

OUR COOPERATION WITH GOD'S OPERATION URGENTLY NEEDED TO END THIS AGE

Message Five

John 15:2, 6; Matt. 26:25-30; 2 Tim 4:1-2, 5; John 15:11; Phil. 4:1

V. To cooperate with God's operation, we must have an aggressive desperation in order to experience the glory and joy of bearing fruit:

- A. We must wake up from our numb situation and see that bearing fruit is a very serious matter, with consequences now and in the next age—John 15:2, 6; Matt. 25:14-30:
 - 1. To have an aggressive desperation, we need to wake up and be “crazy,” like persons in a burning building, willing to jump out of a window.
 - 2. Our attitude should be to do anything and everything that it takes to get someone saved and baptized.
 - 3. We should not say there is no way; there is a way, and the Lord has shown us the way; He has dedicated this way; He has cut this way.
 - 4. We may be good saints, not doing anything wrong, not losing anything, keeping what the Lord has given us throughout the years.
 - 5. This is not sufficient; the Lord wants interest, the fruit; He will ask concerning this at His appearing.
 - 6. Paul solemnly charged Timothy by the Lord's appearing and His kingdom (2 Tim. 4:1) to proclaim the word (v. 2) and to do the work of an evangelist (v. 5).
 - 7. We need to be serious; this will keep us from backsliding and being slothful.
 - 8. May we all be serious and aggressively desperate; one day He will see us, and we will meet Him.
 - 9. We will have to give Him an account, and He will decide whether we receive a reward or a punishment in the coming kingdom; this is a solemn thing.
- 10. “As a human being, I must believe in the Lord Jesus; as a believer, I must love Him; and as one who loves Him, I must bear fruit; this is serious” (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1987*, vol. 1, “Being Desperate and Living Uniquely for the Gospel,” p. 42).
- B. The first crucial item of God's operation on the earth is gospel preaching, the God-ordained way of preaching the gospel:
 - 1. We may like abiding in the vine, in Christ, in John 15, enjoying the unsearchable riches of the vine.
 - 2. John 15 stresses fruit-bearing even more, and if we bear fruit, the Father will be glorified:
 - a. He will not be glorified just by our abiding.
 - b. He will be glorified only if we are bearing fruit, that is, men, because only fruit-bearing can release the Father's divine life; when we bear fruit the very divine life that is in the Son, the vine, is released.
 - 3. As we abide in the Son, we absorb the life that is in the vine, participating in the unsearchable riches of the vine's life-juice.
 - 4. Sooner or later, the life we have been absorbing will be released; the issue, the result of this enjoyable absorbing is fruit-bearing.
 - 5. It is this releasing of the life-juice that expresses God, glorifies Him; doing something good for God does not glorify Him, only bearing fruit.

6. The increase and enlargement of the vine is the Father's glorification.
7. To be branches of the divine vine and to bear fruit to express the divine life is a matter of joy—a joyful life; this is the genuine enjoyment we all want.
8. This experience of fruit-bearing may make us ecstatic because the Lord's very joy has become our joy—John 15:11.
9. In John 15:11 the Lord referred to our joy being made full; in 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 Paul refers to our joy again; and this joy is the fruit that we bear.
10. Christ's joy is our joy, and the Father's glorification is our glorification; to Paul the fruit borne by him was his glory and his joy.
11. When the Lord comes back and we stand before Him, who will stand with us and for us? Our fruit.
12. This fruit will be our crown.