

YOU WILL BE **KNOWN** — BY THEIR — *Fruits*

LUKE 3:8, 10

8 “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

10 “And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

MATTHEW 7:16-20

You will know them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit Thus, by their fruits you will know them.



NOT EVERYONE WHO LOOKS GOOD **BEARS GOOD FRUIT**

MATTHEW 7:16

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.



A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT. SO IT IS WITH PEOPLE.
LET US BEAR GOOD FRUIT THAT GLORIFIES GOD.



LUKE 8:5-8

5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was **sprung up**, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns **sprang up**, with it, and choked it.

8 And other fell on good ground, and **sprang up**, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.



BY THE WAY SIDE
The seed of the word that is snatched away before it can take root.
(*Not Christian*)



UPON A ROCK
The word receives joy for a while, **sprung up**, but falls away in tribulation.
(*Christian*)



AMONG THORNS
The word is **sprang up**, but the cares, riches, and pleasures of life choke it.
(*Christian*)



ON GOOD GROUND
The word is **sprang up**, and bears fruit an hundredfold.
(*Christian*)

➤ THE WORD OF GOD IS THE SEED. THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE HEART. ➤

THE FOUR KINDS OF HEARTS

— The Explanation of the Parable – Luke 8:11-15 —

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

① BY THE WAYSIDE (LUKE 8:12)



12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.



- Hear the word
- Satan comes immediately
- Takes the word away
- No belief, no salvation

THE HEART THAT NEVER RECEIVES
The word is snatched away.

② ON THE ROCK (LUKE 8:13)



13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.



- Hear the word
- Receive with joy
- No root
- Believe for a while
- In time of temptation, fall away.

THE HEART THAT IS SHALLOW
No root, no stability.

③ AMONG THORNS (LUKE 8:14)



14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.



- Hear the word
- Go forth
- Choked with cares, riches, and pleasures
- Bring no fruit to perfection

THE HEART THAT IS DISTRACTED
Choked by the things of this life.

④ ON GOOD GROUND (LUKE 8:15)



15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.



- Hear the word
- Honest and good heart
- Keep the word
- Bring forth fruit with patience

THE HEART THAT BEARS FRUIT
Hears, keeps, and produces.

ONE SEED – FOUR SOILS – FOUR RESULTS

— What kind of ground is your heart? —

Luke 8:11-15

LUKE 8:13

“And others fell on the rocky ground,
and as they heard, they **believed for a while**;
but in time of testing they **fell away**.”

THEY BELIEVE FOR A WHILE

Greek: πιστεύω (pisteuō)
Present Active Indicative
Continuous action in
the present.
They are believing...
for a while.

THEN THEY FALL AWAY

Greek: ἀφίστημι (aphístēmi)
**To fall away, to become
faithless, to apostatize.**
In time of testing,
they become faithless
and fall away.

WHY THEY HAD NO ROOT

They did not have
faith and love.

Without **faith**,
Christ cannot dwell
in the heart.

Without **love**,
they are not rooted
deeply.

EPHESIANS 3:17

“¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith, as you are being
rooted and grounded in love.”

THROUGH FAITH

Christ dwells in
your hearts
through faith.

ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE

Love anchors
and sustains.
It goes deep
and endures.

SURFACE BELIEF

BELIEVE FOR A WHILE,
THEN BECOME FAITHLESS

THE DIFFERENCE IS
FAITH AND LOVE

DEEP, LASTING LIFE

ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE
THROUGH FAITH

FRUITS REVEAL THE TRUTH. GOD EXPECTS FRUIT.

Only what remains and bears fruit is accepted by God.

MATTHEW 7:19



Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

THE STANDARD:

No good fruit = judgment.
Fruitless works are worthless before God.



MATTHEW 21:43



Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

THE TRANSFER:

The kingdom belongs to those who bear the fruit that God requires.



JOHN 15:2



Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

THE PROCESS:

God removes what is fruitless and prunes what is fruitful so it can produce more.



JOHN 15:5-6



- 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

THE SOURCE & RESULT:

Abiding in Christ produces much fruit.
Separation from Christ leads to spiritual death and judgment.



THE PRINCIPLE:
GOD IS LOOKING FOR FRUIT.



GOOD FRUIT
BRINGS LIFE
AND BLESSING.



NO FRUIT
BRINGS REMOVAL
AND JUDGMENT.

EXAMINE YOUR LIFE.
ABIDE IN CHRIST.
BEAR MUCH FRUIT.
TO THE GLORY OF GOD.



THE EARLY CHURCH (PRE-NICENE)

Operating on More Knowledge. Seeking the Whole Counsel of God.

MORE BOOKS. MORE CONTEXT. MORE UNDERSTANDING.

The early believers had access to a wider range of apostolic and early church writings that helped illuminate and explain the Scriptures.

BOOKS USED AND VALUED BY THE EARLY CHURCH

THE DIDACHE OF THE APOSTLES

Church order, baptism, communion, fasting, prayer, and the way of life.



THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS

Vision, repentance, church discipline, pastoral instruction and encouragement.



THE EPISTLE OF BARNABAS

Christology, Old Testament interpretation, unity of Jew and Gentile believers.



HOW IT HELPED THEM UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ✓ Clarified difficult passages
- ✓ Revealed the meaning behind doctrines
- ✓ Showed how to live out the faith
- ✓ Preserved apostolic tradition and practice

THE RESULT: A RICHER, DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

The early church operated with more complete information, unity in doctrine, and a fuller understanding of God's will.

VS

THE CHURCH TODAY (PROTESTANTISM)

Operating on Less Knowledge. Missing Parts of the Story.

FEWER BOOKS. LESS CONTEXT. LIMITED UNDERSTANDING.

Most Protestant churches only use 66 books, leaving out important early church writings that once helped build the faith.

ONLY THE 66 BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



THE RESULT: LIMITED UNDERSTANDING

- ✗ Many questions remain unanswered
- ✗ Doctrines lack historical context
- ✗ Misunderstandings and divisions arise
- ✗ Believers are easier to deceive

THE PROBLEM: AN INCOMPLETE PICTURE

By not seeking the whole counsel of God, the church today operates with limited doctrine and a limited vision of truth.

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

God's truth is like a complete puzzle. Remove pieces and the picture is incomplete.



Seeking less leads to understanding less.

THE CHURCH TODAY

- ✗ Does not seek beyond the 66 books
- ✗ Ignores early church writings
- ✗ Limits understanding
- ✗ Doctrine is shallow and divided

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." – John 16:12

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." – 2 Timothy 2:15

THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR.

MORE KNOWLEDGE LEADS TO MORE UNDERSTANDING.

Seek. Study. Compare. Discern. Receive the whole counsel of God.

THOSE WHO **DO NOT** SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Those who have never searched for the **TRUTH**, nor investigated the **NATURE** of the Divinity, but have simply **BELIEVED**, when they devote themselves to and become mixed up with **BUSINESS**, and **WEALTH**, and **HEATHEN** friendships, and many other actions of this world, do not perceive the **PARABLES** of Divinity; for their minds are **DARKENED** by these actions, and they are **CORRUPTED** and become **DRIED UP**.

Even as beautiful vines, when they are neglected, are **WITHERED UP** by thorns and various plants, so men who have **BELIEVED**, and have afterwards **FALLEN AWAY** into many of those actions above mentioned, **GO ASTRAY** in their minds, and **LOSE ALL UNDERSTANDING** in regard to righteousness; for if they hear of righteousness, their minds are occupied with their **BUSINESS**, and they give **NO HEED AT ALL**.

THOSE WHO **DO** SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Those, on the other hand, who have the **FEAR** of **GOD**, and search after **GODHEAD** and **TRUTH**, and have their hearts **TURNED TO THE LORD**, quickly **PERCEIVE** and **UNDERSTAND** what is said to them, because they have the **FEAR** of the **LORD** in them. For where the **LORD** dwells, there is much **UNDERSTANDING**.

SEEK THE TRUTH. FEAR THE LORD. WALK IN UNDERSTANDING.

THE ELECT AND THEIR RODS

— THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS —
— BOOK THREE: SIMILITUDE EIGHT —



A glorious angel of the Lord cuts little twigs from the willow and distributes them to all who are called by the name of the Lord. After all receive their branches, he asks for them back, examines the branches, and separates the people according to what is found.

CHAPTER 1 – THE BRANCHES ARE RETURNED AND EXAMINED

1. WITHERED AND MOTH-EATEN  Ordered to stand apart.	2. WITHERED (NOT MOTH-EATEN)  Ordered to stand apart.	3. HALF-WITHERED  Ordered to stand apart.	4. HALF-WITHERED WITH CRACKS  Ordered to stand apart.	5. GREEN WITH CRACKS  Ordered to stand apart.	6. HALF WITHERED HALF GREEN  Ordered to stand apart.
7. TWO-THIRDS GREEN ONE-THIRD WITHERED  Ordered to stand apart.	8. TWO-THIRDS WITHERED ONE-THIRD GREEN  Ordered to stand apart.	9. NEARLY ALL GREEN (TIPS WITHERED, WITH CRACKS)  Ordered to stand apart.	10. VERY LITTLE GREEN (MOSTLY WITHERED)  Ordered to stand apart.	11. GREEN AS RECEIVED (NO CRACKS)  Stood apart. Angel was exceedingly pleased with them.	12. GREEN WITH OFFSHOOTS (NO FRUIT)  Stood apart. Angel was exceedingly delighted with them.
13. GREEN WITH OFFSHOOTS AND FRUIT  Those men were exceedingly joyful. The angel was exultant, and the Shepherd rejoiced greatly.					

CHAPTER 2 – THE ANGEL'S DISMISSAL AND THE PLANTING OF THE BRANCHES



Those with offshoots and fruit were crowned with palm crowns and sent into the tower.



Those green with offshoots but no fruit were sent into the tower with seals.



Those green as received were set free, given clothing and seals.

The angel says he will try any who escape at the altar.



The Shepherd plants all the branches in rows and waters them.



After a few days they will return to see which live; for God desires all who received branches to live.

CHAPTER 3 – THE EXPLANATION



The great willow tree is the law of God (Christ) proclaimed to the ends of the earth.



Those under its shadow are they who have heard the proclamation and believed.



The angel Michael is he who gave the law and examines the people to see if they kept it.



The branches are the law given to each one.



Those crowned went to the tower because they suffered for the law.



Those with offshoots but no fruit were afflicted for the law but did not deny it.



Those green as received are the venerable, just, and pure in heart who kept the commandments.

CHAPTER 4 – THE BRANCHES EXAMINED AFTER THEY WERE PLANTED

After a few days the Shepherd has them bring out their branches in the same order.



Withered and cut



Ordered to stand apart.



Withered (not cut)



Ordered to stand apart.



Withered and moth-eaten



Ordered to stand apart.



Half-withered with cracks



Ordered to stand apart.



Green and without cracks



Stood apart.



Green with offshoots and fruit



Stood apart with exceeding joy.

All are arranged in their respective ranks according to what their branches reveal.

THE PURPOSE



Repentance is open to all who turn from their wickedness and do not add to their sins.



The Lord is long-suffering and desires all men to be saved.



He gives healing for former transgressions to those who repent with their whole heart.



The Shepherd plants, waters, and waits in hope that the branches will live.



The tower is the dwelling of those who are found faithful and who repent.

“Go and tell them to every one, that they may repent, and they shall live unto God.” – Similitude 11



THE ELECT AND THEIR RODS

THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS – BOOK THREE: SIMILITUDE EIGHT

EXPLANATION OF THE BRANCHES – CHAPTERS 5–8

“Go and tell them to every one,
that they may repent,
and they shall live unto God.”

— Similitude 11



THE VISION

A glorious angel cuts twigs from the willow and gives them to all who are called by the name of the Lord. Later he asks for them back and examines each branch.

According to what each man returns, he is placed in his proper rank.

THE OUTCOME



REPENT AND FAITHFUL
Crowned and sent into the Tower. Their clothing is white as snow.



REPENT – HOPE REMAINS
Receive a seal and dwell within the Walls until they fully repent.



NO REPENTANCE – PERISH
Cast out and tried at the altar. They lose their lives.



THE TREE

The law of God (Christ), proclaimed to the ends of the earth. Though many branches are cut, the tree remains sound.

“Repentance is possible
to all who will turn with
their whole heart.
Repent, and live unto God.”
— Similitude 11

CHAPTER 5 – THE BRANCHES EXAMINED (Part 1)

1. GREEN, BUT CRACKED



All these gave them in green, and stood in their own row. The Shepherd was pleased with these, because they were all changed, and had lost their cracks.

2. HALF-GREEN HALF-WITHERED



Some became completely green; some half-withered; some withered and eaten; some green with offshoots. Each to his own row.

3. TWO-THIRDS GREEN ONE-THIRD WITHERED



Many became half-withered; others withered and rotten; others half-withered and cracked, and a few green. Each to his own row.

4. NEARLY ALL GREEN (SLIGHTLY WITHERED & CRACKED)



Some became green; others green with offshoots. These also went away to their own row.

5. VERY LITTLE GREEN MOSTLY WITHERED



Most were found mostly green with offshoots and fruit on the offshoots; others entirely green. The Shepherd was exceedingly pleased.

CHAPTER 6 – THE MEANING OF THE BRANCHES

1. WITHERED AND MOTH-EATEN



Apostates and traitors who blasphemed the Lord in their sins, and were ashamed of His name. **Not one repented. Lost unto God.**

2. WITHERED (UNDECAYED)



Hypocrites, introducers of strange doctrines, subverters of God's servants; they hinder sinners from repentance. Many repented; some will repent. Hope of repentance.

3. HALF-WITHERED AND CRACKED



Wavering and slanderers, never at peace. Some repented and have hope of repentance. Those who repent dwell in the tower; the rest perish.

4. GREEN, BUT CRACKED



Always faithful and good, but striving for first places and fame. Repented and purified themselves. Their dwelling is in the tower; relapse leads to being cast out and death.

5. HALF-GREEN HALF-WITHERED



Immersed in business, do not cleave to the saints, deny the Lord. Many repented; some doubted. Repent quickly for tower; delay, walls; none, death.

6. TWO-THIRDS WITHERED ONE-THIRD GREEN



Denied the Lord in various ways. Many repented; some hesitated and doubted. Repent quickly and do not remain in pleasures; abide in deeds and you work to yourselves death.

CHAPTER 7 – THE BLANTING AND WATERING



The Shepherd plants all the branches in rows and waters them. The tree (the law of God) is tenacious of life. Many who received moisture and heard the Words repented and were saved.

CHAPTER 8 – THE OUTCOME ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPONSE

1. REPENT QUICKLY AND SINCERELY



Dwelling in the Tower. Crowned, sealed, and clothed in white.

2. REPENT SLOWLY OR HESITATE (DOUBT)



Dwelling within the Walls. Hope remains while they repent.

3. DO NOT REPENT AND ABIDE IN DEEDS



Cast out. No hope. They perish and lose their lives.

THE BRANCHES – A SUMMARY (13 KINDS)

1

Withered
& moth-eaten



2

Withered
(not moth-eaten)



3

Half-withered



4

Half-withered
with cracks



5

Green
with cracks



6-8

Half-withered
half green



7

Two-thirds green
one-third
withered



8

Two-thirds
withered
one-third green



9

Nearly all green
(slightly withered
& cracked)



10

Very little green
(mostly
withered)



11

Green as
received
(no cracks)



12

Green with
offshoots
(no fruit)



12

Green with
offshoots
(no fruit)



13

Green with
offshoots
and fruit



THE SEAL OF GOD

SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.

EPHESIANS 4:30 (KJV)

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed unto the day of redemption.**

SEALED
BY THE
HOLY SPIRIT



SEALED = SECURED, SET APART, PROTECTED
UNTIL THE DAY OF REDEMPTION



OUR HOPE IS IN THE DAY OF REDEMPTION
WHEN GOD WILL REDEEM HIS PEOPLE.



THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS

BOOK THREE: SIMILITUDE 8

THE SEAL CAN BE BROKEN BY SOME OF THE ELECT

CHAPTER 5



Then they gave in their branches who had them green, but cracked: all these gave them in green, and stood in their own row. And the Shepherd was pleased with these, because they were all changed, and had lost their cracks.

CHAPTER 6



And they also gave in who had them half-green and half-withered: of some, accordingly, the half was withered, but the half was green. And the Shepherd said unto me: **These have indeed been well for a time, but afterward they became evil.**

CHAPTER 7



And they gave in who had them quite withered: and, lo, their fruit was fallen, and their leaves were withered. And the Shepherd said: These are they who have been elect, but afterward have become evil, and **have broken the seal.**

CHAPTER 8



Then said I: Lord, what is this? And he said unto me: These are they who have been counted worthy of the Church, but afterward are found unworthy; for which cause **the seal is taken away from them.**

SOME OF THE ELECT BREAK THE SEAL BY TURNING AWAY.

LET US HOLD FAST IN FAITH AND OBEDIENCE UNTIL THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.

HEB. 6:4-6 | 2 PET. 2:20-22 | REV. 3:5

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEEKS TO DEPART

THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS
BOOK 2: THE COMMANDMENTS



COMMANDMENT 5

THE SPIRIT DEPARTS FROM THE UNREPENTANT

THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU

THE QUALITIES AND RESPONSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“For if you be patient, **the Holy Spirit** that dwells in you will be **pure**. He will not be darkened by any **evil** spirit, but, dwelling in a broad region, he will **rejoice** and be **glad**; and with the vessel in which he dwells he will serve God in **gladness**, having great **peace** within himself.

But if any outburst of **anger** take place, immediately **the Holy Spirit**, who is tender, is straitened, not having a pure place, and **He seeks to depart**. For he is choked by the vile spirit, and cannot attend on the Lord as he wishes, for **anger** pollutes him.

For the Lord dwells in long-suffering, but the **devil** in **anger**.

The two spirits, then, when dwelling in the same habitation, are at discord with each other, and are troublesome to that man in whom they dwell.”

WHEN YOU WALK IN PATIENCE



The **Holy Spirit** dwells in you and is **pure**.



He is not darkened by any **evil** spirit.



He will **rejoice** and be **glad**.



He will serve God in **gladness** and **peace**.

WHEN YOU WALK IN ANGER



If **anger** breaks out...



The **Holy Spirit** is straitened and **seeks to depart**.



He is choked by the **vile spirit** and cannot serve.



The **devil** dwells in **anger** and causes discord.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEEKS TO DEPART

THE SHEPHERD OF HERMAS – BOOK 2: THE COMMANDMENTS – COMMANDMENT 5, CHAPTER 2

For when all these spirits dwell in one vessel in which the **Holy Spirit** also dwells, the vessel cannot contain them, but overflows. The tender Spirit, then, not being accustomed to dwell with the **wicked spirit**, nor with hardness, withdraws from such a **man**, and seeks to dwell with **meekness** and **peacefulness**.

Then, when he withdraws from the man in whom he dwelt, the man is **emptied of the righteous Spirit**; and being henceforward filled with **evil spirits**, he is in a state of **anarchy** in every action, being dragged here and there by the **evil spirits**, and there is a complete darkness in his mind as to everything good.

This, then, is what happens to all the **angry**. Wherefore do you depart from that most **wicked** spirit **anger**, and put on **patience**, and resist **anger** and **bitterness**, and you will be found in company with the **purity** which is loved by the Lord.^x

1. ALL THESE SPIRITS DWELL IN ONE VESSEL, IT OVERFLOWS



2. THE TENDER SPIRIT WITHDRAWS



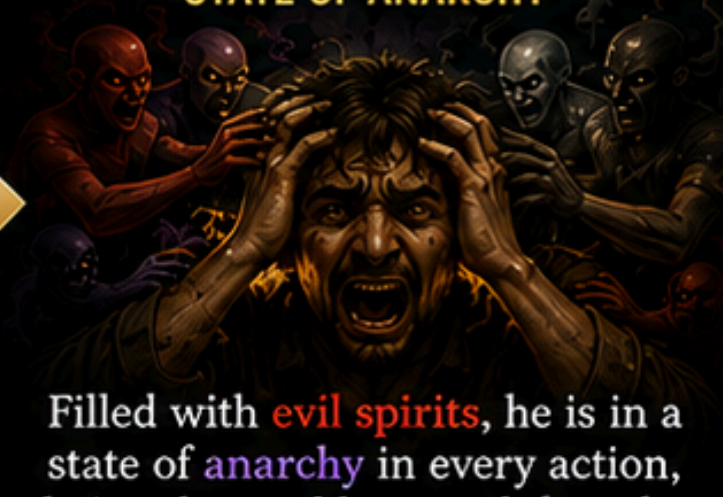
The **Holy Spirit**, not being accustomed to dwell with the **wicked spirit** nor with hardness, withdraws from such a man, and seeks to dwell with **meekness** and **peacefulness**.

3. THE MAN IS EMPTIED OF THE RIGHTEOUS SPIRIT



He withdraws from the man... and the man is **emptied of the righteous Spirit**.

4. FILLED WITH EVIL SPIRITS – STATE OF ANARCHY



Filled with **evil spirits**, he is in a state of **anarchy** in every action, being dragged here and there by the **evil spirits**, and there is a complete darkness in his mind as to everything good.

5. TURN FROM ANGER – PUT ON PATIENCE AND PURITY



Depart from that most **wicked** spirit **anger**, and put on **patience**, and resist **anger** and **bitterness**, and you will be found in company with the **purity** which is loved by the Lord.

1 SAMUEL 16:14 (KJV)

And the **Spirit of the LORD** departed from Saul, and **an evil spirit** from the LORD troubled him.



SAUL: HE ONCE HAD THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE SPIRIT CAME MIGHTILY
UPON SAUL

1 SAMUEL 10:6



“And the Spirit of the LORD will come mightily upon thee...”

1 SAMUEL 10:9

“As he turned away to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.”



SAUL WAS ANOINTED AS KING



THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME UPON HIM



HE WAS EMPOWERED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE



BUT DUE TO DISOBEDIENCE, THE HOLY SPIRIT LEFT HIM

1 SAMUEL 16:14

“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”

WHY THE SPIRIT LEFT SAUL



He spared what God commanded him to destroy. (1 Samuel 15:9)



He disobeyed the direct command of the LORD. (1 Samuel 15:13)



Disobedience caused God to reject him as king. (1 Samuel 15:26)



GOD'S SPIRIT CAN COME UPON A PERSON... BUT DISOBEDIENCE CAN CAUSE THE SPIRIT TO DEPART.

After the Shepherd had examined the branches of them all, he said to me, "I told you that this tree was tenacious of life. You see," he continued, "how many **REPENTED** and were **SAVED**. "I see, sir," I replied. "That you may behold," he added, "the great mercy of the Lord, that it is great and **GLORIOUS**, and that He has given His Spirit to those who are worthy of **REPENTANCE**."

"Why then, sir," I said, "did not all these repent?" He answered, "To them whose heart He saw would become pure, and **OBEDIENT** to Him, He gave power to repent with the whole heart. But to them whose deceit and **WICKEDNESS** He perceived, and saw that they intended to repent hypocritically, He did not grant repentance, lest they should again profane His name."

I said to him, "Sir, show me now, with respect to those who gave in the branches, of what sort they are, and their abode, in order that they hearing it who **BELIEVED**, and received the seal, and broke it, and did not keep it whole, may, on coming to a **KNOWLEDGE** of their **DEEDS**, repent, and receive from you a seal, and may glorify the Lord because He had compassion upon them, and sent you to renew their spirits."

"Listen," he said: "they whose branches were found withered and moth-eaten are the **APOSTATES** and traitors of the **CHURCH**, who have **BLASPHEMED** the Lord in their **SINS**, and have, moreover, been ashamed of the name of the Lord by which they were called. These, therefore, at the end were lost unto **GOD**. And you see that not a single one of them repented, although they heard the words which I spoke to them, which I enjoined upon you. From such life departed. And they who gave them in withered and undecayed, these also were near to them; for they were hypocrites, and introducers of **STRANGE DOCTRINES**, and subverters of the servants of **GOD**, especially of those who had **SINNED**, not allowing them to repent, but persuading them by foolish doctrines. These, accordingly, have a hope of repentance.

And you see that many of them also have repented since I spoke to them, and they will still repent. But all who will not repent have **LOST** their **LIVES**; and as many of them as repented became good, and their dwelling was appointed within the first walls; and some of them ascended even into the tower.

"You see, then," he said, "that **REPENTANCE** involves **LIFE** to **SINNERS**, but **NON-REPENTANCE** **DEATH**."

And as many as gave in the branches half-withered and cracked, hear also about them. They whose branches were half-withered to the same extent are the **WAVERING**; for they neither **LIVE**, nor are they **DEAD**.

And they who have them half-withered and cracked are both waverers and slanderers, **[RAILING AGAINST THE ABSENT,]** and never at peace with one another, but always at **VARIANCE**.

And yet to these also," he continued, "**REPENTANCE IS POSSIBLE**."

"You see," he said, "that some of them have **REPENTED**, and there is still remaining in them," he continued, "a **HOPE OF REPENTANCE**."

And as many of them," he added, "as have repented, shall have their dwelling in the **TOWER**. And those of them who have been slower in repenting shall dwell within the **WALLS**.

And as many as do not repent at all, but abide in their **DEEDS**, shall **UTTERLY PERISH**.

And they who gave in their branches **GREEN** and **CRACKED** were always faithful and good, though emulous of each other about the foremost places, and about fame: now all these are **FOOLISH**, in indulging in such a rivalry.

Yet they also, being naturally good, on hearing my commandments, purified themselves, and soon **REPENTED**. Their dwelling, accordingly, was in the **TOWER**.

But if any one **RELAPSE** into **STRIFE**, he will be **CAST OUT** of the **TOWER**, and will **LOSE HIS LIFE**.

LIFE is the possession of all who keep the commandments of the Lord; but in the commandments there is no rivalry in regard to the first places, or **GLORY** of any kind, but in regard to patience and personal humility.

Among such **PERSONS**, then, is the **LIFE** of the Lord, but among the quarrelsome and transgressors, **DEATH**.



THE ELECT AND THEIR RODS

The Shepherd of Hermas – Book Three: Similitude Eight

EXPLANATION OF BRANCHES – CHAPTERS 9–11

“Go and tell them to every one, that they may repent, and they shall live unto God.”
— Similitude 11

TWO-THIRDS WITHERED AND ONE-THIRD GREEN

CHAPTER 9



They were faithful indeed; but after acquiring **wealth** and becoming distinguished among the **heathen**, they clothed themselves with great **pride**, became lofty-minded, deserted the **truth**, and lived with the heathen. They remained in the **faith**, though not working the works of **faith**.

THE OUTCOMES



Many repented – their dwelling is in the tower.
Others continued with the **heathen** and departed from God – reckoned with the heathen.
Others hesitated or were in doubt or caused divisions.

To those in doubt, repentance is still open, but it must be speedy; otherwise, death is near.

GREEN WITH TIPS WITHERED AND CRACKED

CHAPTER 10



They were always good, faithful, and distinguished before God; but they sinned very little through indulging small desires and finding little faults with one another. Most quickly repented; some were in **doubt** or caused **dissension**, yet there is hope of repentance because they were always good.

THE OUTCOMES



Most repented quickly – their dwelling is upon the tower.
Some were in **doubt** or caused **dissension**.
There is hope of repentance; with difficulty will any of them perish.

Among them is hope of repentance because they were always good.

WITHERED WITH A VERY SMALL PART GREEN

CHAPTER 10



They believed only, yet continued working the works of iniquity. They never departed from God, gladly bore His name, and welcomed His servants. On hearing of repentance, they unhesitatingly repented and practice all **virtue** and **righteousness**; some even suffered, willingly **put to death**, knowing their **deeds**.

THE OUTCOMES



On hearing of repentance, they unhesitatingly repented.
They practice all **virtue** and **righteousness**.
Some suffered, willingly **put to death**.

Of all these, therefore, the dwelling shall be in the tower.

GREEN AS RECEIVED (NO CRACKS)

SIMILITUDE 8 (EXPLAINED)



These were faithful and upheld the **truth**. They remained steadfast, bringing forth no decay. The angel was exceedingly pleased with them.

THE OUTCOMES



The angel was exceedingly pleased with them.
They were set free, given clothing and seals.

They remained steadfast in the truth.

GREEN WITH OFFSHOOTS AND FRUIT

SIMILITUDE 8 (EXPLAINED)



These were the most fruitful, bringing forth offshoots and **fruit**. The angel was exceedingly delighted, and the Shepherd rejoiced greatly because of them.

THE OUTCOMES



They were crowned with palm crowns and sent into the tower.
The angel was exceedingly delighted.

They brought forth **fruit** with offshoots and **fruit**.

CHAPTER 11
THE CALL TO REPENTANCE



Repentance is offered to all men by the Lord, though some are not worthy because of their works.



Purify yourselves from your wickedness and add no more to your sins. Repent with your whole heart.



The Lord, being long-suffering, will give healing for former transgressions to those who repent.



Repent, and you shall live unto God. Your dwelling is awaiting you.

“Do you walk in my commandments, and live.”
— Similitude 11

GRAFTED INTO THE TRUE VINE

ABIDE IN CHRIST, BEAR FRUIT, OR BE CUT OFF.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." – John 15:5

1. BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

1. REPENT

Turn from your sin and turn to God.

Acts 3:19

2. BELIEVE

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.

John 3:16

3. BE BAPTIZED

Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

Acts 2:38

YOU ARE GRAFTED IN!

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

– 2 Corinthians 5:17

YOU ARE NOW A BRANCH IN CHRIST

Grafted into the True Vine

Romans 11:17-24

THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU

The Helper, the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance.

– John 14:26

ABIDE AND OBEY



Abide in His Word
John 8:31



Pray in His Name
John 15:7



Walk in His Commands
John 14:15



Love Him and Others
John 15:12

HE GIVES STRENGTH TO LIVE HOLY

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

– Philippians 4:13

Christ is the Source of Life and Strength

John 15:1, 4

IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL...

YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

– John 15:8

IF YOU ARE UNFAITHFUL...

YOU WILL BE CUT OFF

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

– John 15:6

CAST INTO THE FIRE

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

– Hebrews 10:31

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." – John 15:4



THE KINGDOM OF GOD CAN BE TAKEN AWAY

ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR THOSE WHO BEAR GOOD FRUIT.
IT IS **TAKEN AWAY** FROM THOSE WHO DO NOT.

MATTHEW 21:43

“Therefore say I unto you,
The kingdom of God
shall be **taken from you**,
and given to a nation
bringing forth the fruits
thereof.”

KEY TRUTH:

The kingdom is given to
those who bear fruit.

JOHN 15:2

“Every branch in me
that **beareth not fruit**
he **taketh away**:
and every branch that
beareth fruit, he
purgeth it, that it may
bring forth more fruit.”

KEY TRUTH:

Branches that bear no fruit
are taken away.

ROMANS 11:22

“Behold therefore the
goodness and severity
of God: on them which
fell, severity; but
toward thee,
goodness, if thou
continue in his
goodness: otherwise
thou also shalt be **cut off**.”

KEY TRUTH:

If you do not continue in
His goodness, you can be
cut off.

REVELATION 22:19

“And if any man shall
take away from the
words of the book of
this prophecy, God shall
take away his part
out of the book of life,
and out of the holy city,
and from the things
which are written in
this book.”

KEY TRUTH:

Those who take away from
God’s Word lose their place
in the book of life.



BEAR GOOD FRUIT.

REMAIN FAITHFUL.

DO NOT RISK LOSING ETERNAL LIFE.



REPENT. OBEY. ENDURE. THOSE WHO OVERCOME SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS. **REVELATION 21:7**

“He that overcometh shall **inherit all things**; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

— THE DIDACHE — CHAPTER 16 —

WATCH FOR YOUR LIFE'S SAKE.

LET NOT YOUR **LAMPS** BE **QUENCHED**,
NOR YOUR **LOINS UNLOOSED**;
BUT BE **READY**, FOR YOU KNOW NOT
THE HOUR IN WHICH OUR LORD COMES.

MATTHEW
24:42



BUT **OFTEN** SHALL YOU **COME TOGETHER**,
SEEKING THE THINGS WHICH ARE BEFITTING TO YOUR **SOULS**:
FOR THE WHOLE TIME OF YOUR FAITH
WILL NOT **PROFIT** YOU, IF YOU BE NOT MADE PERFECT
IN THE LAST TIME.



2 PETER 1:10 —

WHEREFORE THE MORE DILIGENTLY YOU DO THESE THINGS,
YOU SHALL NEVER **FALL**: FOR IF YOU DO, YOU SHALL BE REWARDED.

OUR CHOICE.

HIS RESPONSE.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

IF WE...

THEN HE...

IF WE HAVE
DIED WITH HIM,

2 TIMOTHY 2:11



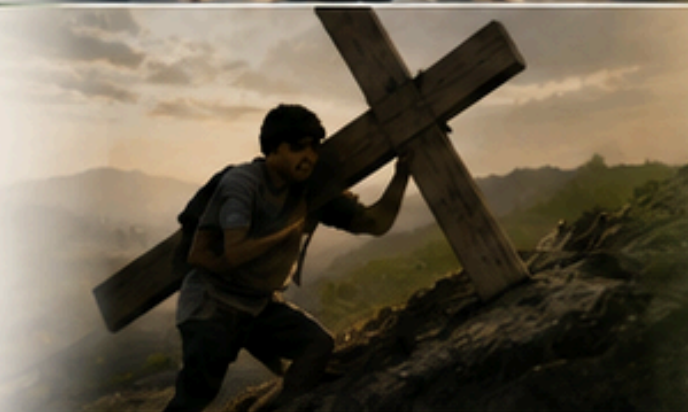
WE WILL ALSO
LIVE WITH HIM.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11



IF WE
ENDURE,

2 TIMOTHY 2:12



WE WILL ALSO
REIGN WITH HIM.

2 TIMOTHY 2:12



IF WE
DENY HIM,

2 TIMOTHY 2:12



HE WILL ALSO
DENY US.

2 TIMOTHY 2:12



IF WE ARE
FAITHLESS,

2 TIMOTHY 2:13



HE REMAINS
FAITHFUL—
HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF.

2 TIMOTHY 2:13



REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS...
ETERNAL LIFE. REIGN. HIS PRESENCE.



DENYING OR BEING FAITHLESS LEADS TO...
SEPARATION. LOSS. ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.