



Fruitful

Part 3

May 19, 2024

The Gospel of Saint John 15:1-11, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you

can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

1. When Our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand that the Fruit of the Spirit will only Grow and the Gifts of the Spirit will only manifest with Power when the Works of the Flesh have Been Put to Death!

- a. The decision to live for Christ is a daily decision; and it is said decision that requires that we die to ourselves in so that we might live unto Christ!

b. The Gospel of Saint Luke 9:23-26, “²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.”

c. Deny who? = Yourself – I want to address an issue that I see manifesting within the post-modern church that I feel is necessary to address in light of this text of Scripture. Allow me to give you an example.

- i. “But Pastor, I am not convicted about FILL IN THE BLANK”
- ii. Church, your lack of conviction is moot if your actions are either forbidden or in direct violation of the Word of God.
- iii. We live in a society today where it seems that far too many base their convictions upon their emotions. “Well, I don’t feel that it is wrong.”

- iv. And that's the problem; The Word of God doesn't consult our feelings to determine if a matter is right or wrong. God Himself determines that and not your feelings.
- v. Church, our convictions should be based upon the Word of God and not our emotional response to a situation or circumstance. If the Bible says that it is wrong then it is wrong; our feelings on the matter ultimately do not matter. It says what it says and the Word of God is the final authority for life and living for the Christian; not how we feel about a matter.
- vi. Some may be offended by these prior statements but I want it understood I would rather offend you with the truth in hope that it brings Biblical conviction and correction rather than charm you with a lie so I can help you feel better about yourself or your actions.
- vii. **"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself"** This includes your feelings and your emotions...

d. Take Up what? = Your Cross

- i. When we take up our Cross, we are choosing to die to ourselves.
- ii. We cannot follow Christ and in turn live in Sin and Rebellion; we are following ourselves and our desires when we live in such a manner.
- iii. We are only able to follow Christ when we died to ourselves...

e. Follow Who? = Christ and not ourselves

- i. It is abundantly clear that if we are to state that we are Followers of Christ then my question for all of us is, “Where’s Your Cross?”
- ii. The Cross of Christ requires that we die to ourselves, our desires, our opinions, our perspectives, and our feelings in so that Christ can be magnified in and through our lives!
- iii. You can’t follow Christ and follow your own Passions? You can’t be a slave to two masters!
- iv. Remember Galatians 5:24-25, ²⁴ “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”

- v. Remember today that When our lives become Fruitful in our Faith, we understand that the Fruit of the Spirit will only Grow and the Gifts of the Spirit will only manifest with Power when the Works of the Flesh have Been Put to Death!

2. When Our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand that it is the Holy Spirit that Empowers Us to Live the Life of Faith that Christ has called Us Too!

- a. It is the value and impact of this balancing act that enables us to fulfill the Great Commission! But also, in conjunction to the Great Commission, the Fruit of the Spirit signifies our capacity to become more like Christ!
- b. Romans 8:26-29 records, ²⁶“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also

predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

- c. Whose image? Christ's image. And this image is formed by the Holy Spirit operating in and through our lives therefore causing all things to work together for our good.
- d. The way to be transformed into His Image is to allow the Holy Spirit to bring the Image of Christ through the Character of Christ (The Fruit of the Holy Spirit) being made manifest in our lives for others to see!
- e. One of the scariest scriptures in the entirety of the Bible, in my opinion, is found in Hebrews 10:26-31, ²⁶“For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine;

I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

- f. This passage of text offers to us a very sobering reality that should shake all of us from our lethargy! If we perpetuate a spirit of rebellion unto sin after having come unto the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sin.
- g. The point is this; if we refuse to repent when we have been confronted with truth and grace and continue to live in sin then judgment is going to come upon our lives.
- h. For example, the Apostle Paul gives us insight into this matter found in his letter to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18-20, “¹⁸This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰among whom are Hymenæus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”
- i. And when we walk in the Holy Spirit, we don't have to strain to bring our lives into order bur rather simply stay in step with the Spirit of God and follow His Divine Leading. (Dancing – Stay in Step and let the Spirit lead)

- j. Remember today that when Our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand that it is the Holy Spirit that Empowers Us to Live the Life of Faith that Christ has called Us Too!

3. When Our Lives become Fruitful in our Faith, We Understand The Power of the Holy Ghost in Our Lives is the Signet of Heaven!

- a. The Book of Romans 14:17 records, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
- b. Righteousness – The Holy Spirit is Heaven’s Seal of Redemption because the Spirit of God can not dwell in an unregenerate soul!
 - i. You are the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!
 - 1. When the Holy Spirit calls you out on Sin, it is the Father calling you higher! Receive His Call to come up higher!
 - ii. The Holy Ghost is Heaven’s Seal of Approval!
- c. Peace
 - i. Romans 8:6, “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”
 - ii. When we live with our heart and mind set on the Holy Spirit, Life and Peace become the Norm. Choose Peace and Life!

d. Joy

- i. 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7, “⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.”
- ii. The Joy of the Holy Spirit enables you to navigate the attacks of the Enemy! The Weapon may form against but it will not prosper against you, in Jesus Name!

Altar time with focus on Prayer for Joy and Peace