shall
bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*

JOHN 1:4

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

JOHN 5:26 NKJV

For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

JOHN 10:10B

10 ...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

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2 Water

- a. Water is necessary to produce fruit in the natural world. Water is one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Similarly, the water of the Holy Spirit is necessary to produce fruit in the spirit world. It quenches your spiritual thirst, refreshes you and generates spiritual growth: Jn.7:38-39; Isa.44:3

JOHN 7:38-39 NKJV

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those [a]believing in Him would receive; for the [b]Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified

ISAIAH 44:3 NKJV

*For I will pour water on him who is
thirsty, And floods on the dry
ground; I will pour My Spirit on your
descendants, And My blessing on
your offspring;*

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3. Light

- a. It is response to light that stimulates growth in the natural fruit bearing process.
- b. Light represents the word of God. It is your response to the light of God's Word that produces the fruit of the Spirit. 1 Jn.1:5-7

1 JOHN 1:5-7 NKJV

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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4. Air.

- a. Carbon dioxide is drawn in by the natural plant from the air which surrounds it. This is necessary for growth and fruit production. In the Word of God the Holy Spirit is compared to air or wind. Jn.3:8
- b. The "wind" of the Holy Spirit blowing across your life is much like the wind in the natural world. It scatters the seeds of the Word of God, separates the wheat from the chaff in your spiritual life, and fans the dying coals of your spiritual zeal to set you ablaze for God

JOHN 3:8 NKJV

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

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5. Space:

- a. In Matthew 13 in the parable of the Sower, competition for space choked out some plants. Believers must be set apart from the world in order to produce spiritual fruit. Matt.13:22
- b. You are not to be conformed to the ways of the world. You are to be transformed [changed] into the ways of God: Rom.12:2a
- c. God clears space around you [sets you apart from the world] to permit you to grow spiritually: Ps.4:3; Gal.1:15; 2Cor.6:17

MATTHEW 13:22 NKJV

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

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ROMANS 12:2A NKJV

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

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PSALM 4:3 NKJV

*But know that the Lord has [a]set apart for
Himself him who is godly; The Lord will hear
when I call to Him.*

GALATIANS 1:15

*But when it pleased God, who separated me
from my mother's womb*

2 CORINTHIANS 6:17 NKJV

Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

Conditions For Producing Spiritual Fruit Derived From Natural Parallels.

6. Root System

- a. Roots are necessary to anchor and supply nutrients to the plant. Psalms 1 tells how to develop a root system in your spiritual life: Ps.1:1-3
- b. You must be rooted in Christ to be fruitful. Col.2:6-7
- c. You must be rooted in love. Eph.3:17
- d. You must be rooted in the church. Ps.92:13-14;

PSALM 1:1-3 NKJV

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the [a]ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he [b]meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the [c]rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

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COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 NKJV

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding [a]in it with thanksgiving.

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EPHESIANS 3:17 NKJV

*that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith; that you, being rooted
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PSALM 92:13-14 NKJV

*Those who are planted in the house of the
Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God.
14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They
shall be [a]fresh and [b]flourishing*

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7. Rest

- a. Dormancy [rest] occupies a specific season in the natural growth cycle of plants. Dormancy is a period during which the plant may appear to be dead because there is no growth. It is a period of rest for the plant, and it usually occurs right before a period of very rapid growth. In the natural world, God commanded times of rest for the land. Lev.25:5
- b. One of the purposes of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to bring spiritual rest and refreshing. This spiritual refreshing results in rapid growth of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: Heb.4:9; Isa.28:11-12

LEVITICUS 25:5 NKJV

What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land.

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HEBREWS 4:9 NKJV

There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

ISALAH 28:11-12

For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, 12 To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear.

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8. Soil:

- a. In order to produce fruit, Both in the natural and spiritual worlds, the ground must be properly prepared. In the parable of the Sower in Matt.13 it was the condition of the soil that affected the growth of the seed.
- b. Your heart is like soil in the natural world. If your heart is hard and filled with things of the world that choke out the Word of God, you will not bear spiritual fruit.
- c. It is your responsibility to prepare the spiritual soil of your heart to respond properly to God's Word: Hos.10:12; Prov.16:1

HOSEA 10:12 NKJV

*Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy;
Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the
Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.*

PROVERBS 16:1

*The preparations[a] of the heart belong to man, But
the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.*

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9. Death:

- a. Every time you plant a seed to produce fruit, it does not come to life unless it dies first. Jn.12:24; 1Cor.15:36
- b. Spiritual life depends on death to the things of the world. It requires death to sin, worldly desires, and pleasures. Death to the world results in the development of the fruit of Christ- likeness in your life.

JOHN 12:24 NKJV

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much [a]grain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:36

Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies.

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10.Attached to the vine:

- a. In order to bear fruit in the natural world a branch must be attached to the main plant. If the branch is broken off from the main life-giving vine it will not bear fruit. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. In order to bear spiritual fruit we must maintain our relationship to Him: Jn.15:1-5

JOHN 15:1-5 NKJV

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a]takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

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11.Pruning

- a. Pruning is necessary in the natural world if a plant is to remain reproductive and bear fruit. When a farmer prunes a plant he cuts off the unproductive branches in order to make the plant produce more fruit. He removes everything which would hinder the growth of the plant.
- b. Pruning is also necessary in the spiritual world. Spiritual pruning is correction by God. When God "prunes" He removes from your life everything which would hinder your spiritual growth. This process is necessary if you are to bear spiritual fruit. Jn.15:2; Hos.6:1

JOHN 15:2 NKJV

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HOSEA 6:1 NKJV

*Come, and let us return to the Lord;
For He has torn, but He will heal us;
He has stricken, but He will [a]bind
us up.*

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12.Climate

- a. In the natural world, many types of fruit are developed in environments that are specially controlled called "Greenhouses", to protect them from the real environment. If you take a "Greenhouse" plant and move it outside, It cannot withstand the environment of the real world.
- b. Spiritually speaking, we do not want greenhouse Christians who look good in controlled settings but wilt on contact with the real world. Spiritual fruit should be just as evident in our contacts with the world as it is in the controlled settings of Christian friends or the church

ALTAR CALL

Lord Jesus, I am a sinner and I need you to save me. I believe you died for me and rose up on the third day that I may be justified. Today, Lord Jesus, I confess and repent of all my sins; I forsake them; forgive me Lord Jesus; come into my heart Lord Jesus; be my Lord and savior; from today I promise to serve you in the name of Jesus

Contact us – Shilohttop@gmail.com or www.shilohttop.com

PRAYER 1

Father in the name of Jesus, empower me and every member of this church to access and utilize the spiritual water, air, light, rest and climate necessary to be fruitful; engrace each one of us to be separate from the world, remain attached to the vine, submit to pruning, die to self and develop the right soil and root system to produce abundant and permanent fruit both of Christlikeness and of souls in the name of Jesus. Jn.15:1-5,8,16; 3:8; 12:24;

PRAYER 2

Now Pray for yourself. For your specific need. For your expectation, this month and this year. Php.4:6

MATTHEW 7:7-8

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened