

SHOW ME THE FRUIT!

By Pastor Lee Allen Jenkins

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John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him,
"You **brood of vipers!** Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

*And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'
For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.
The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce
good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."*

Luke 3:7-9 (NIV)

Three Ways God Expects Us To Show Our Fruit:

1. By practicing GENEROSITY!

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts *should share with the one who has none*, and anyone who has food *should do the same.*" **Luke 3:10-11 (NIV)**

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, "It is **more blessed to give** than to receive.* **Acts 20:35b (NIV)**

The giver is happier than the getter!

**Giving is not God's way of taking something from you.
Giving is God's way of getting something to you.**

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to **be generous and willing to share.** In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)***

**God often uses our generosity
as a litmus test of our devotion to Him.**

2. By practicing **HONESTY!**

Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Luke 3:12-13 (NIV)

Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.

Romans 1:29 (NLT)

3. By practicing **CONTENTMENT!**

Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

Luke 3:14 (NIV)

For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:11b-13 (NIV)***

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There are four primary places Christians should give to:

- **Your Family**
- **Your Church**
- **Christian Ministries**
- **The Poor**

*When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back. **Proverbs 19:17 (GNT)***

*Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need. **Proverbs 21:13 (NLT)***

*Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it. **Proverbs 22:9 (GNT)***

*If you give to the poor, your needs will be supplied! But a curse upon those who close their eyes to poverty. **Proverbs 28:27 (TLB)***

ENC COMMUNITY/MINISTRY PARTNERS:

- **North Fulton Charities** (serve underprivileged families in North Fulton)
- **Homestretch** (provide long-term housing for working homeless families)
- **Drake House** (provide short-term housing for homeless families)
- **Beacon of Hope** (crisis pregnancy center)
- **Star House** (after school tutoring for underprivileged elementary and middle school students)
- **Gabriel Howard** (Missionary)
- **The Urban Alternative** (the national ministry of Dr. Tony Evans)
- **Campus Crusade for Christ** (disciple high school and college students)
- **One Race** (Racial Reconciliation Ministry)
- **Centennial HS & Holcomb Bridge MS** (school, sports, and social services sponsor)

