

Patterns of Life

IN SCRIPTURE, **TREES ARE OFTEN REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE.**

PS 1 / JER 17: "like a tree" PSALM 92: "flourish like a palm" PROV 15:4: "tree of life" ISAIAH 61: "oaks of righteousness"
JUDGES 9: "the trees said" 2 KINGS 14: "a thistle sent to a cedar" DANIEL 4: "you are that tree" JUDE 12: "like fruitless trees"

IN MANY WAYS, **TREES ARE THE PERFECT REPRESENTATION OF:** *character, influence, dominion, covenant life, or pride.*

roots: fed from a hidden source

leaves: visible vitality

height: prominence

trunk: identity/stability

fruit: outcome/symptoms

vulnerability to the axe: judgment

branches: reach/influence

shade: protection to others

"A man is never just a man in biblical poetry. He is often an organism **planted** somewhere and **fed** by something."

MATTHEW 12:33-35

"**Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad...A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.**

GENESIS 1:11-12

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that **bear fruit with seed in it**, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed **according to their kinds** and **trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds...**

GALATIANS 5:22-25

...**the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace...Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit...**

GALATIANS 6:7-9

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows.** ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest** if we do not give up.

JOHN 15:5

"**I am the vine; you are the branches.**

If you remain in me and I in you, **you will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing."

Fruit includes SEEDS.

Seeds reproduce their own kind.

The **actual fruit** from your patterns produces seeds **that reproduce in the lives of those you lead.**

Fruit is produced by seeds: which germinate then take root then grow to maturity **over time.**

Over seasons.

Seasons are rhythmic.

Seasons require endurance.

Seasons require faith.

Seasons PROVE patterns. Nourishment. Water. Light. Time.

Each season ends.

Fruit eventually emerges... Fruit reflects the PATTERNS of the preceding seasons.

"Keep in Step":

Find the patterns of the Spirit and adapt to them.

"At the Proper Time":

Spiritual seasons aren't as predictable as natural seasons.

They require watchfulness and faithful endurance. Not just clock-watching.

This season will pass - but will I pass the test of season?

"Remain in Me":

There will be distractions and temptations to draw me away.

Examine **YOUR Patterns:**

Establish **YOUR Patterns:**

AS A **SON...**

AS A **SHEPHERD...**